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*Daily Report*

# Daily Christian Advocate

THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Denver, Colorado | Tuesday, April 16, 1996 | Vol. 5 No. 1

## Ministry Committee to Handle One Third of All Petitions

The Committee on Ordained and Diaconal Ministry will face the most daunting challenge of the 11 General Conference legislative committees. one thousand and fifty two petitions, one third of the total 3,070 pieces of legislation, have been assigned to that group, compared to only 546 handled by the same committee at the 1992 General Conference. The Committee on Church and Society will take on the next highest number of petitions, 330.

According to General Conference Secretary Carolyn Marshall, the large number of members (110) of the Ordained and Diaconal Ministry Committee will make it possible to have more than the normal number of subcommittees. In addition, the presentation of Ministry Study legislation to the plenary session set for tomorrow should reduce the amount of time needed to process this legislation.

Legislation assigned to other committees breaks down as follows: Local Church, 302; Financial Administration, 263; Conferences, 253; General and Judicial Administration, 247; Discipleship, 212; Independent Commissions, 198; Global Ministries, 153; and Higher Education and Chaplaincy, 54.

### General Agencies Submit 1,005 Petitions

Of the petitions sent to the General Conference, general agencies submitted 1,005. Annual conferences added an additional 835, with Western North Carolina sending the most, 161.

The Council of Bishops put together the largest package of legislation of any single group, including 280 petitions in the Study on the Ministry. Ann Bateman and Patricia Meyers of Oregon followed with 95 petitions related to the Ministry Study. The UM Rural Fellowship sent 80; the Methodist Federation for Social Action, 65; the Aldersgate Covenant group based in Denton, Texas, 51; and the Diaconal Ministry Clearness Committee from Claremont School of Theology, 29.

The most petitions from a single individual came from Jerry Eckert, a retired clergy member of the Wisconsin Conference, who submitted 44. Ted Agnew, a retired professor from Stillwater, Okla. followed with 24, while Gary Thurman, a laymember of First UMC in Midland, Texas, and Thomas Oden, a professor at Drew University Theological School, tied with 20 each.

### Areas of Concern

Disciplinary changes are involved in a majority of the legislation facing this quadrennium's General Conference. Delegates will weigh a variety of proposals for a restructure of the Church, from general agencies to annual conferences and local congregations. Most petitions are designed to allow greater flexibility for mission and ministry. Proposals likely to stir debate include a call to eliminate GCOM and the assignment of greater power to the Council of Bishops, homosexuality, the Ministry Study, the Baptism Study, and church finances.

### Assignment of Petitions

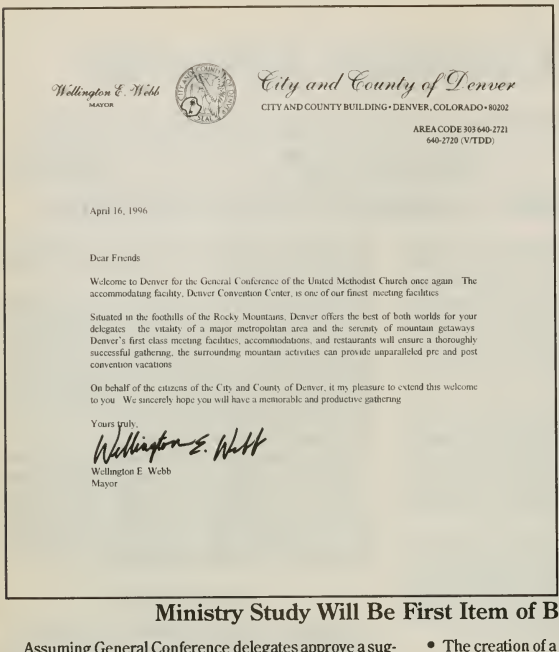
Petitions are assigned to legislative committees based on a division of disciplinary paragraphs established by the Commission on General Conference. Marshall noted that those assignments were reviewed yesterday by the Committee on Reference. After consideration by the appropriate legislative committee, the original petition may be amended and/or forwarded to the plenary session with a recommendation of "concurrence" or "nonconcurrence."

*—Joan Shoup*

### Agenda

**Tuesday, April 16**

| | |
|---|---|
| 1:30 p.m. | Holy Communion and Memorial Service |
| 2:45 p.m. | Roll Call; Report of the Committee on Plan of Organization and Rules of Order; Nominations<br>Report of the Committee on Agenda |
| 4:30 p.m. | Organization of legislative committees and election of officers |
| 6:00 p.m. | Training of legislative committee officers |
| 7:45 p.m. | Hymn Sing |
| 8:15 p.m. | Episcopal Address |
| 9:15 p.m. | Meeting of legislative committee officers |



Wellington E. Webb
MAYOR

City and County of Denver

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April 16, 1996

Dear Friends

Welcome to Denver for the General Conference of the United Methodist Church once again. The accommodating facility, Denver Convention Center, is one of our finest meeting facilities.

Situated in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains, Denver offers the best of both worlds for your delegates: the vitality of a major metropolitan area and the serenity of mountain getaways. Denver's first class meeting facilities, accommodations, and restaurants will ensure a thoroughly successful gathering, the surrounding mountain activities can provide unparalleled pre and post convention vacations.

On behalf of the citizens of the City and County of Denver, it my pleasure to extend this welcome to you. We sincerely hope you will have a memorable and productive gathering.

Yours truly,

Wellington E. Webb

Wellington E. Webb
Mayor



Wellington E. Webb
Mayor


## Daily Christian Advocate

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### Staff

J. Richard Peck ..... Editor
Joan Shoup..... Associate Editor
Richard Street ... Composition Editor


# Ministry Study Will Be First Item of Business

Assuming General Conference delegates approve a suggested plan of action, the first item of business will be the Study of Ministry.

The Committee on the Plan of Organization and Rules of Order is suggesting that the Council of Bishops present its recommendations about ministry to a plenary session tomorrow morning following the laity address.

After presentation of the study, General Conference will divide into 25 randomly selected non-legislative groups for 90-minutes of reflection and dialogue on the study. Each group will be led by a bishop and will include a person who is not a delegate to serve as a recorder.

Later tomorrow evening the leaders and recorders will identify areas of consensus as well as issues or questions. On Thursday, Judy Weidman, general secretary of UM Communications, will present a summary of committee reponses and a bishop will have an opportunity to make additional comments.

The 280 petitions from the Council of Bishops on ministry issues will then move to the Legislative Commitee on Ordained and Diaconal Ministries. That group will also deal with 36 petitions proposing amendments to the ministry study and an additional 736 petitions on other aspects of ministry for a whopping total of 1,052 petitions.

The bishops are proposing:

- Affirmation of the ministry of all Christians.
- The creation of a "lay ministry steward" office in the local church composed of persons who discuss their call with the pastor and the Pastor-Parish Relations Committee, complete a course of study prescribed by the General Board of Discipleship, and are annually elected by the charge conference.
- An order of deacons who have received a masters degree and completed two years in a service setting. All persons who are ordained deacons would serve a minimum of three years as a probationary member of the annual conference before election as full clergy members. The order would include persons in candidacy for elders' orders and non-itinerating clergy who formerly would have been consecrated as diaconal ministers.
- Procedures whereby present diaconal ministers may be ordained as deacons or permitted to continue as diaconal ministers.
- Provisions for some local pastors to complete a course of study and remain in this status without the currently required college work.
- An opening of the possibility for deacons to be licensed as local pastors.

STATE OF COLORADO

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
136 State Capitol
Denver, Colorado 80203 1792
Phone (303) 866-2471

Roy Romer
Governor

April 1996

General Conference
The United Methodist Church
Denver, Colorado

Greetings

It gives me great pleasure to welcome those attending the General Conference of the United Methodist Church

Over the years, the people of this organization have been committed to the values of our society and to the progress of our people You have helped our youth, cared for our senior citizens and contributed to the growth of our communities I know the people of Denver join me in thanking the members of this church for their many contributions throughout the years

I would like to extend a special welcome to those delegates who have traveled to Colorado for this event I hope you can find time in your busy schedule to enjoy some of the many attractions Colorado and Denver have to offer The spectacular Rocky Mountains offer some of the best skiing, fishing, hunting and national and state parks in the world In addition to the beautiful outdoors, you might want to visit one of the many impressive museums in Denver, the State Capitol Building or the newly renovated 16th Street Mall.

Again, welcome and best wishes for a memorable and productive event

Sincerely,

Roy Romer
Governor



**Roy Romer**
**Govenor**

**Printed copies of morning worship service sermons are available at the DCA Sales Booth ($.50) and audio tapes of the services are available in the Cokesbury Display area ($8)**

## Preaching in Iliff Chapel

Four bishops are scheduled to preach in Iliff Chapel on the campus of Iliff School of Theology during General Conference as S. Jameson Jones, Jr. VisitingPreachers. Services will be held at 11 a.m. Following the service, the bishop will be available to meet students, faculty, staff, and visitors.

**Tuesday, April 16 . . . . . Bishop F. Herbert Skeet**
**Wednesday, April 17. . . Bishop Kenneth L. Carder**
**Tuesday, April 23 . . . . . Bishop Joel Martinez**
**Wednesday, April 24. . . Bishop Susan M. Morrison**

*Now Signing*
*in Autograph Area*
*TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. & 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.*
***Leonard Sweet***
*THE JESUS PRESCRIPTION FOR A HEALTHY LIFE*
*TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.*
***Nell Mohney***
*DON'T PUT A PERIOD WHERE GOD PUT A COMMA*
*(Published by Dimensions for Living)*
Available at Cokesbury



**Mary Ann Swenson**
**Residing Bishop**

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
DENVER AREA
ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE YELLOWSTONE CONFERENCE

MARY ANN SWENSON
RESIDENT BISHOP

DARLENE ALLEN
ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY

EDWARD W PAUP
ASSISTANT TO THE BISHOP

Delegates and Visitors to the 1996 General Conference of The United Methodist Church

Dear Family in Christ:

Welcome to our neighborhood! We of the Denver area having been preparing for some time now to welcome the world to our neighborhood. We began with Bible study and gatherings to ground ourselves theologically. We studied the Biblical stories of receiving strangers and transformation of strangers to become friends. We considered ways to create spaces of hospitality.

With our Bible Study we entered into prayer in a special way. We have prayed for the Conference. We have prayed for delegates and visitors. (In some cases there has been personal correspondence between prayer partners). We have prayed for the Church. We have prayed for the world.

And now you have arrived. You are here, and we continue to pray. We pray that in the midst of the many hours of reading and study and debate and conferring, you will walk outside the convention center and lift your eyes to the hills.

As you encounter the Rocky Mountains, we pray you will see them not as barriers but rather as God's creation of majestic grandeur. As you look toward them your eyes will scan Central City in the foothills. In the 1860's an African American woman arrived. Aunt Clara Brown, who had won her freedom from slavery in Kentucky, came with miners, paying her way with wash tubs and cook stove work. She used her money to buy freedom for members of her family and to establish them in business nearby. She opened her home, starting the Sunday school in Central City for St. James Methodist Episcopal Church. St. James United Methodist Church is the oldest United Methodist building in Colorado, begun in 1864 and completed in 1872 at a cost of $35,000.

As you lift your eyes to the hills, may you know you are on the frontier. Like pioneers on the frontier who have gone before us, this year at General Conference you will be pioneers for the future, preparing the way for another century of mission and ministry in The United Methodist Church.

L'Chayim,

Mary Ann Swenson
MAS/dfa

2200 SOUTH UNIVERSITY BOULEVARD DENVER, COLORADO 80210-4797 (303) 733-5035 FAX (303) 733-5047

*The Disciple Staff cordially invites you to a clebration recognizing ten years of*

## *Disciple Bible Study*

April 17, 1996
*5:00 - 7:00 p.m.*
*Ballroom*

*Some video presenters will be there. If you would like them to sign your study manual bring it with you.*




## Cokesbury Store Demonstrations

**Wednesday, April 17**

11:00 to 11:45 Abingdon Software
12:00 to 12:45 Computer Hardware Questions & Answers
1:00 to 1:45 BibleSoft Software
3:00 to 3:45 Cokesbury Online/Internet
4:00 to 4:45 White Harvest Software
5:00 to 5:45 Church Management Software
6:00 to 6:45 "Streets on a Disk" Shelby Systems

**Thursday, April 18**

11:00 to 11:45 Computer Hardware Industry Trends DTK
12:00 to 12:45 Software Resources for the Christian Daycare
1:00 to 1:45 White Harvest Software
3:00 to 3:45 BibleSoft Software
4:00 to 4:45 DTK Hardware
5:00 to 5:45 Networking Your Church Office
6:00 to 6:45 Church Management Software

**Friday, April 19**

11:00 to 11:45 Phone Tree
12:00 to 12:45 Abingdon Software
1:00 to 1:45 Church Management Software
3:00 to 3:45 White Harvest Software
4:00 to 4:45 BibleSoft Software
5:00 to 5:45 Mail Management
6:00 to 6:45 Cokesbury Online/Internet

**Saturday, April 20**

11:00 to 11:45 Church Management Software
12:00 to 12:45 Cokesbury Online/Internet

**Monday, April 22**

11:00 to 11:45 Using Computers for Church Administration
12:00 to 12:45 Software Resources to Track Time, Talents, and Treasures

**Monday, April 22 (continued)**

1:00 to 1:45 Oxford Software
3:00 to 3:45 Abingdon Software
4:00 to 4:45 "In His Service"
5:00 to 5:45 How to Select the Right Software and Hardware for Your Church
6:00 to 6:45 Abingdon Software

**Tuesday, April 23**

11:00 to 11:45 LOGOS Software
12:00 to 12:45 "Streets on a Disk"
1:00 to 1:45 Cokesbury Online/Internet
3:00 to 3:45 Parsons Technology Software
4:00 to 4:45 Cokesbury Online/Internet
5:00 to 5:45 Oxford Software
6:00 to 6:45 Using Volunteers in the Computerized Church Office

**Wednesday, April 24**

11:00 to 11:45 Church Management Software
12:00 to 12:45 Using Your Computer as a Power Tool for Bible Study
1:00 to 1:45 Abingdon Software
3:00 to 3:45 Cokesbury Online/Internet
4:00 to 4:45 Parsons Technology Software
5:00 to 5:45 LOGOS Software
6:00 to 6:45 "Photo Sort"

**Thursday, April 25**

11:00 to 11:45 Parsons Technology Software
12:00 to 12:45 LOGOS Software
1:00 to 1:45 "Mail Manager" Shelby Systems
3:00 to 3:45 Church Management Software
4:00 to 4:45 Oxford Software
5:00 to 5:45 Using Computers to Spread the Good News
6:00 to 6:45 Cokesbury Online/Internet

# Welcome to Our Neighborhood

Early in the planning stages for this General Conference, Bishop Mary Ann Swenson coined the phrase that was to become our working goal: "Welcome the World to Our Neighborhood."

The Commission on the General Conference is responsible for the overall planning of the conference. The commission is made up a lay member and a clergy member from each jurisdiction who are elected by and responsible to General Conference. The local committee is selected by the host conference to assist the commission and to arrange for local hospitality. The local committee has worked closely with Roger Kruse, business manager and executive director of the Commission on the General Conference.

The local committee's five major divisions are education and interpretation, staffing and equipment, program, hospitality and courtesy, and bishops' hospitality. (Bishops' hospitality includes the Council of Bishops' meeting held in Denver the week preceding General Conference.) Each committee has several subcommittees with 800 to a thousand volunteers from churches across the Rocky Mountain and Yellowstone Annual Conferences, the two host conferences.

Hosting the General Conference is an opportunity for congregations in the Denver area to become intentionally involved in offering hospitality and growing in their understanding of the biblical meaning of the word. Congregations were urged to study hospitality, and several districts held workshops on the concept. The Division of Education led this phase and organized the Prayer Tree, which coupled the names of five delegates/bishops/staff members with each local church in the Rocky Mountain and Yellowstone Annual Conferences.

Hosting General Conference has not only given us the opportunity to do something for the whole church but has also created a sense of community within the two conferences, which encompass four states and part of another. District days were organized in both conferences, with two days reserved for each district's representatives to attend meetings designed to encourage them to observe and to volunteer.

Needless to say, we are excited about your coming! Every church has been involved in the preparations, from participating in the Prayer Tree to volunteering at the convention site. Denver residents have opened their homes to members of our conferences as well as to guests from other conferences.

### Host Provide Assistance

To help you settle in and be as comfortable as possible while you concentrate on the work before you, we have provided hosts in the airport, on the buses, and in the hotels. Each one is ready to answer your questions, from "What is that building?" to "Where can I replace what I forgot to bring?" to "How do I register?" and "Where do I go?"

Additional hosts have been stationed in the convention center to direct you to rooms and/or meetings. The information center, where you can obtain information about Denver and the surrounding areas, and the delegates' lounge will be open and staffed all day. Break your glasses? Lose a filling? Have a headache? Check in at the first aid room, where a doctor and/or nurse will be available from 8:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. A paramedic will also be on duty as long as delegates are in the building.

A full slate of events and activities has been planned for the two weeks of the conference. The opening event was the bishops' reception which took place Monday night and reflected the ethnic diversity of the area. The ballroom of the convention center was decorated to carry out the theme "In a Tongan Village," and during the evening, we were entertained by "our" Tongans with traditional song and dance.

### Luncheon Mini-Tours

Several mini-tours to outreach projects are being offered during lunch breaks, with lunch included in the tour. First on the schedule is a walking tour of lower downtown. The number of openings for each tour is limited, so we encourage you to sign up as early as possible at the visitor information desk.

### Special Event Day, April 21

Special Event Day, April 21, will give you the opportunity to choose how you would like to experience the Denver area. Available within a two-hour drive of Denver are six day-long tours that will enable you to experience a taste of the West and interact with people from the area. If you prefer not to take an extended tour, several area churches invite you to worship with them. Afterward, you may explore Denver on your own. For information about tours, church locations, and where persons from General Conference will be speaking, check at the visitor information center.

### A Night with Yellowstone

To complete your day, we invite you to join us that evening for what promises to be a great experience. The convention center will open at 7 p.m. for an exhibition of the work of nationally-known sculptor and artist Tim Holmes. At 8:00 p.m., "A Night with Yellowstone" will begin with music and dancing by a group of Blackfoot Native Americans followed by a concert by the Montana Logging and Ballet Co. Tickets for these events will be

(continued on next page)

(continued from last page)

available at the visitor information desk until 5:30 p.m. Friday.

### Events for International Delegates/Guest

Each day during the conference, international delegates and guests are invited to have lunch at Warren, Grant Avenue, or St. Paul's United Methodist Churches. Each of these downtown Denver churches has an active mission in its neighborhood.

Meals will be brought from other churches as we work together to extend our hand of hospitality. On April 22, international delegates will be special guests for lunch at Iliff School of Theology. Transportation will be provided daily.

Host families have been looking forward to housing guests from other conferences as well as from our own. The Supplemental Housing Committee has done a great job of compiling a list of hotels, motels, and a dormitory within a short distance of downtown Denver. Persons answering the requests have enjoyed the contacts they have made in helping delegates find suitable accommodations.

### Refreshment Breaks

We are planning daily refreshment breaks. Dozens of cookies are being donated by churches across the two conferences, so plan on lots of good munching! (We also encouage everyone from a lower altitude to take advantage of the water stations that have been set up for your convenience.) In asking attendees to make a donation for beverages at the refreshment breaks, we are following the lead of the Louisville Conference in 1992. While we have $50,000 to $60,000 budgeted for amenities to make your stay an enjoyable one, spending $15,000 on coffee and cold drinks isn't good stewardship.

Although we, like every conference in Methodism, have to deal with financial limits, there are no limits to the amount of time, energy, and hospitality we will demonstrate in taking care of you as long as you are our guests. If you need anything, please stop by the visitor information center and let us know.

*—Paula Johnston*

### ORGANIZING SESSIONS AND TRAINING SESSIONS

| Committee Name | Date | Time | Room |
|---|---|---|---|
| Committee on Correlation and Editorial Review | Tuesday, April 16, 1996 | 9:15 a.m. | C108 |
| Committee on Presiding Officers | Tuesday, April 16, 1996 | 9:30 a.m. | C212 |
| Committee on Courtesies and Privileges | Tuesday, April 16, 1996 | 9:30 a.m. | C210 |
| Committee on Credentials | Tuesday, April 16, 1996 | 9:45 a.m. | C208 |
| Committee on the Journal | Tuesday, April 16, 1996 | 9:45 a.m. | A208 |
| Training Session for Secretaries and Assistant Secretaries | Tuesday, April 16, 1996 | 6:00 p.m. | C205 |
| Training Session for Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs | Tuesday, April 16, 1996 | 6:00 p.m. | C206 |

## *Boston University Alumni Luncheon*

*April 17 - 12:45 - 2:15*
*Adam's Mark Hotel Denver*
*1550 Court Place*
*$15.75 per person*
*Pay at the door*

## Correction

Chart A in the quadrennial report of the General Commission on Religion and Race, page 841 of Advance Edition 1, incorrectly shows the Kansas East Annual Conference as having 1 cross-racial appointment. The correct number of cross-racial appointments for Kansas East is 13.

## BADGE COLORS

| | |
|---|---|
| Delegates | Teal ink on white stock |
| Bishops | Purple ink on white stock |
| Reserve Delegates | Green Ink on green stock |
| Pages/Marshalls | Blue ink on pink stock |
| Board/Agency Staff | Red ink on yellow stock |
| Local Committees | Black ink on green stock |
| Volunteers/Visitors | Black ink on white stock |
| Press | Blue ink on blue stock |
| Commissions | Blue ink on yellow stock |
| Spouses of Bishops | Purple ink on ivory stock |
| Judicial Council | Black ink on red stock |
| Spouses of Judicial Council | Black ink of yellow stock |
| General Secetaries | Yellow stripe, black ink, white stock |
| Ecumenical Guests | Orange stripe, black ink, white stock |
| Spouses of Commissions | Red stripe, black ink, white stock |
| Special Services | Blue stripe, black ink, white stock |
| GCFA | Green stripe, black ink, white stock |

# Bishop Judith Craig to Deliver Episcopal Address



Ohio West Area Bishop Judith Craig will present the episcopal address to the 1996 General Conference.

— David Cottrill/*West Ohio News*

Bishop Judith Craig, resident bishop of the Ohio West Area, will deliver the episcopal address this evening at 8:15 p.m.

The presentation is precedent-setting in more than one way: Bishop Craig is the first woman bishop to present the address in the 184-year history of such endeavors, and she is the first to combine multimedia musical and visual images with the spoken word, in a departure from the traditional presentations of a "state of the church" address.

"My plan was to make this address more pastoral and invitational," Bishop Craig said in a recent interview. "At first I had this little idea of a few slides and a couple of graphic charts, but it's turned into something much more."

When the Council of Bishops voted two years ago to designate Bishop Craig as the speaker, her colleagues chose someone who has been a pioneer throughout her life.

One of five children of Ray and Edna Craig, Bishop Craig is a native of Liberty, Missouri, where she received her high school diploma and graduated from William Jewell College.

While serving as a youth director for Bellefontaine Methodist Church in St. Louis, Bishop Craig studied at Eden Theological Seminary in Webster Groves, Missouri, and received an M.R.E. in 1961. After an internship in the New York City office of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A., she became director of Christian education at First Methodist Church in Stamford, Connecticut. She worked there through 1968 while earning an M.Div. at Union Theological Seminary in New York City.

For the next two years the bishop studied at Teachers College of Union and Columbia University, specializing in the religious education of adults. During the same period, she was an instructor in adult basic education in the New York City School System for one year and an educational consultant at Epworth-Euclid United Methodist Church in Cleveland for the other.

The attraction of parish work prevailed, and in 1970 she became Epworth-Euclid's director of Christian education, serving in that position until she was ordained deacon in 1972. After ordination, she was appointed associate pastor at Epworth-Euclid.

Ordained elder in 1976, she was appointed to Pleasant Hills United Methodist Church in Middleburg Heights, Ohio. In 1980 Bishop James Thomas appointed her director of the East Ohio Conference Council on Ministries. She served as director until her election as bishop in 1984 at the North Central Jurisdictional Conference in Duluth, Minnesota.

Bishop Craig's consecration set another precedent: The bishop who laid hands on Judith Craig was Marjorie Matthews, the first woman bishop in Christendom in almost 800 years. For both women, the moment was electric—the first such moment in modern times.

Bishop Craig's service in a variety of aspects of the life of the Church both before and after her consecration has given her wide experience and a broad perspective on The United Methodist Church. She served the Michigan Area as bishop for eight years and was assigned to the Ohio West Area in 1992.

Elected to both General Conference and jurisdictional conferences in 1980 and 1984, she was a member of the General Council on Ministries from 1980 to 1984 and a bishop on the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women from 1984 to 1988.

Bishop Craig served as chairperson of The Advance for Christ and His Church from 1988 to 1992. In producing the videotape that introduced the Advance at the 1992 General Conference, she drew on her Christian education roots while having fun with a group of children and a kite on a windy day.

Currently she is a member of the General Board of Publication. On her episcopal visitation in 1994, she traveled through the Middle East to Egypt, Israel, Palestine, and Cyprus, representing the Council of Bishops in meetings with the Middle East Council of Churches.

Tonight's multimedia episcopal address may have been her idea—or someone else's. "In the early consultations, the conversations sometimes went all day," she said. "Did I first offer this, or did someone else?"

Regardless of who may first have made the suggestion, Bishop Craig's conversation with a group that included UMCom General Secretary Judy Weidman ensured the idea would become reality. "She said, 'We'll do it with you,'" Bishop Craig recalled. And that is what happened.

Noting that UMCom staff member Vince Isner spent days looking through photographs, video clips, and other images, Bishop Craig added that as soon as the rough cut was ready Isner took it to Lake Junaluska where Bishop Sharon Rader was reading the second draft of the episcopal address to the Council of Bishops while its author recuperated at home from knee surgery.

"There was tremendous affirmation from the Council," Bishop Craig said. Handed to UMCom staffer Jay Voorhees for polishing, the address is *almost* in its final form. The last addition will be images from the afternoon service of Holy Communion, which will be edited into the final version of the presentation only moments before it begins.

"I feel like a major giver and receiver of gifts," Bishop Craig says, "and I feel I've done a significant piece of work. [The address] has been a constantly emerging work of the Spirit, and it is offered in a way that I believe will help the life of the Spirit be the basis of the Church's life."

*—Tom Slack*

### The First General Conference

This year marks the 204th anniversary of General Conference. The first assembly—of clergy only—took place on November 1-15, 1792, in Baltimore. It was attended by ambitious, divisive, even tyrannical church leaders.

Within a fledgling denomination, the first General Conference was a showdown of sorts between rival clergymen. In his essay, *Crisis of Leadership: The General Conference of 1792*, Frederick A. Norwood writes that Methodists, for the first time, were forced "to deal legislatively with the personal tension between episcopal and parliamentary authority"—a tension that remains part of Methodism today.

Much of that tension surely was felt in the shoulders and back of Francis Asbury. The first American "bishop"—a term John Wesley opposed—of this young American church, Asbury wore a halo no straighter than those of his feisty colleagues. Some viewed him as tyrannical. Others sensed that he lacked the acumen of an administrator and felt compelled (perhaps called) to test his leadership mettle. Imagine Asbury's thankless task: to head a preachers' conference with literally no rules or constitution to keep the bishop's or conference's actions in check.

A motion made at the first General Conference would limit the power of the bishop, an action directly targeted at Asbury. Following heated debate, the motion was voted down. After less than a week, the Rev. James O'Kelly and like-minded colleagues became the first official members to walk out of a General Conference.

However, the wheels were in motion. The General Conference turned attention to enacting church legislation. The 1792 conference marked the beginning of an unbroken succession of quadrennial meetings on the state of the church. It became a quadrennial body answerable to the people called Methodists. Several decades passed, however, before lay delegates were included in General Conference. And it was another 100 years before women were admitted.


## *Cokesbury Online*

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# Schedule of Daily Worship Services

Performances by guest choirs will highlight worship services each day of General Conference, except Sunday. On Tuesday afternoon, April 16, a concert by a mass Colorado choir will precede the Holy Communion and Memorial Service. That evening, a choir of bishops and their spouses will sing before the episcopal address delivered by Bishop Judith Craig. Beginning Wednesday, April 17, a guest choir will sing each day before the morning worship service. Members of the Council of Bishops will preach at these services. Two choirs will also sing during plenary sessions. Coral Metodista Unida de Neueva York, directed by Jorge Lockward, will sing on Saturday, April 20. Africa University Choir, directed by Patrick Matsikenyiri, will sing on Tuesday, April 23. The schedule for the worship services is as follows:

## Tuesday, April 16

1:00 p.m. Concert: Mass Colorado Choir
Chancel Choir, Fort Morgan UMC, Fort Morgan
Connie Long, director
Chancel Choir, Littleton UMC, Littleton
David Kates, director
Good News Singers, Smoky Hill UMC, Aurora
Ben Yeatermeyer, director
Chancel Choir, Green Mountain UMC, Lakewood
Marion Summervill, director
Chancel Choir of University Park UMC, Denver
Robert Penn, director
Chancel Choir of Trinity UMC, Denver
Phyllis Raup, director
1:30 p.m. Holy Communion and Memorial Service
Preacher: Bishop Roy I. Sano
Celebrant: Bishop Woodie W. White
7:30 p.m. Concert: Bishops' and Bishops' Spouses Choir
Joy Solomon, director
7:45 p.m. Hymn Sing
8:15 p.m. Episcopal Address: Bishop Judith Craig

## Wednesday, April 17

8:15 a.m. Concert: McCurdy School Choir, Española, New Mexico
Paula Nichols, director
8:30 a.m. Worship
Preacher: Bishop Alfred L. Norris

## Thursday, April 18

8:15 a.m. Concert: The Maranatha Choir, University UMC, Gainesville, Florida
Robert W. Jackson, director
8:30 a.m. Worship
Preacher: Bishop Wiliam Boyd Grove

## Friday, April 19

8:15 a.m. Concert: Choir of the First United Methodist Church, Peoria, Illinois
Timothy McCoday, director
8:30 a.m. Worship
Preacher: Bishop Sharon Zimmerman Rader

## Saturday, April 20

8:15 a.m. Concert: St. Luke Community UMC, Dallas, Texas
Monya Logan, director
8:30 a.m. Worship
Preacher: Bishop Joseph C. Humper

## Monday, April 22

8:15 a.m. Concert: Coral Metodista Unida de Neueva York, New York City
Jorge Lockward, director
8:30 a.m. Worship
Preacher: Bishop L. Bevel Jones III

## Tuesday, April 23

8:15 a.m. Concert: Indonesian Choir of the Methodist Church of Indonesia
Eunice Sitompul, director
8:30 a.m. Worship
Preacher: Bishop Thomas L. Hoyt

## Wednesday, April 24

8:15 a.m. Concert: Lover's Lane Jazz Band, Lover's Lane UMC, Dallas, Texas
Terry Price, director
8:30 a.m. Worship
Preacher: Bishop William W. Dew, Jr.

## Thursday, April 25

8:15 a.m. Concert: Christ UMC Deaf and Sign Choir, Baltimore, Maryland
Peggy Johnson, director
8:30 a.m. Worship
Preacher: Bishop Edwin C. Boulton

## Friday, April 26

8:15 a.m. Concert: Iluzija Choir, United Methodist Church, Liepaja, Latvia
Guntra Pluce, director
8:30 a.m. Worship
Preacher: Bishop Ann Sherer
10:00 p.m. Closing Worship
Preacher: Bishop Woodie W. White

Directors of Music: S.T. Kimbrough, Jr. and Cynthia Wilson-Felder
Organists: Austin Lovelace, Kathleen Forsberg
Pianists: Richard Forsberg, Johnetta Johnson Page

## Council of Bishops of The United Methodist Church

Officers (May 1995–May 1996)

President: Roy I. Sano
Secretary: Melvin G. Talbert

President Designate: Woodie W. White
Assistant to the Secretary: E Ellis Finger, Jr.

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Emilio J. M. de Carvalho
William W. Dew Jr.
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J. Alfred Ndoricimpa
Alfred L. Norris
William B. Oden
Fama Onema
Donald A. Ott
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Thomas S. Bangura
Ole E. Borgen
Monk Bryan
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Alsie H. Carleton
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# 1996 Laity Address Calls God's People to be "Partners in Ministry"



James W. (Jim) Lane of Sherwood, Arkansas will present the laity address at 9:00 on Wednesday morning.

*photo by Jane Dennis*

James W. (Jim) Lane of Sherwood, Ark., cares deeply for his church, his Lord, and the vital role and involvement of laity in bringing the redemptive message of Jesus Christ to the world. He has proven those strongly held beliefs through exceptional leadership and service over the last three decades to his local church, district, and conference, as well as to the general Church, world Methodist organizations, and ecumenical bodies. So it is natural that this longtime United Methodist has been selected to deliver the 1996 laity address at General Conference. Yet, his selection has nothing to do with his personal accomplishments or leadership roles. What convinced the Executive Committee of the National Association of Annual Conference Lay Leaders (NAACLL) to ask Lane to speak for the Church's 9.7 million lay members were his thoughts and ideas for the future of the Church—a Church made stronger by its network of "Partners in Ministry," the theme for this year's address.

Paul R. Ervin Jr., president of the NAACLL, explained that the process for selection of the laity speaker was altered this quadrennium "because we want the message to be the focus and not just the messenger." Annual conference lay leaders, rather than laity at large, were invited to submit written manuscripts, which were then judged "blind," without the names of the authors attached. A panel of independent judges considered the 17 manuscripts that were submitted. "I was stunned when I learned my manuscript was selected," said Lane, lay leader of the North Arkansas Conference. "I was also very thrilled that what I wrote was selected and not me or what I've done or any office that I've held."

Lane explained that he began putting his thoughts down on paper more than a year ago as he studied the North Arkansas Conference vision statement. "I began to formulate ideas and images that came into my mind as I connected with the statement and it began to speak to me. I wrote sitting at my computer for one whole day, and it just grew and grew from there." He wrote: "We are being drawn like a magnet toward this new century. Our imagination has been captured by all kinds of 'what if' questions about 'what might be' in the year 2000.... As United Methodist Christians, today is our time to see the visions, dream the dreams and to prophesy, as God's Holy Spirit is now poured out upon us. As the story of Esther informs us in the Old Testament—God has surely brought us to this place for just such a time as this!"

When the contest for selecting the laity speaker was announced, Lane made some additional changes and submitted his "visioning" thoughts. The address is now entitled "Partners in Ministry: A Vision for the Year 2000." Since the selection was announced in November, Lane has presented the address before NAACLL members and continued to perfect the document. "While the laity address is not a consensus document from the conference lay leaders, I received wonderful input and many helpful and constructive suggestions from them," Lane said.

The 1996 address examines "the imagery of the next millennium," Lane said, and his "hopes and dreams of the Church centering its mission and ministry on reaching out and receiving people where they are, relating them to God through Jesus Christ, training them in Christian discipleship, and then sending them out in their community for ministry." Lane feels that with this approach at its core, "the Church will be far better served than if we choose to chase after myriad social issues that tend to separate and divide us.

Not only will this be Lane's first opportunity to formally address General Conference, but the audience of about 2,000 delegates and observers will be the largest audience he's ever faced. Previously, his largest audience was 900 persons who participated in the North Arkansas Conference Vision 2000 launch event in 1995. Lane was the first lay delegate to be elected to the North Arkansas Conference's 1996 delegation. Previously, he served as a reserve delegate to the 1984, 1988, and 1992 General Conferences. Retired from U.S. Government Federal Civil Service and the U.S. Army reserve, the 59-year-old Lane is a delegate to the 17th World Methodist Conference to be held in Rio de Janeiro in August. A delegate to the 1996 South Central Jurisdictional Conference, he is co-chair of the Jurisdictional Committee on the Episcopacy for the next quadrennium. He is a

(continued on next page)

(continued from last page)

member of the Forum of 32, which assisted the General Council on Ministries in its Connectional Issues Study over the last quadrennium. He previously served on the General Commission on Communication, on the 1984 General Conference Hymnal Revision Committee, and on the board of managers of the National Council of Churches' Department of Communication. Lane is currently chair of the North Arkansas Conference Vision 2000 Task Force and Council on Lay Life and Work. He is a member of the Conference Council on Ministries, Committee on Nominations, and Planning Committee, as well as the Arkansas Area Committee on the Episcopacy.

A member of Levy United Methodist Church, Little Rock, Ark., he has been a lay member of the North Arkansas Annual Conference every year since 1972. Lane has 30 years' experience as a certified lay speaker and an adult Sunday school teacher. He is a member of the Arkansas Interfaith Conference and a teacher of DISCIPLE Bible Study. A writer and computer enthusiast, Lane has written articles for *Interpreter* magazine and authored lay speaking resource booklets for the General Board of Discipleship and Hinton Rural Life Center, Hayesville, N.C. Lane's latest honor is being elected the next president of the NAACLL.

The laity address will be presented Wednesday, April 17, during the morning session of General Conference. Among friends and family members who will be in the audience will be Lane's wife of 33 years, Nell Bizzell Lane. "I'm not nervous about giving the speech," he said. "I'm just hopeful the message I've written will come across."

*—Jane Dennis*

Jane Dennis is editor of the *Arkansas United Methodist* newspaper, Little Rock, Ark.

### Bishops' Prayer Vigil

The bishops have committed themselves to a 24-hour prayer vigil from the opening worship service Tuesday, April 16 through the closing business sessions and adjournment Friday, April 26.

A room in the hotel where the bishops will stay and room C207 in the convention center are being designated as chapels where visitors and delegates can join the bishops in their vigil.

### Bishops' and Spouses' Choir to Sing

At 7:30 p.m. on the opening night of the conference, a choir of bishops and spouses will sing under the direction of Joy Solomon, wife of Oklahoma Bishop Dan Solomon. White said he believes the choir is a "first" for General Conference. "It will give the church an opportunity to see its episcopal leadership and spouses in quite a different role," he said.


## Custom Audio Cassette

The *Daily Christian Advocate* offers delegates and visitors the opportunity to obtain any segment of any plenary session for $7 per each 30-minute segment.

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_____

**Date of event** _____ **Time of event** _____ **Speaker(s)** _____

# Blessed Be the Women: Be Counted! Go Tell!

Just over 100 years ago, the first woman was seated at the 1892 General Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church. Today, women comprise nearly 35 percent of the 1,000 delegates making decisions at the 1996 General Conference of The United Methodist Church. We celebrate the presence of women here in Denver. We also encourage women to be counted, to participate fully in the times of discernment, prayer, and decision making. Women, in particular, have not always been encouraged to be counted. The Easter story offers one example: As the women returned from visiting the empty tomb, their witness was discounted, called "foolish." All of us participate in different ways as we share the fruits of our different gifts. Some of us are more accustomed to listening for long periods before we speak; some of us share our thoughts immediately. Factors affecting persons' full participation may include differences in language, culture, and hearing and sight abilities. Certainly, old patterns may sometimes be difficult to change. As Christians, we have been called to value the contributions of members of the body of Christ and to trust Christ's transforming love to do so. Moreover, as United Methodists, we have committed ourselves to seeking the full and equal responsibility and participation of women by charging the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women with challenging "The United Methodist Church...to a continuing commitment to the full and equal responsibility and participation of women in the total life and mission of the Church, sharing fully in the power and in the policy making at all levels of the Church's life" (Para. 2202. At this General Conference, the commission is providing a monitoring ministry in keeping with that covenant. In addition to tracking legislation for its potential impact on the status and role of women, a team of commission members and volunteers will be observing legislative committees and plenary sessions and counting the number of times women and men participate in decision making processes. Each day in the *Daily Christian Advocate*, the commission will provide feedback that will give some indication of women's participation. Look for this "Be Counted!" box and be aware of ways in which all delegates may share fully and responsibly in the important decision making at this General Conference. Doubtless, we may face times of tension and stress in our discernment, yet we will also be blessed with moments of tenderness and humor. The General Commission on the Status and Role of Women asks God's blessing on each of you as you listen for God's voice speaking among you.

**"Blessed Be the Women: Be Counted!"**
**Historical perspective on women's participation at General Conference**

| Year | Denomination | Lay women Delegates* | Clergy Women Delegates* |
|---|---|---|---|
| **1888 | Methodist Episcopal | 5 | 0 |
| #1892 | Methodist Protestant | 3 | 1 |
| 1893 | United Brethren | 2 | 0 |
| 1976 | United Methodist | 180 | 10 |
| 1992 | United Methodist | 22 | 81 |
| 1996 | United Methodist | 221 | 107 |

* Numbers include US conferences only; 1992 and 1996 include US and Puerto Rico.
** No women delegates were seated.
# Clergywomen ordained by conference, not recognized officially.

Information provided by the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women

# What to See and Do in Denver

The Mile High City Denver is not called the "Mile High City" because it sits on top of a mountain. In fact, it is also known as the "Queen of the Plains" due to its location on the plain at the base of the Rocky Mountains. Those who come to see mountains will not be disappointed, however. Denver's elevation (at the 15th step of the state capitol) is exactly 5,280 feet.

On a clear day, you can see Pikes Peak near Colorado Springs and all the way to the Wyoming border, a panorama that includes over 1,000 peaks more than two-miles high.

While Denver's economy is primarily based on the energy industry, tourism is its second major industry. Half of Colorado's acreage is publicly owned, with extensive areas of spectacular scenery open to hiking, fishing, camping, and cross-country skiing.

The state has two national parks, six national monuments, 11 national forests, three national recreation areas, and 30 state parks.

Initially a staging area for the 1859 gold rush about 10 years after the gold rush in California, the city was established as a mining camp after a few flakes of gold were found.

The first building was a saloon. However, after sizable claims were mined at Central City and Cripple Creek, increasing numbers of new millionaires began to make their homes in Denver.

Although Denver is generally viewed as a western city, it is only 346 miles from the geographic center of the U.S. Population has doubled since the 1960's, and the city is second only to Washington, D.C., in the number of college graduates per capita.

Many delegates have already walked through the troubled but beautiful new Denver airport that opened 13 months ago. Early problems with a costly baggage-handling computer have been resolved, and the facility is impressive. Covering 53 square miles—twice the size of Manhattan Island—the airport will eventually be able to service 110 million passengers a year.

### United Methodist Denver University and Iliff School of Theology

Denver is home to United Methodist Denver University and Iliff School of Theology, one of the 13 United Methodist seminaries in the U.S.

### Museum of Western Art

Fans of western art will also want to visit the Museum of Western Art that includes paintings by Frederic Remington and Georgia O'Keefe (open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., 1727 Tremont Place, 296-1880). The role of Black cowboys, who made up a third of the cowboys in the great roundups on the Plains, is featured in the Black American West Museum.

### U.S. Mint

Coins stamped with a "D" are minted in Denver at the U.S. Mint at 320 West Colfax (open weekdays, 8 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.). A 10-minute tour shows you how metal blanks become shiny new coins.

### Denver Art Museum

Make sure you stop by the Denver Art Museum to see its 35,000-piece American Indian exhibit. Adjacent you'll find the home of Ann Evans, daughter of Colorado's second territorial governor (open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday from noon to 5 p.m., 100 West 14th Avenue Parkway, 640-2793).

### Denver Museum of Natural History

At the Denver Museum of Natural History, your children will enjoy seeing one of the largest gold nuggets found in Colorado as well as the skeletons of prehistoric animals (open daily 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., 322-7009).

### Denver Zoo

After the museum, stop by the Denver Zoo for a visit with some 3,000 animals representing 300 species (open daily 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., E. 23rd Ave. at Steele St. 331-4110).

### Buffalo Bill Memorial Museum and Grave

Another thrill for young people of all ages is meeting impersonators of characters from the Wild West such as Buffalo Bill, who makes scheduled appearances at the Buffalo Bill Memorial Museum and Grave, atop Lookout Mountain in Golden, near Denver.

### Botanic Gardens

Nature lovers may want to take a 10-minute ride east of downtown to Denver's Botanic Gardens (1005 York St., 331-4000).

### Cherry Creek Mall

You may want to drive out to the million-square-foot Cherry Creek Mall, noted for Tattered Cover, a bookstore that offers 140,000 titles.

### Gart Brothers Sports Castle

And even though it is April, avid skiers will be able to take to the slopes. Gart Brothers Sports Castle, which claims to be the largest sporting goods store in the world, offers a test run down a simulated ski slope for die-hard enthusiasts of the sport.



City and county building graces the Denver skyline.

Sports-minded delegates already know about the Denver Broncos football team, the Denver Nuggets basketball team, and the Colorado Rockies baseball team. It is truly a major-league city.





Elitch Gardens, a downtown amusement park with more than 20 rides including three roller coasters, opens weekends in mid-April for delegates who find the need for more excitement than floor debates (455-4771).

You will want to visit historic Larimer Square (1400 Larimer Street). The shopping center features flea markets, craft shops, galleries, and restaurants, housed in buildings with gas lamps, brick facades, and Victorian woodwork. Larimer Square is just off the mile-long 16th Street Mall, a pedestrian walkway that unifies the downtown. Make a stop at Gart Brothers Sports Castle, which claims to be the largest sporting goods store in the world. Even in April, you can do a test run down a simulated ski slope.



# Seating Assignments
## Voting Delegates

| Conference/ Concordat | No. Delegates | Sec | Row | Seats |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Alabama-West Florida | 14 | D | 5 | 1-7 |
| | | D | 6 | 1-7 |
| Alaska Missionary | 2 | B | 10 | 10-11 |
| Austria Provisional | 2 | B | 12 | 7-8 |
| Baltimore-Washington | 20 | A | 9 | 1-10 |
| | | A | 10 | 1-10 |
| Bicol Philippines Provisional | 2 | B | 11 | 8-9 |
| Bulacan Philippines | 2 | B | 3 | 11-12 |
| Bulgaria Provisional | 2 | D | 1 | 7-8 |
| Burundi | 2 | A | 17 | 11-12 |
| California-Nevada | 12 | C | 19 | 1-12 |
| California-Pacific | 16 | C | 3 | 1-8 |
| | | C | 4 | 1-8 |
| Caribbean/the Americas | 2 | A | 19 | 9-10 |
| Central Illinois | 16 | A | 2 | 1-8 |
| | | A | 3 | 1-8 |
| Central Luzon | 2 | C | 6 | 11-12 |
| Central Pennsylvania | 16 | C | 17 | 7-12 |
| | | C | 18 | 3-12 |
| Central Texas | 12 | B | 2 | 6-12 |
| | | B | 3 | 6-10 |
| Central Zaire | 12 | D | 13 | 1-12 |
| Czech and Slovak Republics | 2 | D | 5 | 10-11 |
| Dakotas | 4 | C | 8 | 9-12 |
| Denmark | 2 | D | 4 | 11-12 |
| Desert Southwest | 6 | B | 5 | 10-12 |
| | | B | 6 | 10-12 |
| Detroit | 12 | B | 9 | 1-12 |
| East Mindanao Philippines Provisional | 2 | A | 1 | 7-8 |
| East Ohio | 22 | C | 1 | 1-12 |
| | | C | 2 | 1-10 |
| East Philippines | 2 | A | 10 | 11-12 |
| Eastern Angola | 2 | A | 18 | 9-10 |
| Eastern Pennsylvania | 14 | B | 7 | 1-7 |
| | | B | 8 | 1-7 |
| Estonia Provisional | 2 | D | 12 | 11-12 |
| Finland-Finnish Provisional | 2 | C | 10 | 11-12 |
| Finland-Sweden Provisional | 2 | A | 1 | 9-10 |
| Florida | 28 | A | 12 | 9-12 |
| | | A | 13 | 1-12 |
| | | A | 14 | 1-12 |
| German East | 2 | D | 7 | 9-10 |
| German North | 2 | B | 4 | 11-12 |
| German South | 2 | C | 9 | 11-12 |
| German Southwest | 2 | A | 18 | 11-12 |
| Great Britain | 4 | C | 3 | 9-12 |
| Holston | 16 | D | 7 | 1-8 |
| | | D | 8 | 1-8 |
| Hungary Provisional | 2 | D | 5 | 8-9 |
| Iowa | 22 | D | 3 | 1-12 |
| | | D | 4 | 1-10 |
| Kansas East | 8 | D | 11 | 1-8 |
| Kansas West | 10 | C | 5 | 1-10 |
| Kentucky | 8 | D | 1 | 9-12 |
| | | D | 2 | 9-12 |
| Liberia | 8 | A | 20 | 1-8 |
| Little Rock | 6 | D | 2 | 1-6 |
| Louisiana | 12 | B | 1 | 1-12 |
| Louisville | 8 | A | 2 | 9-12 |
| | | A | 3 | 9-12 |
| Macedonia-Yugoslavia Provisional | 2 | C | 11 | 11-12 |
| Memphis | 10 | D | 9 | 8-12 |
| | | D | 10 | 8-12 |
| Mexico | 2 | C | 14 | 11-12 |
| Middle Philippines | 2 | A | 19 | 7-8 |
| Mindanao | 2 | D | 15 | 9-10 |
| Minnesota | 12 | C | 7 | 1-12 |

| Conference/ Concordat | No. Delegates | Sec | Row | Seats |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Mississippi | 18 | A | 6 | 1-6 |
| | | A | 7 | 1-6 |
| | | A | 8 | 1-6 |
| Missouri East | 10 | B | 2 | 1-5 |
| | | B | 3 | 1-5 |
| Missouri West | 10 | D | 16 | 1-10 |
| Mozambique | 2 | C | 13 | 11-12 |
| Nebraska | 10 | C | 14 | 1-10 |
| New England | 14 | D | 9 | 1-7 |
| | | D | 10 | 1-7 |
| New Mexico | 4 | C | 4 | 9-12 |
| New York | 16 | A | 4 | 1-8 |
| | | A | 5 | 1-8 |
| Nigeria | 4 | D | 11 | 9-12 |
| North Alabama | 14 | A | 4 | 9-12 |
| | | A | 5 | 9-12 |
| | | A | 6 | 7-12 |
| North Arkansas | 8 | A | 18 | 1-8 |
| North Carolina | 18 | B | 5 | 1-9 |
| | | B | 6 | 1-9 |
| North Central New York | 10 | D | 12 | 1-10 |
| North Central Philippines | 2 | B | 19 | 11-12 |
| North Georgia | 24 | B | 16 | 1-12 |
| | | B | 17 | 1-12 |
| North Indiana | 14 | A | 7 | 7-12 |
| | | A | 8 | 7-12 |
| | | A | 9 | 11-12 |
| North Shaba | 16 | A | 11 | 1-8 |
| | | A | 12 | 1-8 |
| North Texas | 12 | B | 18 | 1-12 |
| Northeast Philippines | 2 | B | 14 | 7-8 |
| Northeast Zaire | 2 | B | 11 | 10-11 |
| Northern Illinois | 14 | B | 10 | 1-7 |
| | | B | 11 | 1-7 |
| Northern New Jersey | 6 | A | 1 | 1-6 |
| Northern Philippines | 2 | A | 1 | 11-12 |
| Northwest Philippines | 2 | B | 10 | 8-9 |

| Conference/ Concordat | No. Delegates | Sec | Row | Seats |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Northwest Texas | 6 | A | 17 | 5-10 |
| Norway | 2 | D | 8 | 11-12 |
| Oklahoma | 20 | C | 10 | 1-10 |
| | | C | 11 | 1-10 |
| Oklahoma Indian Missionary | 2 | C | 18 | 1-2 |
| Oregon-Idaho | 6 | B | 14 | 1-6 |
| Pacific Northwest | 8 | D | 20 | 1-8 |
| Palawan Provisional | 2 | D | 6 | 10-11 |
| Peninsula-Delaware | 8 | C | 6 | 3-10 |
| Philippines | 2 | D | 6 | 8-9 |
| Poland | 2 | C | 2 | 11-12 |
| Puerto Rico | 2 | D | 7 | 11-12 |
| Red Bird Missionary | 2 | B | 15 | 11-12 |
| Rio Grande | 2 | B | 12 | 9-10 |
| Rocky Mountain | 10 | B | 4 | 1-10 |
| Sierra Leone | 2 | D | 2 | 7-8 |
| South Carolina | 22 | B | 21 | 1-12 |
| | | B | 22 | 1-10 |
| South Georgia | 14 | B | 19 | 1-8 |
| | | B | 20 | 1-6 |
| South Indiana | 16 | C | 8 | 1-8 |
| | | C | 9 | 1-8 |
| Southern Illinois | 6 | D | 1 | 1-6 |
| Southern New Jersey | 10 | C | 13 | 1-10 |
| Southern Zaire | 10 | D | 19 | 7-12 |
| | | D | 20 | 9-12 |
| Southwest Philippines | 2 | B | 14 | 9-10 |
| Southwest Texas | 10 | B | 15 | 1-10 |
| Sweden | 2 | D | 15 | 11-12 |
| Switzerland-France | 2 | B | 19 | 9-10 |
| Tanganyika | 2 | A | 11 | 9-10 |
| Tennessee | 10 | B | 7 | 8-12 |
| | | B | 8 | 8-12 |
| Texas | 24 | C | 20 | 1-12 |
| | | C | 21 | 1-12 |
| Troy | 6 | B | 20 | 7-12 |
| Upper Zaire | 2 | D | 8 | 9-10 |

| Conference/ Concordat | No. Delegates | Sec | Row | Seats |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Virginia | 30 | C | 15 | 1-12 |
| | | C | 16 | 1-12 |
| | | C | 17 | 1-6 |
| Visayas-North Mindanao Philippines | 2 | C | 9 | 9-10 |
| West Michigan | 13 | B | 10 | 1-10 |
| West Middle Philippines | 2 | C | 5 | 11-12 |
| West Ohio | 30 | D | 17 | 1-12 |
| | | D | 18 | 1-12 |
| | | D | 19 | 1-6 |
| West Virginia | 16 | A | 21 | 1-10 |
| | | A | 22 | 1-6 |
| West Zaire | 2 | A | 11 | 11-12 |
| Western Angola | 4 | B | 12 | 11-12 |
| | | B | 13 | 11-12 |
| Western New York | 6 | A | 19 | 1-6 |
| Western North Carolina | 28 | A | 15 | 1-12 |
| | | A | 16 | 1-12 |
| | | A | 17 | 1-4 |
| Western Pennsylvania | 20 | D | 14 | 1-12 |
| | | D | 15 | 1-8 |
| Wisconsin | 12 | C | 12 | 1-12 |
| Wyoming | 6 | B | 12 | 1-6 |
| Yellowstone | 2 | B | 14 | 11-12 |
| Zimbabwe | 2 | C | 6 | 1-2 |
| Russian Observers | 2 | D | 16 | 11-12 |

**General Secretaries**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sandra K. Lakore | 1 | D | 22 | 1 |
| Judith Weidman | 1 | D | 22 | 2 |
| Thom White Wolf Fassett | 1 | D | 22 | 3 |
| Barbara Boigegrain | 1 | D | 22 | 4 |
| Neil Alexander | 1 | D | 22 | 5 |
| C. David Lundquist | 1 | D | 22 | 6 |
| Bruce Robbins | 1 | D | 22 | 7 |
| Roger Ireson | 1 | D | 22 | 8 |
| Barbara Thompson | 1 | D | 22 | 9 |
| Ezra Earl Jones | 1 | D | 22 | 10 |
| Stephanie Hixon | 1 | D | 22 | 11 |
| Cecelia Long | 1 | D | 22 | 12 |
| Robert K. Feaster | 1 | D | 21 | 11 |
| Charles Yrigoyen | 1 | D | 21 | 12 |

**Affiliated Autonomous Methodist and United Churches**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Methodist Church of Argentina | 2 | A | 19 | 11-12 |
| United Methodist Church Belgium | 2 | A | 20 | 9-10 |
| The Methodist Church in Brazil | 3 | A | 22 | 7-9 |
| The Methodist Church in Burma | 2 | A | 20 | 11-12 |
| Methodist Church in Cuba | 2 | B | 22 | 11-12 |
| United Evangelical Church Ecuador | 2 | C | 22 | 1-2 |
| Methodist Church, Hong Kong | 2 | C | 22 | 3-4 |
| Methodist Church in India | 3 | A | 22 | 10-12 |
| Methodist Church in Indonesia | 2 | C | 22 | 5-6 |
| Korean Methodist Church | 3 | D | 21 | 1-3 |
| Methodist Church in Malaysia | 3 | D | 21 | 4-6 |
| Evangelical Methodist Church–Philippines | 2 | C | 22 | 7-8 |
| Methodist Church–Republic of China | 2 | C | 22 | 9-10 |
| Evangelical Methodist Church of Costa Rica | 2 | C | 22 | 11-12 |
| The Methodist Church of Singapore | 2 | D | 21 | 7-8 |

Audio Recording ..... C 111

Bishop's Lounge ..... A 214

Bishop's Spouses' Lounge ..... A 212

Business Manager's Office ..... A 206

Central Conference Delegates Financial Office
Interpreter's Office ..... C 109

Commission on Central
Conference Affairs ..... A 102

Commission on the General
Conference ..... A 210

Committee on Agenda and Calendar ..... C 202

Committee on Correlation
and Editorial Review ..... C 108

Committee on Courtesies ..... C 210

Committee on Presiding Officers ..... C 212

Committee on Reference ..... C 107

Computer Resource Room ..... C 101

Credentials Committee ..... C 208

*Daily Christian Advocate*
First week ..... Hall B (rear)
Second week ..... Ballroom 2-3

Delegates' Lounge ..... C 106

*Discipline* and *Resolutions* ..... C 110

First Aid ..... First Aid Room

General Agencies' Office ..... C 103

General Council on Finance
and Administration ..... A 202

Information, Registration, Post Office ..... Lobby

Judicial Council ..... C 206

Legislative Committee on
Church and Society ..... A 109/111

Legislative Committee
on Conferences ..... A 112

Legislative Committee
on Discipleship ..... A 108/110

Legislative Committee on Financial
Administration ..... A 101/103

Legislative Committee on General
Administration ..... A 105/107

Legislative Committee on Global
Ministries ..... A 201

Legislative Committee on Higher
Education and Chaplaincy ..... A 205

Legislative Committee on Independent
Commissions ..... A 209

Legislative Committee on Ordained
and Diaconal Ministry ..... A 104/106

Legislative Committee
on the Local Church ..... A 207

Legislative Subcommittees ..... C 105, C 205

Literature Resource Room ..... C 104/102

Local Host Committee ..... A 113

Marshalls and Pages ..... C 201

Plenary Session ..... Hall A

Prayer Room ..... C 207

Press Room ..... Ballroom 1

Print Shop ..... C 209

Publishing House
and *DCA* Sales ..... Hall B (front)

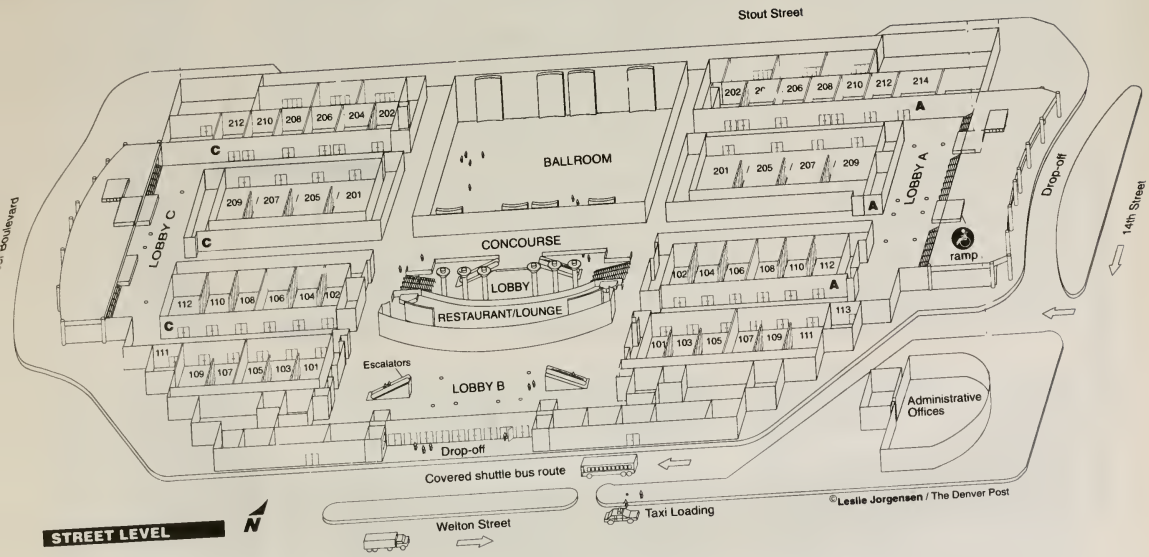
Reception for Bishops
and Judicial Council ..... Ballroom 2-4

Secretarial Staff ..... C 204

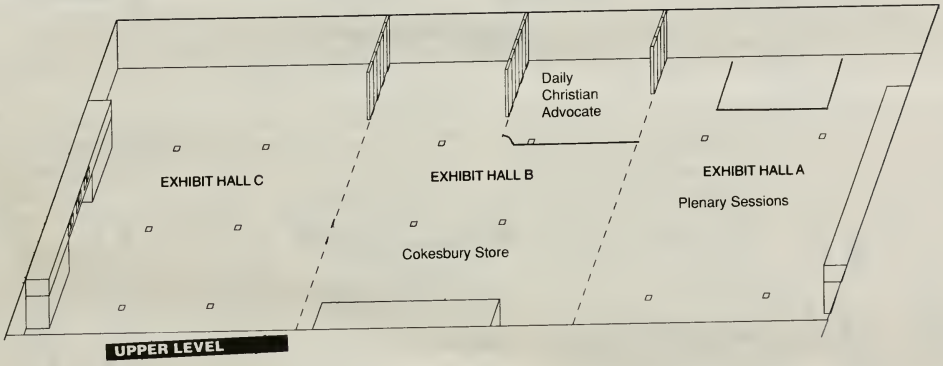
Secretary's Office ..... A 208

Treasurer's Office ..... A 204

Video Recording ..... C 112




# Colorado Convention Center


Daily
Christian
Advocate
EXHIBIT HALL C
EXHIBIT HALL B
EXHIBIT HALL A
Plenary Sessions
Cokesbury Store
UPPER LEVEL

# Methodist Beginnings in Colorado

On November 16, 1858, a company of travel-weary settlers reached the confluence of Cherry Creek and the South Platte River. Among them was wagon-maker George W. Fisher, whose arrival in the area would initiate the rapid spread of Methodism throughout the Rocky Mountain region.

A Methodist lay preacher, Fisher wasted no time in holding church services in the new settlement that soon became known as Denver City. The first services took place out-of-doors or in a rudely constructed log cabin that otherwise served as a gambling hall. By the following spring when the Kansas-Nebraska Conference sent the first officially-appointed Methodist leaders as missionaries, Fisher was also preaching regularly in the developing mining town at Mountain (now Central) City.

### Early Missions Take Root

One of the leaders sent by the Kansas-Nebraska Conference was superintendent William H. Goods, known as the father of Nebraska Methodism. Accompanying him was Jacob Adriance, who was to become known as the father of Methodism in Colorado and whose *Diary* is an invaluable resource for students of the early history of Methodism in the region.

Working in the zeal of the Lord, Goods and Adriance organized the first four Methodist churches in the region in 1859 during the space of five months: Central City on July 11, Golden on July 17, Denver City and Auraria Mission (now Trinity) on August 2, and Boulder on November 27. Originally established as separate towns on opposite banks of Cherry Creek, Denver City and Auraria united in 1860, taking the name of a former Governor of Kansas, James W. Denver.

Included among early church leaders of this period were William Howbert, who came from Iowa in 1860, and John L. Dyer of Wisconsin, affectionately known as "Father." Howbert and Dyer helped organize Breckenridge, Leadville, Fairplay, Cañon City, and Colorado City, which is now the western part of Colorado Springs. Dyer traveled widely throughout southern Colorado to Pueblo, Trinidad, and many other settlements. Organized in 1863, the Rocky Mountain Conference changed its name the following year to the Colorado Conference. It again became known as the Rocky Mountain Conference in 1957.

### A Vision for New Mexico

As a delegate to the General Conference in 1868, Dyer urged the conference to send missionaries to the New Mexico territory. Not content to depend on others to take the initiative, however, he began the work in the "Rio Grande District" soon after his return to Colorado, riding his horse as far south as El Paso, Texas, and later into eastern Arizona to preach. Dyer estimated he had ridden his horse over 10,000 miles during a two-year period in New Mexico (1868-1870).

When the early work in New Mexico met with little success, Dyer persuaded his friend Thomas Harwood to leave Wisconsin and commit himself to this mission field. Harwood and his wife Emily ministered in New Mexico for many years, and both became fluent in Spanish. A school teacher, Emily helped establish a school that was later named after them.

After the New Mexico Mission separated from the Colorado Conference in 1872, Thomas Harwood was named superintendent over five churches with a total of 74 members. When the New Mexico Mission divided into English- and Spanish-speaking sections in 1884, with 8 and 16 churches respectively, Harwood became superintendent of the Spanish-speaking division.

### The Work Expands into Wyoming

Even before the work in New Mexico began, John Dyer dreamed of expanding mission outreach to Wyoming in spite of the fact that there were few permanent settlements in that region. As a result of that vision, the first Methodist church in Wyoming was established in Cheyenne, Dakota Territory in 1867, the same year the town was organized.

The following year a Methodist church also began meeting in Laramie. These two churches made up the Dakota District of southern Wyoming. Rev. W. W. Baldwin of the Colorado Conference and Dr. G. F. Hilton, a physician and retired minister from Wisconsin, were the first preachers in Cheyenne and Laramie respectively. In conjunction with Greeley, Colorado, these towns made up the first circuit in the region.

The main expansion of the Colorado Conference in Wyoming followed the development of railroad camps during the construction of the Union Pacific Railroad through southern Wyoming in the 1870's. By 1888, with new churches taking root in Rawlins, Rock Springs, and Evanston, the Wyoming Mission Conference had grown large enough to separate from the Colorado Conference.

### A Period of Prosperity

The year 1870 inaugurated a period of steady growth for Denver. Linked that year to the transcontinental railroad at Cheyenne, the town's dependence on mining and gold speculation increasingly gave way to farming and ranching interests. Denver's prosperity benefited the church as well. When Henry White Warren came to Denver in 1884 as the first resident bishop, the con-

ference included 51 churches, 15 of which were in Denver, with 4 in Wyoming.

John L. Dyer retired in 1880 after a lifetime of profitable service for the Methodist Church and for the Lord. He died in Denver in 1901 at the age of 89. Dyer's memory is preserved in the name of the Breckenridge church where he last served and by his likeness in a stained glass window recognizing early pioneers in the State Capitol building.

### The Methodist Episcopal Church, South

The same year Howbert came to Denver, 1860, a congregation of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South also organized; this congregation erected the town's first church building. With the outbreak of the Civil War the following year, however, most of the members returned to their homes in southern states, and the work disbanded. Reorganized in Denver in 1871, Methodist Church, South congregations in Colorado primarily concentrated in the southern half of the state where they were closely tied to that denomination's development in New Mexico.

### Different Language Churches

A number of non-English-speaking Methodist churches affiliated with other conferences developed in Denver during the latter part of the 1800's. West German Conference Methodists established a church in 1872 under the leadership of such men as lay leader Henry Reitze, eventually disbanding in 1926. In 1883, the North Western Swedish Annual Conference organized a congregation of Swedish-speaking Methodists that joined the Colorado Conference when the Swedish Conference disbanded following the 1939 merger.

Throughout the first two decades of the 20th century, Japanese Methodists, Italian Methodists, and Spanish-speaking Methodists added their own congregations. African-Americans organized a church related to the Methodist Episcopal denomination in 1904. One of its ministers, Matthew Clair, Jr., a graduate of Iliff School of Theology, was elected bishop in the Central Jurisdiction in 1952. Trinity Methodist Church maintained a Chinese Sunday school in the early years, as did the Methodist Episcopal, South denomination.

### The University of Denver

From the beginning, the early settlers of the region considered education a priority. Led by former Governor John Evans, several Methodist laymen organized the Colorado Seminary in 1864, the first institution of higher education in the mountain region. Although the struggling institution closed its doors after four years, a new board of trustees established the University of Denver in 1880, again under Evans' influence and guidance. Its first chancellor, David H. Moore, was later elected bishop.

Within 10 years, hampered by limited space for expansion, the University of Denver relocated to South Denver, which was at that time many miles outside the city limits. The most significant period of development in the early part of the century came under the guidance of Chancellor Henry Augustus Buchtel during a 21-year period from 1900 to 1920. Five new buildings were constructed as the student body and faculty grew significantly.

### The Iliff School of Theology

In the late 1800's a local businessman and cattle baron began to dream of a school to train ministers. Although John Wesley Iliff died too young to bring his idea to fruition, his vision became reality through the efforts of his widow, Elizabeth Iliff, after she married Bishop Henry White Warren in 1883.

Initially, the Iliff School was a graduate division of the University. When the first class enrolled in 1892, the students met in University Hall, the only building on campus at that time. Almost immediately, however, John and Elizabeth's son, William Seward Iliff, provided funds to construct Iliff Hall. Classes moved into the new building in September 1893.

Financial difficulties, added to other challenges, caused Iliff School to close from 1900 to 1910. During this decade the endowment increased, however, allowing the school to reopen in 1903 incorporated separately from the University.

### Heroes of the Faith

The words of B. F. Crary, who served 8 years as a presiding elder of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South during these early years, are a fitting tribute to all the men and women who labored so faithfully to preach the gospel in the Rocky Mountain region. Writing in 1880 of the hardships and trials of the work of that period, he concluded, "Our only regret was, all the time, that we could not plant more churches and send out more preachers. No more heroic men ever lived than our glorious cohort of frontier preachers. They deserve immortality and eternal life."

*—J. Alton Templin*

# Additional Delegates

## Burundi (2)

Nahimana, Mary (4), women's leader, P.O. Box 64583, Nairobi, Kenya
**Ntaboneka, Simeon* (10), president, P.O. Box 64583, Nairobi, Kenya

### Reserves

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*Niyizigama, Amos*, president, P.O. Box 64583, Nairobi, Kenya

## Caribbean and the Americas (2)

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*Watty, William W.* (6), conference president, Methodist Conference Centre, P.O. Box 9, Scott's Hill, St. John's, Antigua, West Indies

## Liberia (8)

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Jackson, Jr. W. Nippy T. (4), administrator, P.O. Box 10-1010, 1000 Monrovia 10, Liberia
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*Goodridge, Emmett W.*, instructor, P.O. Box 10-1010, 1000 Monrovia 10, Liberia

## Mexico (2)

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*Travino, Luis Ernesto* ( ), conference president, Matamoros #111 Ote., 26000 Piedras Negras, Coah., Mexico

## Nigeria (4)

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*Zoreno, Adiel* (10), pastor, P.O. Box 155, Jalingo, Taraba State, Nigeria

## North Central Philippines (2)

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### Reserves

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Cayaba, Warlito
Cayaba, Victorio
Salacup, Rolando
Tumanagan, Maximo
Haduca, Herminigildo
Pardon, Samuel
Tandayu, Silvestre
Octaviano, Lito
Sadang, Nelson
Velasco, Virgilio
Ramos, Jose
Pascasio, Hedelyn
Balisi, Elisio
Ramos, Rolando
*Tandayu, Primitivo G.*, district superintendent, The United Methodist Church, Osmena, Ilagan, Isabela 3300, Philippines
*Pascasio, Jovita*, district superintendent, The United Methodist Church, Cauayan, Isabela, Philippines
*Cayaba, Pablo*, pastor, The United Methodist Church, Sta. Cruz, Echague, Isabela, Philippines
*Adduru, Pablo*, dean, Eveland Junior College, San Mateo, Isabela, Philippines
*Pascasio, Arnold*, pastor
*Pascasio, Marceliano*, director, Rural Life Center, Furo, Ilagan, Isabela, Philippines
*Maggay, Erwyn*, pastor, The United Methodist Church, Centro, Cabagan, Isabela, Philippines
*Rasing, Medardo*, pastor, The United Methodist Church, Kalabaza, Aurora, Isabela, Philippines
*Jacinto, Felipa*, UTS, Dasmarinas, Cavite, Philippines
*Castillo, Melanio*, pastor/teacher, Eveland Junior College, San Mateo, Isabela, Philippines
*Ilay, Salvador*, pastor, The United Methodist Church, Virgineza, San Agustin, Isabela, Philippines
*Rinonos, Edwin*, pastor, The United Methodist Church,Tumauini, Isabela, Philippines
*Callantes, Honorato*, pastor, The United Methodist Church, San Mateo, Isabela, Philippines
*Pacudan, Antonio*, UTS, Dasmarinas, Cavite, Philippines
*Inis, Ralph*, pastor, The United Methodist Church, Echague, Isabela, Philippines
*Inis, Rodolfo*, pastor
*Domingo, Lolita*, pastor
*Dela Cruz, Elizabeth*, pastor, The United Methodist Church, Bagong Tanza, Aurora, Isabela, Philippines

*Maggay, Nena*, pastor, The United Methodist Church, San Antonio, Delfin Albano, Isabela, Philippines

## Northeast Philippines (2)

Roque, Luzviminda P. (10), physician, The United Methodist Church, Santiago City, Isabela, Philippines
**Villaluz, Artemio M.* (3), district superintendent, The United Methodist Church, Santiago City, Isabela, Philippines

### Reserves

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Saturno, Adriana, D.N.R. officer, The United Methodist Church, Buenavista, Santiago City, Isabela, Philippines
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Miguel, Samuel, businessman, Baptista Village, Santiago City, Isabela, Philippines
Jose, Antonio, engineer, Baptista village, Santiago City, Isabela, Philippines
Leano, Byron, instructor, The United Methodist Church, Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya, Philippines
Galindez, Minerva, teacher, The United Methodist Church, Aritao, Nueva Vizcaya, Philippines
Ibay, Arleen, accountant, The United Methodist Church, Divisoria, Santiago City, Isabela, Philippines
Villanueva, Castulo, The United Methodist Church, Solano, Nueva Vizcaya, Philippines
Madelar, Nieves, teacher, Aldersgate, Solano, Nueva Vizcaya, Philippines
Gabuyo, Esther, deaconess, The United Methodist Church, Solano, Nueva Vizcaya, Philippines
Jerusalem, Beverly, accountant, The United Methodist Church, Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya, Philippines
Jacquias, Leah, The United Methodist Church, Solano, Nueva Vizcaya, Philippines
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*Justo, Benjamin*, dean, UTS, Dasmarinas, Cavite, Philippines
*Erana, Samuel F.*, pastor, The United Methodist Church, Diffun Quirino, Philippines
*Dado, Luz B.*, pastor, The United Methodist Church, Sta. Fe, Nueva Vizcaya, Philippines
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*Sagadraca, Wilson E.*, district superintendent, 128 Velasco Subdivision, San Fabian, Echague, Isabela, Philippines
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*Benitez, Juan Ri.*, pastor, The United Methodist Church, Aritao, Nueva Vizcaya, Philippines
*Bisis, Zenaida C.*, pastor, The United Methodist Church, Diadi, Nueva Vizcaya, Philippines
*Lorenzana, Balligi J.*, pastor, The United Methodist Church, Maddela, Quirino, Philippines
*Antonio, Luz G.*, pastor, The United Methodist Church, Ambalatungan, Santiago City, Philippines
*Luna, Elmer V.*, pastor, The United Methodist Church, Bonfal, Nueva Vizcaya, Philippines
*Larida, Franklin M.*, pastor, The United Methodist Church, Bagabag, Nueva Vizcaya, Philippines
*Sebastian, Romulo R.*, pastor, The United Methodist Church, Buenavista, Santiago City, Philippines
*Gabuyo, Severino*, pastor, The United Methodist Church, Santiago City, Isabela, Philippines

## Northern Philippines (2)

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### Reserves

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Salvatierra, Lorna B., administrative officer, COA, Carig, Tugeugarao, Cagayan, Philippines
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Crismo, Phoebe, deaconess
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Asanias, Lily, nurse, The United Methodist Church, Sanchez Mira, Cagayan, Philippines
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Quilang, Benjamin L., teacher, JWC, Tuguegarao, Cagayan, Philippines
Gaspar, Samuel, teacher, CSU, Tuguegarao, Cagayan, Philippines
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Racquel, Boyser, teacher, The United Methodist Church, Bangan, Sanchez Mira, Philippines
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Della, Mario
Galazo, Clarita, The United Methodist Church, Balidbid, Salcedo, Ilocos Sur, Philippines
Roldan, Leonardo, The United Methodist Church, San Esteban, Ilocos Sur, Philippines
Belen, Rolly, The United Methodist Church, Lungog, Narvacan, Ilocos Sur, Philippines
Ortiz, Carlos, The United Methodist Church, Babayoan, Sta. Cruz, Ilocos Sur, Philippines
Tallayo, Jolly, The United Methodist Church. Banayoyo, Ilocos Sur, Philippines
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*Caalim, Teofilo*, pastor, The United Methodist Church, Tayug, Pangasinan, Philippines
*Romero, Leopoldo*, pastor, The United Methodist Church, Sevilla, Sta. Cruz, Ilocos Sur, Philippines
*Viloria, Manuel*, pastor, The United Methodist Church, Bugayong, Binalonan, Pangasinan, Philippines
*Dampulay, Conrado*, pastor, The United Methodist Church, Sto. Tomas, Candon, Ilocos Sur, Philippines
*Serquina, Sr., Pedro*, pastor, The United Methodist Church, Rosales, Pangasinan, Philippines
*Taoaguen, Bonifacio*, pastor, The United Methodist Church, Banayoyo, Ilocos Sur, Philippines
*Amarillo, Samuel*, pastor, The United Methodist Church, Pozzorrubio, Pangasinan, Philippines
*Biteng, Henry*, pastor, The United Methodist Church, San Jose, Sta. Cruz, Ilocos Sur, Philippines
*Curameng, Isagani*, pastor, The United Methodist Church, Urdaneta, Pangasinan, Philippines
*Guzman, Merlita*, pastor, The United Methodist Church, Narvacan, Ilocos Sur, Philippines
*Espanto, Pedro*, district superintendent, The United Methodist Church, District Parsonage, Calaoa-an, Candon, Ilocos Sur, Philippines
*Valdez, Rodolfo*, pastor, The United Methodist Church, Padaoil, Sta. Cruz, Ilocos Sur, Philippines
*Refuerzo, Homer*, pastor, UTS Dasmarinas, Cavite, Philippines
*Valedo, Federico*, district superintendent, The United Methodist Church, District Parsonage, San Pedro West, Rosales Pangasinan, Philippines
*Valera, David*, pastor, The United Methodist Church, 10 Marcos Highway, Baguio City 2600, Philippines
*Mangornong, Rebecca*, pastor, The United Methodist Church, Caparria-an, Sta. Cruz, Ilocos Sur, Philippines

## Zimbabwe (2)

Zvinoira, John ( ), businessman, 17 Cripps Road, Palmerston, Mutare, Zimbabwe
*Mafondokoto, Jairus* ( ), headmaster, Old Mutare Centre, P.B. P7024, Mutare, Zimbabwe

### Reserves

Kangara, Pedzisai, headmaster, P. Bag 662, Mutare, Zimbabwe
Mutize, Peter, headmaster, Box 83, Mutoko, Zimbabwe
Mutasa, Beatrice, lecturer, 32 Marimba Park, Mufakose, Harare, Zimbabwe
Chikuni, Eliatha, teacher, Newengo School, P. Bag J7115, Mutare, Zimbabwe
Marima, William F., businessman, 145 Third Avenue, Park Town, Waterfalls, Harare, Zimbabwe

Machuma, Shepherd K., management trainer, 9 Manda Street, Zengeza 3, Chitungwiza, Zimbabwe
*Banda, Josephat C.*, principal, Box H97, Hatfield, Harare, Zimbabwe
*Masamba, Mary*, district superintendent, P. Bag, Murewa, Zimbabwe
*Marange, Kennedy*, district superintendent, Box 236, Mutoko, Chitungwiza
*Machinga, Gift K.*, pastor, Box 666, Mutare, Zimbabwe
*Munjoma, John F.*, district superintendent, Box 386, Mitchell's Plain, 7785 South Africa
*Muwandira, Kelvin*, pastor, Georgia House, Box 8086, Belmont, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe

# Alphabetical List of Additional Voting Delegates and Reserves

Remove: *Allen, Robert L.* (Oklahoma)
Anderson, Gail O. (Wyoming)
Lee, Kum (New England)
Olive, George E. (Northern New Jersey)
Underwood, Cecil H. (West Virginia)
Add: *Adduru, Pablo* (North Central Philippines)
*Amarillo, Samuel* (Northwest Philippines)
*Antonio, Luz G.* (Northeast Philippines)
Asanias, Herman (Northern Philippines)
Asanias, Lily (Northern Philippines)
Balingoay, Felomina (Northwest Philippines)
Balisi, Elisio (North Central Philippines)
*Balunsat, Norina* (Northern Philippines)
*Banda, Josephat C.* (Zimbabwe)
*Bang-asan, Clemente* (Northwest Philippines)
Bang-asan, Violy (Northwest Philippines)
*Baquiran, Bonifer* (Northern Philippines)
Belen, Holly (Northwest Philippines)
*Belen, Luz* (Northwest Philippines)
Beltran, Olive (North Central Philippines)
*Benitez, Juan Ri.* (Northeast Philippines)
Binasoy, Celia R. (Northern Philippines)
*Bisis, Zenaida C.* (Northeast Philippines)
*Biteng, Henry* (Northwest Philippines)
Bravo, Gilberto (Mexico)
*Caalim, Teofilo* (Northwest Philippines)
*Cabotaje, Paul G.* Northeast Philippines)
Cabotaje, Virginia (Northeast Philippines)
Calayan, Domingo (Northern Philippines)
*Callantes, Honorato* (North Central Philippines)
Caluya, Hector (Northeast Philippines)
*Castillo, Melanio* (North Central Philippines)
*Cayaba, Pablo* (North Central Philippines)
Cayaba, Victorio (North Central Philippines)
Cayaba, Warlito (North Central Philippines)
Caypuno, David T. (Northern Philippines)
Caypuno, Lydia J. (Northern Philippines)
Chikuni, Eliatha (Zimbabwe)
Cooke, Victor (Caribbean and the Americas)
Cox, Sr., Lamark J. (Liberia)
Crismo, Phoebe (Northern Philippines)
*Cueto, Hermenigildo* (Northern Philippines)
*Curameng, Isagani* (Northwest Philippines)
*Dado, Luz B.* (Northeast Philippines)
Dambura, Anthony (Nigeria)
*Dampulay, Conrado* (Northwest Philippines)
Dassama, Sr., Moussa A. (Liberia)
Dayap, Efren (Northwest Philippines)
*Dela Cruz, Elizabeth* (North Central Philippines)
Dela Cruz, Lourdita B. (Northern Philippines)
Della, Mario (Northwest Philippines)
*Domingo, Lolita* (North Central Philippines)
Elmiger, Linda S. (Northern New Jersey)
*Erana, Samuel F.* (Northeast Philippines)
*Espanto, Pedro* (Northwest Philippines)
Factora, Corazon T. (Northern Philippines)
*Factora, Jacinto* (Northern Philippines)
Falvey, Frank (New England)
*Ferrer, Oscar C.* (Northern Philippines)
*Ferrer, Fidel* (Northern Philippines)
Ferrer, Violeta (Northern Philippines)
Flanagan, Janet L. (West Virginia)
Framo, Chita (Northwest Philippines)
Gabuyo, Esther (Northeast Philippines)
*Gabuyo, Severino* (Northeast Philippines)
Galam, Lourdes (Northeast Philippines)
Galazo, Clarita (Northwest Philippines)
Galindez, Minerva (Northeast Philippines)
*Gallo, Luis A.* (Northeast Philippines)
Gaspar, Samuel (Northern Philippines)
Gonzaga, Thelma R. (Northern Philippines)
*Goodridge, Emmett W.* (Liberia)
*Granado, Simplicio T.* (Northern Philippines)
Guzman, Felix (Northern Philippines)
*Guzman, Merlita* (Northwest Philippines)
Haduca, Herminigildo (North Central Philippines)
Ibay, Arleen (Northeast Philippines)
*Ilay, Salvador* (North Central Philippines)
*Inere, Oscar C.* (North Central Philippines)
*Inis, Ralph* (North Central Philippines)
*Inis, Rodolfo* (North Central Philippines)
Istakanus, Rifkatu (Nigeria)
*Jacinto, Felipa* (North Central Philippines)
Jackson, Jr., W. Nippy T. (Liberia)
Jacquias, Leah (Northeast Philippines)
Jaramilla, Manuel A. (Northwest Philippines)
*Javier, Marjorie* (Northern Philippines)
Jerusalem, Beverly (Northeast Philippines)
Jose, Antonio (Northeast Philippines)
*Junius, Nathan D.* (Liberia)
*Justo, Benjamin* (Northeast Philippines)
Kangara, Pedzisai (Zimbabwe)
*Karmbor, Sr., James W.* (Liberia)
*Kpaan, Anna S.* (Liberia)
*Kpaan, Momoh S.* (Liberia)
Laconsay, Leah (Northwest Philippines)
*Ladia, Nelson* (Northern Philippines)
*Larida, Franklin M.* (Northeast Philippines)
Leano, Byron (Northeast Philippines)
Logan, Comfort N. (Liberia)
*Lorenzana, Balligi J.* (Northeast Philippines)
Lumanang, Honorata (Northwest Philippines)
*Lumanang, Romeo* (Northwest Philippines)
*Luna, Elmer V.* (Northeast Philippines)
*Machinga, Gift K.* (Zimbabwe)
Machuma, Shepherd K. (Zimbabwe)
Madelar, Nieves (Northeast Philippines)
*Mafondokoto, Jairus* (Zimbabwe)
*Maggay, Erwyn* (North Central Philippines)
*Maggay, Nena* (North Central Philippines)

Malana, Glomar (Northern Philippines)
*Mangornong, Rebecca* (Northwest Philippines)
*Marange, Kennedy* (Zimbabwe)
Marima, William F. (Zimbabwe)
*Martinez, Samuel* (Northern Philippines)
*Masamba, Mary* (Zimbabwe)
*McPherson, Douglas D.* (Oklahoma)
*Miguel, Modesta* (Northern Philippines)
Miguel, Samuel (Northeast Philippines)
Minturn, Donald C. (Wyoming)
*Munjoma, John F.* (Zimbabwe)
Mutasa, Beatrice (Zimbabwe)
Mutize, Peter (Zimbabwe)
*Mwandira, Kelvin* (Zimbabwe)
Nahimana, Mary (Burundi)
*Nelson, Jr., Julius S.* (Liberia)
*Ntaboneka, Simeon* (Burundi)
*Ntoriko, Hananiah* (Nigeria)
Octaviano, Lito (North Central Philippines)
*Olonan, Virgilio C.* (Northeast Philippines)
Ortiz, Carlos (Northwest Philippines)
*Pacudan, Antonio* (North Central Philippines)
Pardon, Samuel (North Central Philippines)
*Pascasio, Arnold* (North Central Philippines)
Pascasio, Hedelyn (North Central Philippines)
*Pascasio, Jovita* (North Central Philippines)
*Pascasio, Marceliano* (North Central Philippines)
*Pico, Rodel* (Northern Philippines)
Quidangen, Ciony (Northwest Philippines)
Quidasol, Bienvenido M. (North Central Philippines)
Quilang, Benjamin L. (Northern Philippines)
Quilang, Remedios Y. (Northern Philippines)
Quinit, Trinidad (Northwest Philippines)
Racquel, Boyser (Northern Philippines)
Ramos, Jose (North Central Philippines)
Ramos, Rolando (North Central Philippines)
Rapanut, Carlo A. (Northwest Philippines)
*Rasing, Medardo* (North Central Philippines)
*Refuerzo, Homer* (Northwest Philippines)
*Rinonos, Edwin* (North Central Philippines)
Roldan, Leonardo (Northwest Philippines)
*Romero, Leopoldo* (Northwest Philippines)
Roque, Luzviminda P. (Northeast Philippines)
Ross-Bedell, Agatha (Liberia)
*Rumias, Roy* (Northern Philippines)
Sadang, Nelson (North Central Philippines)
*Sagadraca, Wilson E.* (Northeast Philippines)
Salacu, Rolando (North Central Philippines)
Salvatierra, Lorna A. (Northern Philippines)
*Santiago, Rebecca* (Northern Philippines)
Saturno, Adriana (Northeast Philippines)
*Sebastian, Romulo R.* (Northeast Philippines)
*Serquina, Sr., Pedro* (Northwest Philippines)
Siazon, Aida (Northern Philippines)
Solunteh, James K. (Liberia)
*Soriano, Ernesto C.* (Northeast Philippines)
*Taberlo, Esperlita* (Northern Philippines)
Tallayo, Jolly (Northwest Philippines)
*Tandayu, Primitivo G.* (North Central Philippines)
Tandayu, Silvestre (North Central Philippines)
*Taoaguen, Bonifacio* (Northwest Philippines)
Taoaguen, Rosemarie (Northwest Philippines)
*Tolentino, Elwyn* (Northern Philippines)
*Torida, Crisotomo* (Northern Philippines)
*Torio, Sr., Pedro* (Northwest Philippines)
*Travino, Luis Ernesto* (Mexico)
Tubayan, Jose (Northeast Philippines)
Tumangan, Maximo (North Central Philippines)
Turgano, Benjamin (Northwest Philippines)
*Udasco, Chita* (Northern Philippines)
*Valdez, Rodolfo* (Northwest Philippines)
*Valelo, Federico* (Northwest Philippines)
Valera, Alejandrino (Northwest Philippines)
Valera, Caridad (Northwest Philippines)
*Valera, David* (Northwest Philippines)
Velasco, Virgilio (North Central Philippines)
*Villaluz, Artemio M.* (Northeast Philippines)
Villaluz, Fe Paulina R. (Northeast Philippines)
Villanueva, Castulo (Northeast Philippines)
*Viloria, Manuel* (Northwest Philippines)
*Watty, William W.* (Caribbean and the Americas)
*Zoreno, Adiel* (Nigeria)
Zvinoira, John (Zimbabwe)

# Additions and Changes to Listing of Voting and Reserve Delegates

(Pages 32-71 Advance *DCA* I)

## Central Texas

Correct Name: *Huber-Rohlfs, Ruth*

## Central Luzon

Chair of Delegation: *Jesus "Josue" M. Lacaulan*

## Eastern Pennsylvania

Correct Name: Thompson, Lenora

## Hungary Provisional

Chair of Delegation: *Csernak, Istvan*

## Minnesota

Correct Name: *Toschak, Patricia Martin*

## Mississippi

Correct Name: *May, Joe W.*

## New England

Remove: Lee, Kum (deceased)
Add to end of reserve list: Falvey, Frank, conference controller, 920 Pond Street, Franklin, MA 02038

### Northern New Jersey

Remove: Olive, George E. (resigned)
Add to end of reserve list: Elmiger, Linda S., editor, 110 Parkview Drive, Teaneck, NJ 07666

### Oklahoma

Remove: *Allen, Robert L.* (resigned)
Add to end of reserve list: *McPherson, Douglas D.*, district superintendent, 2200 North Classen, #1320, Oklahoma City, OK 73106

### Southern Illinois

Correct Name: May, Orville

### Southwest Texas

Correct Name: *Lowry, Mike*
West Virginia
Remove: Underwood, Cecil H. (resigned)
Add to end of reserve list: Flanagan, Janet L., education assistant, 600 Morton Avenue, Moundsville, WV 26041

### Wyoming

Remove: Anderson, Gail O. (resigned)
Add to end of reserve list: Minturn, Donald C., retired conference treasurer, 12 Bromley Avenue, Binghamton, NY 13901-2027

## Changes in Standing Legislative Committees

### Church and Society

Add: *Junius, Nathan D.* (Liberia)

### Conferences

Add: Hamill, Raymond L. (Wyoming)
Logan, Comfort N. (Liberia)
Sessions, Jeff B. (Alabama-West Florida)
Teano, Veronica (Philippines)

### Discipleship

Add: Cox, Sr., Lamark J. (Liberia)
*Ntoriko, Hananiah* (Nigeria)
*Villaluz, Artemio M.* (Northeast Philippines)

### Financial Administration

Remove: Eberhart, Diane W. (Iowa)
Add: Caypuno, Sr., David A. (Northern Philippines)
Dayap, Efren (Northwest Philippines)
Jackson, Jr., W. Nippy T. (Liberia)
Meyer, Margaret E. (Iowa)
Nahimana, Mary (Burundi)

### General Administration/ Judicial Administration

Add: Dambura, Anthony (Nigeria)
Dassama, Sr., Moussa A. (Liberia)
*Inere, Oscar C.* (North Central Philippines)

### Global Ministries

Add: *Casuco, Marcelino* (Philippines)
*Nelson, Jr., Julius S.* (Liberia)
*Watty, William W.* (Caribbean and the Americas)

### Higher Education and Chaplaincy

Remove: Anderson, Gail O. (Wyoming)
Sessions, Jeff B. (Alabama-West Florida)
Add: Beltran, Olive G. (North Central Philippines)
*Kpaan, Momoh S.* (Liberia)

### Independent Commissions

Remove: Olive, George B. (Northern New Jersey)
Add: Granado, Simplicio T. (Northern Philippines)
Istakanus, Rifkatu (Nigeria)
Spelman, Jeffrey R.

### Local Church

Remove: Lee, Kum (New England)
Add: Wiborg, Margaret (New England)

### Ordained and Diaconal Ministry

Remove: Meyer, Margaret E. (Iowa)
Add: Eberhart, Diane (Iowa)
*Kpaan, Anna S.* (Liberia)
*Ntabonega, Simeon* (Burundi)
*Lumanang, Romeo* (Northwest Philippines)
Roque, Luzviminda P. (Northeast Philippines)
*Zoreno, Adiel* (Nigeria)

# Nonimations to the Interjurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy

### North Central Jurisdiction

**West Ohio**

Add: *Philip D. Brooks*

Caryl Kril

### Northeastern Jurisdiction

**Northern New Jersey**

Add: *Ernest S. Lyght*

Robert B. Brandt

### Western Jurisdiction

**California-Pacific**

Add: *Patricia Farris*

Becky Haase

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# Proposal for Three Korean-American Missionary Conferences

The following petition was inadvertantly omitted from the Advance Editions.

Petition Number: 21731-CO-NonDis-O$; National Association of Korean-American United Methodist Churches

**Executive Summary of Proposed Korean American Missionary Conference**

**Proposed Action**

- Request the 1996 General Conference to create three Korean-American Missionary Conferences in the Northeastern, North Central, and Western Jurisdictions.

**Purpose**

- To provide opportunities for distinctive language and cultural ministries with Korean Americans by developing new congregations.
- To provide channels for full participation in the life of The United Methodist Church
- To develop meaningful connectional ties
- To develop strong lay and clergy leadership of both genders and all generations

**Rationale**

- One million Korean Americans in the United States today whose primary language and culture is still Korean
- While 75% have some ties with the church, many do not "belong" to a church, and many churches have no ties to a denomination
- As of 1994, there are 295 Korean American UMC churches and congregations
- Korean American churches have unique characteristics that set them apart from other UMC churches
- Cultural misunderstandings and shifting circumstances have caused difficulties between UMC structures and Korean American churches
- Another structure for ministry needs to be explored

**General Provisions**

- Missionary conferences to be temporary structures; target termination date—2016
- Financially self-supporting
- Be consistent with the polity and provisions of *The Book of Discipline*

- Existing Korean churches may remain in annual conferences or join the new missionary conferences
- Inclusion of laity, second and transgenerational persons, and women—particularly women clergy—in all aspects of the missionary conference.

**Organization and Administrative Structure**

- Earliest anticipated date of the conferences—July 1997
- Will have a cabinet, conference council on finance and administration, council on ministries, and board of ordained ministry
- Additional administrative and program agencies and committees to be organized

**Cooperation**

- An umbrella structure such as National Commission on United Methodist Korean Mission to coordinate and support missionary conferences and existing missions
- To coordinate the work of missionary conferences and the UMC at large

**Proposed Korean American Missionary Conference**

**1. Proposed Action**

We request the 1996 General Conference to create Missionary Conferences in three jurisdictions as follows:

Northeastern Jurisdiction Korean American Missionary Conference

North Central Jurisdiction Korean American Missionary Conference

Western Jurisdiction Korean American Missionary Conference

**2. Rationale**

*Korean Immigration and the Impact of Cultural Diversity on the UMC*

There are nearly one million Korean Americans in the United States today,* the great majority of them having arrived in this country during the past twenty-five year period. In addition to the population increase, the presence of a new and distinct community has become evident in the rapid spread and visibility of "Koreatowns," small businesses as well as corporations, and Korean language media (TV, radio, newspaper). While this new community promotes acculturation into the mainstream American culture primarily through education and social mobility, its primary language and culture is Korean. Given that the average length of residence in the United States for Koreans is eight years,** the Korean community is basically an immigrant community, and the community process is largely conducted in the Korean language. Many in the community retain strong ties with Korea and Korean American social groups.

As Korean immigrants settled into their new homes in America, the Korean American Christian church became the center of their social and cultural life. About 65% of the Koreans attend Protestant churches and additional 10% attend Catholic churches regularly.*** Though over 75% of the Korean American population have relationships with the church, there are many individuals who do not "belong" to a church. In addition, there are Korean American churches that do not have membership with a denomination. As a missionary people, God is sending us forth to incarnate the Risen Christ in this community. Persons and churches among these people are bearing their distinct witness to Christ and offering their unique services to their people and the wider world. As of 1994, there were 295 Korean American United Methodist churches and congregations.**** Although these churches belong to The United Methodist Church, they have distinctive features which set them apart from other UMC's. They worship, fellowship, exercise their faith, and administer the church in their native language in their own unique cultural style, which has allowed the church to enter their community for most effective witness and service.

In response to the shifting demographics of Koreans in America, annual conferences, general boards and agencies, and bishops selflessly extended their efforts to reach Korean immigrants. Praise God! Regretfully, as a result of cultural misunderstandings and shifting circumstances, painfully demoralizing conflicts developed between the respective parties. Those offering their services in existing UMC structures realized that the complexities of the emerging and growing Korean American communities, and the scope of the services required of them far exceeded their capabilities. At the same time, Korean American communities, sincerely wishing to be cooperative and helpful, discovered that the demands of belonging to The United Methodist Church often exceeded their best intentions. It became apparent that another structure for ministry needed to be explored for Korean American churches and the UMC to continue in partnership.

*Creation of the Jurisdictional Korean Missions*

The 1988 General Conference authorized the creation of jurisdictional missions to supplement annual conference efforts in establishing new Korean American churches (¶¶ 663, 664). Five jurisdictional missions have since been launched, with the participation and support from Korean Americans and persons of other ethnic heritage in annual conferences, the jurisdictional

colleges of bishops, and the General Board of Global Ministries.

Through these missions, United Methodism has established one hundred new congregations between 1988 and 1995. Twenty-nine of these have since become chartered churches in their annual conferences.

*Additional Needs Surface*

The UMC has learned throughout her history that new churches, regardless of their ethnicity, are not prepared at birth to participate fully in annual conferences nor in the general Church's mission. New churches require continual nurturing on all levels of program and the church. Preparing Korean American Methodists churches for their distinct participation in God's mission through The United Methodist Church requires training in the denomination's polity, programs, appointment system, and outreach—including interpretation, apportionment, Advance Specials, and Volunteers in Mission. Specialized training for this community requires unique skills to address their particular language and cultural needs.

While the general boards and agencies, as well as the annual conferences, have provided significant nurture and training, they recognize that their efforts have only signaled a start and are not sufficient.

The Jurisdictional Korean Missions also recognize their limitations. They were created to start new churches. According to *The Book of Discipline* and their by-laws, the missions are not organized to address the mounting need for the specialized and sustained training required by local Korean American UMC's. Nor are the missions authorized to handle rapidly shifting appointment needs as was true in the denomination's early development.

Missionary Conferences Continue to Build on the Momentum

*The Book of Discipline* (¶ 659) provides for the creation of missionary conferences. This structure would sharpen the denomination's focus on developing her missional opportunities found in the Korean American community and churches. This structure would also build on the work of general boards and agencies, as well as annual conferences, the jurisdictional missions, and local congregations.

Missionary conferences would specialize in not only developing new congregations among this highly diversified immigrant group, it would also nurture them to fully participate in the mission of the wider church. Furthermore, the missionary conferences shall be futuristic and prophetic in focusing on ministries for the future generations (transgeneration, second and proceeding) of Korean Americans. Overall, the missionary conferences shall prepare local Korean American churches for distinct contributions to United Methodist outreach throughout America and the world.

Missionary conferences provide a setting to contextualize faith in Christ under the community's indigenous and diversified leadership so that their faith will address the unique dimensions of the issues common to all of us. These include issues related to spiritual needs, social problems, bridging gender and generational differences, reaching across class and racial lines, and spreading clergy and lay leadership in God's mission.

While those with Korean language skills will be very prominent in leadership, all persons, churches, conferences, boards and agencies, regardless of their ethnicity or language skills, can find ways to participate in this missional thrust of The United Methodist Church. Details of these possibilities can be explored in the proposed membership, structure, leadership, programs, funding, and tenure of the missionary conferences outlined below.

*Our Faith and Calling*

In the Acts of the Apostles we read about the Holy Spirit spreading the presence of the Risen Christ through persons crossing geographic and cultural barriers (Acts 1:8). United Methodism came into existence and continues at its best moments to offer Christ to new constituencies by entering existing communities and crossing the frontiers of emerging communities. The circuit rider who forged into new and unknown territories for the sake of ministry and God remains an appropriate symbol of that heritage.

We are, therefore, a people sent by the Holy Spirit into God's world (John 20:21) to make disciples (Matthew 28:19-20). They are formed into classes and congregations to become a part of the body of Christ as they continue the ministries begun in Christ (Romans 12:4-8; Ephesians 4:11-16). The time has come for United Methodism to build the momentum for mission with Korean American missionary conferences. They will help us all enter into a rapidly growing community which is lively, highly diversified, and ripe for witness to Christ and service in his name. Dear God, help us! Amen.

**3. Purpose**

The purpose of these missionary conferences is to make disciples for Jesus Christ by equipping the Korean American United Methodist churches for ministry, providing a connection for ministry beyond the local church, and empowering the Korean American community for mission—all to the glory of God.

These missionary conferences will provide opportunities for distinctive language and cultural ministries with Korean Americans by developing new congregations, providing channels for full participation in the life of The United Methodist Church, developing meaningful connectional ties, and focusing on the development of strong lay and clergy leadership of both genders and all generations.

These missionary conferences can be an example of a new model designed to meet the needs of our changing society and the global village. This model may serve as a good example to what other immigrant communities in The United Methodist Church can do to further their ministries. The missionary conferences may also provide new models for the annual conferences of the UMC to better respond to the needs and hopes of our society, which is increasingly becoming pluralistic and multicultural.

**4. General Provisions**

**A.** Korean American missionary conferences will be created in three jurisdictions where there is a significant number of Korean American persons.

For the time being, the two remaining Korean missions of the South Central and Southeastern jurisdictions will continue to function as missions until such time as when they may choose to seek another option. Funds used to support the three other missions shall be diverted to support the ministry and growth of these two missions.

**B.** It is anticipated this shall be a temporary structure. The General Board of Global Ministries shall evaluate its effectiveness in mission and report to General Conference each quadrennium. The target termination date is the year 2016.

**C.** All structures of the missionary conferences shall have as one of their main responsibilities, the orientation and training of the Korean American constituency on United Methodist connectional system for the purpose of strengthening the participation of these churches in The United Methodist Church.

**D.** These missionary conferences will enhance the interpretation of the connectional mission of The United Methodist Church by providing their fair share of human and financial resources.

**E.** These missionary conferences will be self-supporting and will model an innovative and alternative organizational and operational style.

**F.** A bishop will be assigned by the respective jurisdictional college of bishops to provide episcopal supervision as prescribed by *The Book of Discipline* (¶ 660.1).

**G.** The organization, memberships and relationship of the missionary conferences shall be consistent with the polity and provisions of The Book of Discipline as stated in ¶¶ 659, 660, 661, 662; ¶ 12; and ¶¶ 21, 22, 23.

**H.** Missionary conferences do not necessarily include all Korean speaking congregations within the annual conference boundaries. Existing Korean speaking congregations shall be given the opportunity to decide whether they will remain a part of the present annual conference or the Korean American missionary conference.

**I.** The missionary conference shall comply with the disciplinary provisions of inclusiveness as provided in ¶¶ 113, 439.2*c*, 530 and other similar references. Therefore, special care and emphasis will be given to include laity, second and transgenerational persons, and women in all aspects of the life and leadership of the missionary conferences.

In cooperation with the General Board of Global Ministries, each missionary conference shall develop specific goals and action plans for inclusiveness.

**J.** The missionary conferences shall organize committees for English Language Ministry and Intercultural Families. These committees shall be represented on the conference Council on Ministries and other conference committees as appropriate.

**K.** A Clergywomen's Committee shall be instituted on the Board of Ordained Ministry.

**L.** The missionary conferences shall seek increasing opportunities for interaction with the annual conferences in their jurisdictions.

**5. Organization**

**A.** Organization of the missionary conference will follow the process of organizing an annual conference (¶ 707).

**B.** Membership of the missionary conference will come from the following three categories of churches:

1) Mission congregations in the current Korean missions

2) a. Korean American churches which transfer from annual conferences following the provisions of ¶ 44.

b. Korean American clergy members who transfer following the provisions of ¶ 427.

3) Churches received from Korean Methodist Church and other Korean American churches in accordance with the provisions of ¶¶ 44 and 272.

**C.** To provide inclusive clergy participation, affiliate memberships, with the rights and privileges described in ¶ 443.4, may be granted by the missionary conference to Korean American pastors appointed in geographical annual conferences.

**D.** Election of lay membership as defined in ¶ 35.

**E.** The earliest anticipated date the missionary conference could be operative is soon after July, 1997. In order for the body to be formed, the steps mentioned above will need to be taken.

**6. Administrative Structure**

6.1 Cabinet

The cabinet shall be appointed according to the provisions of ¶ 660.1.

Consideration shall be given to the district superintendent serving in a part-time capacity and without salary.

In the selection of district superintendents, bishops shall give due consideration to the inclusiveness of The United Methodist Church with respect to sex and age (¶ 517).

6.2 The Basic Structures

The three basic structures shall be the conference Council on Finance and Administration, conference Council on Ministries, and Board of Ordained Ministry.

6.3 Additional Structures

Additional administrative and program agencies and committees may be organized as the missionary conference deems necessary, such as Board of Trustees, Board of Pensions, Board of Diaconal Ministry, Board of Laity, Council of Youth Ministry, and United Methodist Men. United Methodist Women units in local congregations shall be organized, as well as a conference United Methodist Women unit related to the Women's Division of the General Board of Global Ministries in each Missionary Conference.

**7. Cooperation**

The General Board of Global Ministries is encouraged to organize such an umbrella structure as a National Commission on United Methodist Korean Mission to connect, coordinate, and support the ministry of the three missionary conferences and the two existing jurisdictional missions which shall participate as equal partners in this process.

The commission shall also take the role of coordinating and connecting in the area of relation, mission, and ministry and program between the Korean missionary conference structures and The United Methodist Church at large. The commission shall be inclusive of laity, second and transgenerational persons, women, intercultural persons, and Korean Americans who are not members of the missionary conferences in membership.

**8. Plan of Action**

June 1996

- Organization of three missionary annual conferences.
- Adoption of a four-year plan for each conference.
- Development of new models and structures

June 2000

- Evaluation of first four-year plan.
- Evaluation and revision of initial models and structures.
- Adoption of second four-year plan.
- Sharing of learnings with other immigrant constituencies, annual conferences, and the General Conference.

June 2004

- Evaluation of second four-year plan.
- Selection of successful models and training of churches.
- Adoption of third four-year plan.
- Sharing of learnings with other immigrant constituencies, annual conferences, and the General Conference.

June 2008

- Evaluation of third four-year plan.
- Training of Korean American churches according to successful models.
- Design UMC structural change suggestions for annual conferences and UMC boards and agencies to reintegrate Korean American missionary conference churches in cooperation with Korean language churches who are not members of the missionary conferences.
- Adopt fourth four-year plan.
- Sharing of learnings with other immigrant constituencies and annual conferences.

June 2012

- Evaluation of fourth four-year plan.
- Present suggestions for UMC structural changes to reintegrate Korean American missionary conference churches to annual conferences and UMC boards and agencies.
- Adoption of fifth four-year plan.
- Sharing of learnings with other immigrant constituencies and annual conferences.

June 2016

- Full integration of Korean American missionary conference churches into annual conferences.

### 9. Finance

There are approximately 233 Korean UM churches and fellowships in the three proposed conferences. Of this number, approximately 163 are expected to join the proposed conferences initially.

### Expenditure

| | |
|---|---|
| Bishop's salary | -0- |
| District superintendent's salary (6-7 DS needed) | -0- |
| District superintendent's travel and other related expenses | $ 105,000 |
| Council director, including housing | 60,000 |
| Pension, worker | 15,000 |
| Travel expenses | 5,000 |
| Office expenses | 10,000 |
| Full-time office administrator | 30,000 |
| Shared rental | 6,000 |
| Other | 3,000 |
| **Subtotal** | **$ 234,000** |
| Church Development Fund ($35,000 per church; salary, housing, etc.; 5 churches) | 175,000 |
| Program (UMW/UMM/UMYF) | 10,000 |
| Lay leader's training | 5,000 |
| Annual conference expenses | 3,000 |
| Equitable salary fund | 50,000 |
| Miscellaneous fund | 10,000 |
| **Subtotal** | **$ 253,000** |
| **Total direct expenditure** | **$487,000** |
| Support for the general Church (14%) | 68,180 |
| **Grand total** | **$ 555,180** |

Apportionments for World Services, General Administration, Inter-Denominational, Jurisdictional, Ministerial Education and Recruitment Fund, Black colleges, Africa University, and Mission Initiatives.

| | |
|---|---|
| **Total (13.5%)** | **65,745** |

### 11. Insurance and Pension

The clergy support will be provided according to the provisions of ¶¶ 717-725 and ¶ 660.4*d*.

*The 1990 U.S. Census counted 798,843 Koreans in the United States as of April 1, 1990. The number of Korean immigrants between 1990 and 1995 is estimated at about 150,000. If we add to these the natural increases (births minus deaths) during the five year period, the present number can be safely put at between 950,000 and 1 million.

**Eui-Young Yu, "A Need for a Korean Language Conference," unpublished document prepared for the California-Nevada Annual Conference, Nov. 4, 1993.

***Eui-Young Yu, *Korean Community Profile*, p. 26.

****Office of Asian American Ministries, National Division, 1994.

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# Petitions to the 1996 General Conference

The following is a list of 3,070 petitions that the secretary of the General Conference has forwarded to the Committee on Reference for its review and referral to appropriate legislative committees. Abbreviations and the petition code may be found on pages 1207-1209 of Advance Edition II.

This list is sorted in alphabetical order by source. Petitions from individuals are sorted by last name; petitions from local church groups are sorted by the name of the group; and petitions from annual conferences are sorted by the annual conference abbreviations. Petitions from multiple sources are sorted by the first source listed on the petition.

**1 Adm. Board, 1 Bible Study & 53 Individuals, Rockland UMC, Belpre, OH** 22837-MN-402.2-D Ordination and Appointment of Homosexual Persons

**10 Adm. Council/Boards and 12 Individuals, Leighton and other UM Cbuches, Caledonia, MI** 22213-DI-NonDis-O Doctrinal Integrity

**10 Administrative Boards & 12 Individuals, Leighton and Other UM Churches, Caledonia, MI** 21544-MN-2623.1-D Regarding Chargeable Offenses

**10 Administrative Boards and 8 Individuals, Leighton and Other UM Churches, Caledonia, MI** 22243-FA-911.5-D Apportionment Policy

**10 Members, Louisa UMC, Louisa, KY** 21007-GJ-814.3-D Mandatory Retirement

**10 members, Louisa UMC, Louisa, KY** 21025-MN-1024.1-2 Mandatory Retirement

**11 Administrative Boards + 5 Individuals, St. Paul and Leighton UMC, Mountville and Caledonia, PA and MI** 22067-MN-431.10-D Qualifications of Ordination

**12 Members, Wallingford UMC, Seattle, WA** 22467-CS-NonDis-O Election Campaign Reform in the United States of America

**14 Administrative Boards + 7 Individuals, Leighton UMC, Caledonia, MI** 21533-MN-733.2-D Duties of the Board of Ordained Ministry

19 Administrative Boards/Groups & 31 Individuals, Leighton and Other UM Churches, Caledonia, MI, 22874-CS-71-D Human Sexuality

**19 Individuals, United Methodist Church, Texarkana and Hope, AR** 22209-DI-NonDis-O Reaffirm The Doctrinal Standards of the United Methodist Church

**27 Church Boards and Groups + 17 Individuals, Christian Endeavor & Other UM Churches, Newark, OH** 22240-FA-906.12-D Regarding Funding Homosexual Advocacy

**29 Church Members, Pacific Beach UMC, San Diego, CA** 22299-CS-71-D Marriage

**30 Church Members, Pacific Beach UMC, San Diego, CA** 22297-CS-71-D Families Take Many Forms

**30 Church Members, Pacific Beach UMC, San Diego, CA** 22310-CS-71-D Human and Civil Rights

**30 Members, Pacific Beach UMC, San Diego, CA** 22238-FA-906.12-D Financial Non Discrimination

**33 Members, Pacific Beach UMC, San Diego, CA** 22347-CS-NonDis-O$ Human Sexuality Curricula Task Force

**35 Members, Pacific Beach UMC, San Diego, CA** 22044-MN-402.2-D Standards for Ordained Ministry

**4 Church Groups and 7 Individuals, Church of the Redeemer and Other UM Churches, Cleveland Heights, OH** 21034-FA-906.12-D Human Sexuality

**6 Adm. Bds./Groups & 12 Individuals, Hope, AR & Rincon, GA** 22431-IC-NonDis-O Churches in Covenant Communion Proposal

**6 Conference Boards of Diaconal Ministry + 3 Ind.** 22040-MN-313.2-D Relationship of a Retired Diaconal Minister to Charge Conference

**7 Adm. Boards/Councils + 3 individuals, Leighton and other UM Churches, Caledonia, MI** 22173-CO-611.2-D Regarding the Book of Resolutions

**7 Administrative Board/Councils, Leighton and other UM Churches, Caledonia, MI** 22273-HE-1519-D Regarding Institutional Affiliation

**7 Conference Boards of Diaconal Ministry+3 Indiv.** 22440-LC-247.2-D The Relationship of a Retired Diaconal Minister to a Charge Conference

**8 Administrative Boards & 3 individuals, Leighton and other UM Churches, Caledonia, MI** 22271-HE-1517.2-D Membership in the University Senate

**8 Administrative Boards + 10 Individuals, Leighton and Other UM Churches, Caledonia, MI** 22237-FA-906.1-D Regarding General Church Funding

**8 Administrative Boards + 2 Individuals, Leighton and other UM Churches, Caledonia, MI** 22272-HE-1518-D Regarding University Senate Purposes

**8 Administrative Boards + 3 Individuals, Leighton and Other UM Churches, Caledonia, MI** 22244-FA-921-D The Ministerial Education Fund

**85 Members, Chapel Hill UMC, Sodus, MI** 22687-MN-402.2-D Relation of Ordained Ministers to the Ministry of All Christians

**9 Administrative Boards + 10 Individuals, Leighton and Other UM Churches, Caledonia, MI** 22231-FA-712.1-D Regarding Apportionments

**Abiade, Zawdie Dr., WMI** 20123-CS-NonDis-O Study on homosexuality

**Abiade, Zawdie K. Dr., WMI** 20034-MN-NonDis-O Pastoral duties in cross cultural appointments

**Abiade, Zawdie K. Dr., WMI** 22809-IC-NonDis-O Conference Commission on Religion and Race

**Abiade, Zawdie K. Dr., WMI** 22861-MN-NonDis-O Relationship of the Cabinet, Board of Ordained Ministry and G.C.O.R.R.

**Abiade, Zawdie K., Burton Heights UMC, Grand Rapids, MI** 21012-IC-740.3-D Conference Commission on Religion and Race

**Acosta, William H. + Casey, Robert T., VIR** 22680-LC-270.2-D The Election of Committee Members and Chairpersons

**Acosta, William H. + Casey, Robert T., VIR** 22681-LC-270.4-D The Election of Committee Members and Chairpersons

**Acosta, William H. + Casey, Robert T., VIR** 22696-MN-513-D Statute of Limitations

**Acosta. William H. + Casey, Robert T., VIR** 22677-LC-250.8-D The Election of Committee Members and Chairpersons

**Acosta, William H and Casey, Robert T., VIR,** 22893-GJ-NonDis-O Use Cost of Relocating the GBGM as a Missional Priority Fund

**Adm.C., & Rosborough, D. & Cummings, Ben Mr.& Mrs., Morris Chapel U.M.C, Niles & Hope, Ark.,** MI 20808-MN-402.2-D The Ordained Ministry

**Administrativ Council, St. Matthias UMC, Frederichburg, VA** 22140-LC-270.2-D Annual Evaluation of the Pastor

**Administrative Board & Council on Ministries, First UMC, St. Joseph, MI** 22832-MN-402.2-D Ordination and Apppointment of Homosexual Persons

**Administrative Board + 3 Individuals, Drummond Chapel UMC, Morgantown, WV** 22627-CO-NonDis-O Establishment of Parish Health Nurse Program

**Administrative Board and Members + Jenkins, Wm. E., First UMC, Wharton, TX** 22210-DI-NonDis-O Doctrinal Integrity

**Administrative Board and Members + Jenkins, Wm. E., First UMC, Wharton, TX** 22211-DI-NonDis-O Doctrinal Integrity in Denominational Leaders

**Administrative Board and Members, Church of The Cross, Wooster, OH** 22407-DI-NonDis-O A Confessional Statement of the Confessing Movement within the United Methodist Church

**Administrative Board and PPR Committee, Evangel and Tolstoy UMC, Bowdle, SD** 22691-MN-418-D Discontinuance from Probationary Membership

**Administrative Board, Adel UMC, Adel, GA** 22638-FA-NonDis-O Apportionments

**Administrative Board, Armona + Laton UM Churches, Laton, CA** 22308-CS-71-D Human Sexuality

**Administrative Board, Asbury UMC, Odessa, TX** 22091-MN-530.3-D Voluntary Consent of Conference Members to Transfer

**Administrative Board, Bardett Chapel UMC, Danville, IN** 20864-CS-71-D Human Sexuality

**Administrative Board, Bethany UMC, San Francisco, CA** 22298-CS-71-D Marriage

**Administrative Board, Bethany UMC, San Francisco, CA** 22309-CS-71-D Human Sexuality

**Administrative Board, Bethany UMC, San Francisco, CA** 22328-CS-76-D Our Social Creed

**Administrative Board, Bowman UMC, Bowman, DK** 20984-CS-NonDis-O Human Sexuality

**Administrative Board, Bowman UMC, Bowman, ND** 20992-DI-NonDis-O The Doctrinal Standards of the United Methodist Church and Homosexuality

**Administrative Board, Bowman UMC, Bowman, ND** 20993-DI-NonDis-O Doctrinal Standards

**Administrative Board, Bowman UMC, Bowman, ND** 20994-DI-NonDis-O Concerning Eternal Truth

**Administrative Board, Bowman UMC, Bowman, ND** 20995-DI-NonDis-O The Bible as the Rule of Faith and Practice

**Administrative Board, Bowman UMC, Bowman, ND** 20996-DI-NonDis-O Doctrinal Standards

**Administrative Board, Bowman UMC, Bowman, TX** 20991-DI-NonDis-O Doctrinal Standards

**Administrative Board, First UMC, Gadsen, AL** 20094-LC-230.1-D Care of Members

**Administrative Board, First UMC, Kermit, TX** 21008-GJ-814.6-D General Council on Ministry

**Administrative Board, First UMC, Manchester, TN** 22215-DI-NonDis-O Regarding Worship

**Administrative Board, First UMC, Manchester, TN** 22346-CS-NonDis-O Reaffirm the Discipline's Position on Homosexuality

**Administrative Board, First UMC, Niceville, FL** 22517-GJ-NonDis-O Lay Persons employed by Boards, Agencies, and Committees of the United Methodist Church

**Administrative Board, First UMC, Niceville, FL** 22562-FA-NonDis-O Restructure of the Language and Spirit of the World Service and Conference Benevolence

**Administrative Board, First UMC, Niceville, FL** 22835-MN-402.2-D Ordination and Appointment of Homosexual Persons

**Administrative Board, First UMC, Port Lavaca, TX** 20899-LC-NonDis-O Voting Rights of Church Professionals

**Administrative Board & Goldman, June of IWA, First UMC, Niceville, FL,** 22909-GJ-NonDis-O Relocation of the General Board of General Board of Global Ministries

**Administrative Board, Grace UMC, Newport, KY** 22836-MN-402.2-D Ordination and Appointment of Homosexual Persons

**Administrative Board, Great Falls UMC, Great Falls, VA** 22849-MN-531-D Consultation and Appointment Making

**Administrative Board, Great Falls UMC, Great Falls, VA** 22872-MN-533-D Process of Appointment-Making

**Administrative Board, Isle of Faith UMC, Jacksonville, FL,** 23034-MN-534-D Frequency in Appointment Making

**Administrative Board, Isle of Faith UMC, Jacksonville, FL,** 23033-MN-533-D Process of Appointment Making

**Administrative Board, Keith Memorial UMC, Malvern, AR** 20997-DI-NonDis-O Sophia

**Administrative Board, Kenova UMC, Kenova, WVA** 22815-LC-261-D Coordinator of Prayer Ministries

**Administrative Board, Kenova UMC, Kenova, WVA** 22816-LC-262-D Coordinator of Prayer Ministries

**Administrative Board, Lakeland and Nashville UMC, Nashville, Ga, Lakeland, GA** 22631-DI-NonDis-O Resolution to Confess Jesus as Lord of All

**Administrative Board, Lakeland UMC, Lakeland, GA** 22632-DI-NonDis-O Resolution to Restore Religious Freedom

**Administrative Board, Leighton UMC + Kriesch, Richard L., Rev., Caledonia & Lexington, MI** 22315-CS-71-D Regarding Abortion

**Administrative Board, Mandarin UMC, Jacksonville, FL** 22751-DI-NonDis-O Regarding Future Editions of the Book of Hymns

**Administrative Board, Meadowview UMC, Meadowview, VA** 22745-DI-1225-D Curriculum Resources

**Administrative Board, Shoregate UMC, Willowick, OH** 22116-LC-248.13-D Basic Salary Option Plan

**Administrative Board, Shoregate UMC, Willowwick, OH** 22232-FA-712.5-D Regarding Apportionments

**Administrative Board, St. Paul UMC, Gulf Breeze, FL** 22586-CS-NonDis-O Homosexuality

**Administrative Board, St. Paul UMC, Gulf Breeze, FL** 22587-CS-NonDis-O Sanctity of Life and Opposition to Abortion

**Administrative Board, St. Paul's + 13 Other Church Bds. + 13 Individuals, Mountville, PA** 22043-MN-402.2-D Ordination and Appointment of Homosexual Persons

**Administrative Board, St. Paul's + Leighton UM Churches, Mountville, PA** 22307-CS-71-D Regarding Human Sexuality

**Administrative Board, St. Paul's + Leighton UM Churches, Mountville, PA. & Caledonia, MI** 22312-CS-71-D Regarding Rights of Homosexual Persons

**Administrative Board, St. Paul's UMC + Leighton UMC + CIL, Mountville, PA., Caledonia, MI** 22302-CS-71-D Regarding Human Sexuality

**Administrative Board, St. Paul's UMC on Behalf of Garrett Cty., MD, UMC, Oakland, MD** 22736-CO-NonDis-O Name Change for West Virginia Annual Conference

**Administrative Board, Trinity UMC, Annapolis, MD** 20883-FA-906-D Fiscal Responsibilities

**Administrative Board, Trinity UMC, Richmond, VA** 22635-FA-NonDis-O Regarding Funding of New Study Committees

**Administrative Board, Trinity UMC, Richmond, VA** 22636-FA-NonDis-O Requesting the Church to Adopt a Balanced Budget for 1997-2000 Quadrennium

**Administrative Board, Trinity UMC, Richmond, VA** 22689-MN-402.2-D Regarding the Redefinition of "Self-Avowed Practicing Homosexual"

**Administrative Board, Trinity UMC, Richmond, VA** 22702-MN-NonDis-O Regarding the Ordained Ministry Study

**Administrative Board, UMC, White, SD** 20093-LC-230.1-D Care of Members

**Administrative Board, UMC, White, SD** 20095-LC-230.2-D Care of members

**Administrative Board, UMC, White, SD** 20096-LC-230.3-D Care of Members

**Administrative Board, UMC, White, SD** 20097-LC-230.4-D Care of Members

**Administrative Board, Viola UMC, Viola, IL** 22868-DI-NonDis-O Concerning the Services of the Baptismal Covenant

**Administrative Board, Wauhatchie UMC, Chattanooga, TN** 22513-DI-NonDis-O Church's Stand on Baptism of Infants

**Administrative Board, Wauhatchie UMC, Chattanooga, TN,** 22908-MN-NonDis-O Practice of Homosexuality While a Minister or Employee of the United Methodist Church

**Administrative Board, Wauhatchie UMC, Chattanooga, TN,** 22888-CS-NonDis-O Church's Stand on Homosexuality

**Administrative Board, Westpark UMC, Yakima, WA** 22840-MN-424.7-D The Ordained Ministry

**Administrative Board, Westpark UMC, Yakima, WA** 22842-MN-432.6-D The Ordained Ministry

**Administrative Board/Council, St. Paul's + Leighton UMC, Mountville, PA & Caledonia, MI** 22303-CS-71-D Regarding Human Sexuality

**Administrative Board/Council, Trinity, First, and Lake Villa UM Churches, Sterling, Forreston & Lake Villa, IL** 22300-CS-71-D The Marriage Covenant

**Administrative Boards/Councils, Leighton UMC + 5 others, Caledonia, MI** 22345-CS-NonDis-O Regarding Parental Family Responsibility

**Administrative Council, Cokesbury UMC, Marcus Hook, PA,** 22910-GJ-NonDis-O Opposition to Moving the General Board of Global Ministries from New York to Reston, Va.

**Administrative Council and Task Force, Faith UMC, Buchanan, MI** 21027-MN-402.2-D Ordination of Homosexuals

**Administrative Council and Task Force, Faith United Methodist Church, Buchanan, MI** 20054-CS-71-D Homosexuality Incompatible With Christian Teaching

**Administrative Council, Centenary UMC, Shelbyville, KY** 21026-MN-402.2-D Human Sexuality

**Administrative Council, Christian Endeavor UMC, Newark, OH** 22458-CS-NonDis-O Homosexual Advocacy

**Administrative Council, First UMC, Kermit, TX** 20834-CO-660.1-D The Office of District Superintendent

**Administrative Council, First UMC, Kermit, TX** 20835-FA-712-D Apportionments of World Service and Conference Benevolence

**Administrative Council, First UMC, Kermit, TX** 20837-FA-908-D Apportionments of World Service and Conference Benevolence

**Administrative Council, First UMC, Kermit, TX** 20838-FA-912-D The World Service Fund

**Administrative Council, First UMC, Kermit, TX** 20839-FA-912.1-D The Apportionments of World Service And Conference Benevolence

**Administrative Council, First UMC, Kermit, TX** 20840-FA-912.2-D The Apportionments of World Service and Conference Benevolence

**Administrative Council, First UMC, Kermit, TX** 20841-GJ-803.5-D Program Related General Agencies

**Administrative Council, First UMC, Kermit, TX** 20842-LC-257.4-D Responsibilities of the Administrative Board/ Council

**Administrative Council, First UMC, Kermit, TX** 20844-MN-501-D The Office of District Superintendent

**Administrative Council, First UMC, Kermit, TX** 20845-MN-503-D Office of District Superintendent

**Administrative Council, First UMC, Kermit, TX** 20846-MN-504-D Office of Superintendent

**Administrative Council, First UMC, Kermit, TX** 20847-MN-518-D Limitations on Years of Service

**Administrative Council, First UMC, Kermit, TX** 20987-CO-611.2-D General Council on Ministry

**Administrative Council, First UMC, Kermit, TX** 20988-CO-706.2-D General Council on Ministries

**Administrative Council, First UMC, Kermit, TX** 20990-DI-632.8-D Youth Members to the General Council on Ministries

**Administrative Council, First UMC, Kermit, TX** 20998-FA-711.3-D Apportionments of World Service and Conference Benevolences

**Administrative Council, First UMC, Kermit, TX** 20999-FA-711.4-D Apportionments of World Service and Conference Benevolences

**Administrative Council, First UMC, Kermit, TX** 21000-FA-906.11-D General Council on Ministry

**Administrative Council, First UMC, Kermit, TX** 21001-FA-907.2-D General Council on Ministry

**Administrative Council, First UMC, Kermit, TX** 21002-FA-911.2-D General Council on Ministry

**Administrative Council, First UMC, Kermit, TX** 21004-GJ-802.3-D General Council on Ministry

**Administrative Council, First UMC, Kermit, TX** 21005-GJ-803.1-D General Council on Ministry

**Administrative Council, First UMC, Kermit, TX** 21006-GJ-813-D General Council on Ministries

**Administrative Council, First UMC, Kermit, TX** 21009-GJ-1001-D General Council on Ministries

**Administrative Council, First UMC, Kermit, TX** 21029-LC-248.14-D Powers and Duties of the Charge Conference

**Administrative Council, First UMC, Ormond Beach, FL** 22358-FA-Non-Dis-OS Financial Policies and Practices of the United Methodist Church

**Administrative Council, First UMC, Ormond Beach, FL** 22359-FA-Non-Dis-O Connectional Tithing

**Administrative Council, First UMC, Ormond Beach, FL** 22360-FA-Non-Dis-O Organizational Accountability for Funds Apportioned

**Administrative Council, First UMC, Ormond Beach, FL** 22362-GJ-Non-Dis-OS Programs of the United Methodist Church

**Administrative Council, First United Methodist Church, Johnston City, IL** 20083-IC-NonDis-O Consultation on Church Union (COCU) Proposal

**Administrative Council, Grace UMC, Newport, KY** 22493-CS-71-D Ceremonies that Celebrate Homosexual Unions

**Administrative Council, Grace UMC, Newport, KY** 22494-CS-71-D Human Sexuality

**Administrative Council, Grace UMC, Newport, KY** 22497-CS-71-D Sexual Relations

**Administrative Council, Grace UMC, Newport, KY** 22524-IC-2402.1-D The Consultation on Church Union

**Administrative Council, Grace UMC, Newport, KY** 22640-FA-NonDis-O Monetary Assistance to the Promotion or Acceptance of Homosexuality

**Administrative Council, Grant Park-Aldersgate UMC, Atlanta, GA** 22045-MN-402.2-D The Ordained Ministry

**Administrative Council, Grant Park-Aldersgate UMC, Atlanta, GA** 22047-MN-404.4-D The Ordained Ministry

**Administrative Council, Grant Park-Aldersgate UMC, Atlanta, GA** 22128-LC-262.11-D Chairperson of Worship

**Administrative Council, Grant Park-Aldersgate UMC, Atlanta, GA** 22301-CS-71-D Covenant Relationships

**Administrative Council, Grant Park-Aldersgate UMC, Atlanta, GA** 22304-CS-71-D The Nurturing Community

**Administrative Council, Grant Park-Aldersgate UMC, Atlanta, GA** 22305-CS-71-D The Nurturing Community

**Administrative Council, Jacumba UMC, Jacumba, CA** 22363-IC-1906-D Responsibility of the General Commission on Communication

**Administrative Council, Mt. Hermon UMC, Salem, MO** 22227-DI-282.2-D Sacraments to be Given by Appointed Lay Preachers

**Administrative Council, Oakwood UMC, Lubbock, TX** 22033-IC-NonDis-O Suggested Statement to precede each Press Release, Statement or Study Position Paper

**Administrative Council, Poca UMC, Poca, WV** 22208-DI-NonDis-O Reaffirm the Holy Scriptures as the Primary and Central Authority

**Administrative Council, Rincon UMC, Rincon, GA** 22860-MN-NonDis-O Adhere to the Book of Discipline

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**Beckford, Lewis H., NEN** 22684-LC-2533.2-D Purchase of Local Church Insurance

**Bell, Howard S., SIL** 20780-CO-35-C Composition of Annual Conference

**Bell, Howard S., SIL** 20783-CO-608.7-D Printing of petitions in the Advance Edition of the Daily Christian Advocate

**Bell, Howard S., SIL** 20798-GJ-62-C Amendment to the Constitution

**Bell, Howard S., SIL** 20873-CO-602-D Composition of General Conference

**Bell, Howard, SIL** 20101-LC-270.1-D Administrative Committees

**Berg, Avis + 4 Other Individuals, Flagstaff UMC, Flagstaff, AZ** 22707-GJ-4-C The Inclusiveness of the Church

**Berg, Avis and 4 others, Federated UMC, Flagstaff, AZ,** 22876-CS-71-D Human Sexuality

**Berg, Avis and 4 other individuals, Federated UMC, Flagstaff, AZ** 22869-GJ-NonDis-C The Inclusiveness of the Church

**Berman, Carol Bauer, St. John's of Baltimore UMC, Baltimore, MD** 20973-CS-NonDis-O "Open the Door" to all God's children

**Beulah UMC, Pueblo, CO,** 23030-MN-408.5-D Consistency in Responsibilities & Privileges of Ordained and Local Pastors

**Billings, James J., First UMC, Del Rio, TX** 22412-DI-NonDis-O A Proposal of Belief for the United Methodist Church

**Billings, James J., First UMC, Del Rio, TX** 22453-CS-NonDis-O Church and Homosexuals

**Bishop Ann B. Sherer and Area Cabinet, MOW, MOE** 20730-LC-2540.3-D Unincorporated Local Church Property-Sale, Transfer, Lease or Mortgage

**Bishop Ann B. Sherer and Area Cabinet, MOW, MOE** 20731-LC-2541.3-D Incorporated Local Church Property - Sale, Transfer, Lease or Mortgage

**Black Methodist for Church Renewal** 22193-CO-NonDis-O Black Leadership in Annual, Jurisdictional and General Conference Levels

**Black Methodist for Church Renewal** 22249-FA-NonDis-O Continue Funding for Africa University

**Black Methodist for Church Renewal** 22341-CS-NonDis-O In Favor of Human Intervention: No Military Involvement

**Black Methodist for Church Renewal** 22342-CS-NonDis-O Comprehensive Health Care

**Black Methodist for Church Renewal** 22354-CO-NonDis-O Ethnic Membership on Conference Boards and Agencies

**Black Methodist for Church Renewal** 22355-GJ-NonDis-O Black Church Growth

**Black Methodist for Church Renewal** 22491-GM-NonDis-O AIDS

**Black Methodist for Church Renewal** 22666-HE-NonDis-O Historically Black Colleges Related to the United Methodist Church and the Black College Fund.

**Blankenship, Paul F., MEM** 22748-DI-NonDis-O "Guidelines" the UMC and the Charismatic Movement be Printed in the Book of Resolutions

**Blankenship, Paul F., MEM,** 22865-DI-66-D A Resolution of Intent

**Blankenship, Paul F., MEM,** 23070-DI-66-D Resolution of Intent

**BMCR, Native American International Caucus** 22264-GJ-NonDis-O Strengthening the Black Church for the 21st. Century

**BMCR** 22030-IC-NonDis-O Sexism

**BMCR** 22031-IC-NonDis-O Racism

**BMCR** 22101-MN-NonDis-O African American Clergywomen

**BMCR** 22266-GJ-NonDis-O Ethnic Local Church Concerns

**BMW Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, Washington, DC** 20781-CO-36-C Lay Members voting on the Board of Ordained Ministry

**BMW, NNJ, NEB, SNJ, CAP, EOH, NYK, WOH, NIL, GBCS** 20078-GM-NonDis-OS Continue Emphasis on the Implementation of the National Plan for Hispanic-American Ministries

**BMW, VIR, NEB, WPA, NNY, NIN, UMCOM, SIN,PED, CIL** 20518-CO-700-D$ Annual Conference Commission on Communications

**BMW, VIR, NEB, WPA, NNY** 20492-CO-726.5-D Other Committees and Responsibilities

**BMW** 20185-CO-36-C Voting rights of lay members of Annual Conference

**BMW** 20187-CO-707.1-D Mandated structures provided by Annual Conference

**BMW** 20191-CO-707-D Conference Agencies

**BMW** 20192-FA-709.2-D Membership of Conference Finance and Administration

**BMW** 20193-FA-710.4-D Responsibility of Conference Finance and Administration

**BMW** 20194-CO-752-D The District Council

**BMW** 20226-MN-402.2-D Definition of a self-avowed practicing homosexual

**BMW** 20231-CO-NonDis-O Responsibility of Annual Conference staff persons

**BMW** 20240-IC-738-D Commission on Archives and History

**BMW** 21125-CO-NonDis-O$ Appoint a Task Force to rewrite sections of the Book of Discipline

**Board of Ordained Ministry, ORI** 22374-MN-453-D Location by Mutual Consent

**Board of Ordained Ministry, ORI** 22377-MN-454.1-D Joint Review Committee

**Board of Ordained Ministry, ORI** 22378-MN-454.1-D Joint Review Committee

**Board of Trustees, Branch Hill UMC, Loveland, OH** 21033-LC-2542-D Disposition of Church building or parsonage

**Booth, Karen S., PED** 22859-MN-NonDis-O A Resolution on the Women's Spirituality Movement and the United Methodist Church

**Brewer, Timothy, Dr., STX** 20818-MN-515.4-D District Superintendency

**Broussard, Margaret R., Florida Conference Council on Ministries, FL** 22732-CS-NonDis-O Environmental Protection

**Brown, George C., PNW** 22183-CO-726.10-D Responsibilities of the Annual Conference Council on Ministries

**Brownalenoir, Richard, TEX** 22710-GM-NonDis-O The American Churches Service

**Buchanan, Sam A. Jr., Belmont UMC, Nashville, TN** 22703-MN-NonDis-O Develop a Plan for Filling Senior Ministerial Positions

**Byroads, Marjorie, Williams Center Asbury UMC, Bryan, OH** 22557-DI-NonDis-O Evangelism as a Missional Priority of the United Methodist Church for the next Quadrennium

**Byroads, Marjorie, Williams Center Asbury UMC, Bryan, OH** 22579-CS-71-D Human Sexuality

**Byroads, Marjorie, Williams Center Asbury UMC, Bryan, OH** 22581-CS-71-D Abortion

**Byroads, Marjorie, Williams Center Asbury UMC, Bryan, OH** 22834-MN-402.2-D Ordination, Appointment and/or Reappointment of a Practicing Homosexual

**Cabinet of the West Virginia Annual Conference, WVA** 20535-CO-507.1-D Assignment of Bishops

**Cabinet of the West Virginia Annual Conference, WVA** 20536-FA-717-D Clergy Support

**Cabinet of the West Virginia Annual Conference, WVA** 20537-LC-252-D Removing Officers-Filling Vacancies

**Cabinet of the West Virginia Annual Conference, WVA** 20538-MN-406.10-D Appeal Process for Local Pastors

**Cabinet of the West Virginia Annual Conference, WVA** 20539-MN-410.4-D Reinstatement of Local Pastor Status

**Cambre, Allison, TEX** 20792-FA-NonDis-O Black College Fund

**Cambre, Allison, TEX** 20794-FA-921.1-D The Ministerial Education Fund

**Cambre, Allison, TEX** 20802-LC-264.1-D Program Agencies

**Cambre, Allison, TEX** 20810-MN-433-D Classification of Ordination

**Cambre, Allison, TEX** 20812-MN-437.2-D The Itinerant System

**Cambre, Allison, TEX** 20813-MN-439.1-D Responsibilities and Duties of a Pastor

**Cambre, Allison, TEX** 20814-MN-448.1-D Leave of Absence

**Cambre, Allison, TEX** 20824-MN-NonDis-O$ Review of the Church

**Canada, Delace Rae, Christ UMC, Lehigh Acres, FL** 22573-LC-253-D Work Area for Devotional Life in the Local Church

**Canady, DeArmond E., SCA** 21550-MN-2626-D Trial Procedures

**CAP, KSE** 20748-CS-71-D Human Sexuality

**CAP, WVA** 20523-CS-NonDis-O Call for a Rebirth of Compassion

**CAP** 20376-MN-2626.1-D General Fundamental Principles

**CAP** 20377-MN-2626.3-D Trial Procedures

**CAP** 20525-CS-NonDis-O Public Funding of Federal Elections

**CAP** 20527-GM-NonDis-O Reaffirming Shalom Zone Ministries

**CAP** 20747-CS-71-D Human Sexuality

**Case, Riley B., NIN** 22555-DI-68-D The Doctrinal Statement and Tradition

**Case, Riley B., NIN** 22559-FA-907-D Responsibilities of the General Council on Finance and Administration

**Case, Riley B., NIN** 22567-GJ-810.2-D General Agency Membership

**Case, Riley B., NIN** 22568-HE-1518.5-D Purposes and Objectives of the University Senate

**Case, Riley B., NIN** 22570-LC-225-D Children and the Church

**Case, Riley B., NIN** 22584-CS-72-D Rights of the Unborn

**Case, Riley B., NIN** 22593-MN-431.9-D Qualifications for Ordination

**Case, Riley B., NIN** 22603-MN-1529-D Responsibilities of the Division of Ordained Ministry

**Case, Riley B., NIN** 22646-FA-710-D Duties of the Annual Conference Council on Finance and Administration

**Case, Riley B., NIN** 22667-IC-1906.1-D Responsibilities of the General Commission on Communication

**Case, Riley, B., NIN** 22569-HE-1519.3-D Purposes and Objectives of the University Senate

**Centenary UMC, Shelbyville, KY** 20978-CS-71-D Seek to find alternatives

**Centenary UMC, Shelbyville, KY** 20979-CS-71-D Our belief in the santity of unborn human life

**Centenary UMC, Shelbyville, KY** 20980-CS-71-D Conflicts of life that may justify abortion

**Chai, Alice Yun, Christ UMC, Honolulu, HI** 21513-CS-NonDis-O Chungshindae/"Comfort Women"/Sex Slaves Drafted by Japan During World War II

**Chapman, Ruth, Blanchard Pine River UMC, Remus, MI** 22811-LC-247.7-D Charge and Church Conference, Absentee Ballots

**Chapman, Ruth, Blanchard Pine River UMC, Remus, MI** 22812-LC-249-D The Church Conference

**Charles D. White Jr., Western North Carolina Annual Conference** 20753-MN-454-D General Provisions

**Charles Wilder, Oak Park United Methodist Church, Bartlesville, OK** 20790-DI-NonDis-O Lay Speakers Training

**Chesnut, James W. & Edgar, Dave, Trinity UMC, San Antonio, TX** 22630-DI-NonDis-O Affirmation of the Doctrinal Standards

**Christensen,Faye, Fithian,Marylee, Lundeen, Betty, UMC, Brainerd, Minneapolis, New Brighton, MN** 21557-IC-NonDis-O Membership of Gideons International

**Christian Educators Fellowship of the UMC** 22578-LC-NonDis-O Discontinue the term "Pastor-Parish Relations Committee'

**Christian Educators Fellowship** 22109-LC-225-D Children and The Church

**Christian Educators Fellowship** 22110-LC-226-D Rights and Responsibilities of Youth Members of the Church

**Christian Educators Fellowship** 22114-LC-248.9-D Powers and Duties of the Charge Conference

**Christian Educators Fellowship** 22115-LC-248.11-D Powers and Duties of the Charge Conference

**Christian Educators Fellowship** 22119-LC-255-D Membership of the Administrative Board

**Christian Educators Fellowship** 22122-LC-261-D Work Areas of the Local Church

**Christian Educators Fellowship** 22126-LC-262.4-D The Chairperson of Education

**Christian Educators Fellowship** 22139-LC-270.2-D Duties of the Committee on Pastor-Parish Relations

**Christian Educators Fellowship** 22142-LC-270.2-D Duties of the Committee on Pastor-Parish Relations

**Church & Society Committee + 57 Members, First UMC, Ypsilanti, MI** 22831-MN-402.2-D The Ordained Ministry

**Church and Society Committee + 55 Individuals, First UMC, Ypsilanti, MI,** 22879-CS-71-D Human Sexuality

**Church and Community Workers National Organization, WV** 22674-LC-206.4-D Strengthening Cooperative Ministries through Training

**Church Conference, Old Zion and Big Bend UMC, Emlenton, PA** 22499-CS-71-D Rights of Homosexual Persons

**Church Conference, Old Zion and Big Bend UMC, Emlenton, PA** 22502-CS-71-D Abortion

**Church Conference, Old Zion and Big Bend UMC, Emlenton, PA** 22506-CS-R125-U Responsible Parenthood

**Church Conference, Van & Hill City, Old Zion and Big Bend UMC, Cranberry and Emlenton, PA** 22833-MN-402.2-D The Practice of Homosexuality

**Church Conference, Van and Hill City UMC, Cranberry, PA** 22583-CS-71-D Abortion

**Church Conference, Van and Hill City UMC, Cranberry, PA** 22613-CS-71-D Rights of Homosexual Persons

**Church Conference, Van and Hill City UMC, Cranberry, PA** 22616-CS-R126-U Responsible Parenthood

**Church Congregation, Lake Harriet UMC, Minneapolis, MN,** 22890-CS-NonDis-O Calling for a Ban on Anti-Personnel Land Mines

**Church Council, Calvary UMC, Flint, MI** 22496-CS-71-D Homosexual Behavior

**Church Council, Calvary UMC, Flint, MI** 22500-CS-71-D Regarding Abortion

**Church Membership, First UMC, Pueblo, CO** 22417-MN-452.5-D Retired Ministers' Report

**Church of the Redeemer + 6 Other Church Groups +, 114 Individuals** 21030-LC-208-D Church Membership

**CIL** 22015-IC-738.1-D Commission on Archives and History

**CIL** 22016-IC-739.1-D Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns

**CIL** 22017-IC-740.1-D Commission on Religion and Race

**CIL** 22018-IC-741-D Commission on Status and Role of Women

**CIL** 22019-IC-742-D Commission on Small Membership Church

**CIL** 22021-IC-R245-U Ecumenical Decade: Solidarity with Women

**CIL** 22032-IC-NonDis-O Eradication of Racism in the United Methodist Church

**CIL** 22181-CO-726-D Flexibility in Conference Council on Ministries

**CIL** 22186-CO-747-D Committee on Ministry to Persons with Handicapping Conditions

**CIL** 22200-DI-729-D Conference Board of Discipleship

**CIL** 22202-DI-730.1-D Conference Board of Laity

**CIL** 22203-DI-745-D Establish Young Adult Ministry

**CIL** 22258-CO-NonDis-O Paragraph Changes in The Book of Discipline

**CIL** 22262-GJ-748-D Committee on Native American Ministry

**CIL** 22265-GJ-NonDis-O Regarding Restructuring for Equality

**CIL** 22268-HE-732-D Board of Higher Education & Campus Ministry

**CIL** 22278-GM-731-D Board of Global Ministries

**CIL** 22329-CS-728-D Board of Church and Society

**CIL** 22337-CS-R235-U Regarding Tobacco Marketing

**CIL** 22338-CS-R634-U Regarding Recognition of Cuba

**CIL** 22343-CS-NonDis-O Regarding Clinic Violence

**CIL** 224921C-NonDis-O Regarding Racism Today

**Circle C Class, First UMC, Moline, IL** 20060-CS-75-D The World Community

**Circle C Class, United Methodist Church, Moline, IL** 20058-CS-74-D Education for all

**Clark, Stephen E., First United Methodist Church of Glendale, Glendale, AZ** 20777-CO-NonDis-O Churches outside the United States

**Clark, Stephen E., First United Methodist Church, Phoenix, AZ** 20006-LC-247-D Membership of the Charge Conference

**Clark, Stephen E., First United Methodist Church, Phoeniz, AZ** 20800-GM-NonDis-O Restructure of the General Board of Global Ministries

**CLZ,** 23022-CC-NonDis-D Creation of a Central Conference

**CLZ,** 23021-CC-NonDis-D Creation of a New Conference

**CLZ,** 23026-CO-NonDis-O Global Nature of the Church

**CNV, CAP** 20024-CS-73-D The Rights of all Persons

**CNV, NEB, NIL, NIN** 20228-CS-NonDis-O Tobacco Marketing by Philip Morris and RJR Nabisco

**CNV, NNJ, NYK, NIL, GBCS, NYMO** 20122-CS-71-D Human Sexuality

**CNV, NNY** 20515-GJ-NonDis-O Retain the Headquarters of the General Board of Global Ministries in New York City

**CNV, WPA** 20229-CS-70.1-D A Dioxin-free future

**CNV, WYO** 20238-GJ-NonDis-O The Church and God's Creation

**CNV** 20003-CS-R536-U U.S. Gun Violence

**CNV** 20022-CS-71-D Equal protection and treatment within the United Methodist Church

**CNV** 20133-MN-402.2-D Human Sexuality

**CNV** 20134-MN-402.2-D Affirm the Right of all Persons who are Called

**CNV** 20135-MN-402.2-D Faithful in all Relationships

**CNV** 20269-DI-280-D Certified Lay Speaker

**CNV** 20272-DI-278-D The Lay Speaker's Program

**CNV** 20273-DI-279-D Local Church Lay Speaker

**Coates, Harry H. & Peggy, First UMC, Claremore, OK** 22685-LC-2534.5-D Permanent Endowment Fund Committee

**Cobb, Flora Thompson, Edenton St. UMC, Raleigh, NC** 20056-CS-71-D Rights of Homosexual Persons

**Cobb, Flora Thompson, Edenton St. UMC, Raleigh, NC** 20057-CS-71-D Abortion

**Cobb, Flora, Edenton Street UMC, Raleigh, NC** 20100-LC-270.1-D Committee on Nominations and Personnel

**Coile, James H., NCA** 22160-CO-506.1-D Election

**Colbeth, Carol A., Foundry UMC, Washington, DC** 22449-CS-73-D Consumption

**Colbeth, Carol A., Foundry UMC, Washington, DC** 22450-CS-73-D Poverty

**Colbeth, Carol A., Foundry UMC, Washington, DC** 22451-CS-73-D Migrant Workers

**Colbeth, Carol A., Foundry UMC, Washington, DC** 22481-GJ-NonDis-O Guidelines for Labor Relations in United Methodist Church and Related Institutions

**Commission on Pan-Methodist Cooperation, COB** 21726-IC-NonDis-O$ Establish a Commission on Union (Pan-Methodist)

**Commission on Pan-Methodist Cooperation** 21722-CO-707.4-D Annual Conference Agencies

**Commission on Pan-Methodist Cooperation** 21723-GJ-NonDis-O Programmatic Responsibilities for Strengthening the Black Church (Pan-Methodist)

**Commission on Pan-Methodist Cooperation** 21724-HE-NonDis-O Resolution on Incorporation (Pan-Methodist)

**Commission on Pan-Methodist Cooperation** 21729-IC-2403-D Commission on Pan-Methodist Cooperation

**Commission on The General Conference** 22166-CO-608.1-D Petitions to General Conference

**Commission on The General Conference** 22167-CO-608.3-D Petitions to General Conference

**Commission on The General Conference** 22168-CO-608.6-D Petitions to General Conference

**Commission on The General Conference** 22170-CO-608.8-D Petitions to General Conference

**Commission on The General Conference** 22171-CO-608.9-D Petitions to General Conference

**Committee on Finance, Perry UMC, Perry, GA** 22143-LC-270.4-D Membership of the Local Church Finance Committee

**Conf. B.G.M.,MOW, Native American International, Caucus, 2 local Churches** 20796-GJ-NonDis-O Relocation of the General Board of Global Ministries

**Conference Board of Diaconal Ministry, CAP, SIN, DAK** 20908-MN-313.2-D The Relationship of a Retired Diaconal Minister to a Charge Conference

**Conference Board of Diaconal Ministry, CAP** 20902-LC-247.2-D The Membership of Charge Conference

**Conference Board of Diaconal Ministry, CAP** 21518-GJ-276-D Ministry Sunday

**Conference Board of Diaconal Ministry, EPA** 20871-CO-NonDis-O Representation of Diaconal Ministers among those elected to General and Jurisdictional Conferences

**Conference Board of Diaconal Ministry, OKL** 20905-MN-304-D Candidacy for Ordained Ministry

**Conference Board of Diaconal Ministry, OKL** 20906-MN-306.1-D Completion of Candidacy

**Conference Board of Diaconal Ministry, OKL** 20907-MN-310-D Service Appointment of Diaconal Ministers

**Conference Board of Diaconal Ministry, OKL** 20909-MN-314.4-D Relationship to the Charge Conference

**Conference Board of Diaconal Ministry, OKL** 20911-MN-318-D The Diaconal Minister

**Conference Board of Diaconal Ministry, SCA** 20793-FA-921.1-D The Ministerial Education Fund

**Conference Board of Diaconal Ministry, SCA** 20821-MN-306.2-D Candidacy for Diaconal Ministry

**Conference Board of Diaconal Ministry, SCA** 20833-MN-734.1-D Conference Board of Diaconal Ministry

**Conference Board of Diaconal Ministry, SCA** 20884-FA-1606.2-D Annual Conference Administration

**Conference Board of Diaconal Ministry, SCA** 20885-FA-1606.20-D Powers, Duties, and Responsibilities of Annual Conference

**Conference Board of Diaconal Ministry, SCA** 20910-MN-315-D Relationship to the Employing Agency

**Conference Board of Laity, SIN** 21466-DI-278-D Lay Speaking Ministry

**Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, BMW** 20809-MN-402.2-D Definition of a self-avowed practicing homosexual

**Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, IWA** 20827-MN-402.2-D Human Sexuality

**Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, ORI** 22391-MN-2622-D Fair Process

**Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, SCA** 20820-MN-306.1-D Completion of Candidacy

**Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, SCA** 20832-MN-733.1-D Conference Board of Ordained Ministry

**Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, WPA** 21532-MN-733.1-D Extending Voting Privileges of Lay Persons on the Board of Ordained Ministry

**Conference Board of Pension, WNC** 22256-FA-NonDis-O Study Ministerial Pension Plan Article 401a and Supplement One

**Conference Cabinet, SCA** 22366-MN-317-D Diaconal Ministers Relationship to the Employing Agency

**Conference Cabinet, SCA** 22367-LC-248.13-D Powers and Duties of the Charge Conference

**Conference Cabinet, SCA** 22368-LC-257.3-D Responsibilities of the Administrative Board

**Conference Cabinet, SCA** 22369-LC-270.2-D Responsibilities of the Committee on Pastor-Parish Relations

**Conference Cabinet, SCA** 22370-LC-270.2-D Duties of the Committee on Pastor-Parish Relations

**Conference Cabinet, SGA** 20799-MN-NonDis-O Trial Procedures

**Conference Cabinet, SGA** 20831-MN-519-D The normal term of a District Superintendent

**Conference United Methodist Women, STX** 20903-MN-NonDis-O Specific Responsibilities of the Board of Ordained Ministry

**Conference United Methodist Women, STX** 20904-MN-NonDis-O Requirements for Admission

**Conferene Commission on Archives and History, BMW** 22801-IC-1812-D Historic Sites, Historic Shrines, and Historic Landmarks

**Congregation + Byroads, Marjorie, OH, First UMC, Bayou La Batre, AL** 22621-CS-NonDis-O Membership in Religious Coalition for Reproductive Chojce

**Cook, Margaret, St. Paul's UMC, Coronada, CA** 21549-MN-2625.1-D Investigation Procedures

**Cornerstone and Friendly Hour Classes, First UMC, Crawfordville, IN,** 22885-CS-71-D Abortion

**Cottrell, David R., WOH** 22349-CS-NonDis-O Total Tissue Transplant Program

**Council of Bishops** 21717-IC-2006.1-D Organization of the General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns

**Council of Bishops** 21718-CO-NonDis-O Report: The Global Nature of The Church

**Council of Bishops** 21728-IC-2402.2-D Councils and Consultations of Churches

**Council of Bishops** 21730-MN-510.1-D Status or Retired Bishops

**Council on Finance and Administration, AFL** 20791-FA-NonDis-O Level Funding in the total Apportioned Budget

**Council on Ministries, Jones Memorial UMC, Chattanooga, TN** 22364-IC-NonDis-O Media Education to Restore High Ideals and Values to the Entertainment Industry

**CPA** 20280-MN-436-D General Provisions

**CPA** 20281-MN-437-D The Itinerant System

**Criminal Justice and Mercy Ministries, SEJ** 22127-LC-262.5-D Criminal Justice and Mercy Ministries as a Responsibility of the Evangelism Work Area

**Criminal Justice and Mercy Ministry Fellowship,SEJ** 22124-LC-262.2-D Criminal Justice and Mercy Ministry as a Responsibility of Church and Society Work Area

**Criminal Justice and Mercy Ministry, SEJ** 22125-LC-262.3-D Criminal Justice and Mercy Ministries as a Means of Utilizing Community Volunteers

**Criminal Justice and Mercy Ministry, SEJ** 22132-LC-264.7-D Local Church Committee on Criminal Justice and Mercy Ministries

**Crouch, William C., NTX** 22626-CO-750-D The District Conference

**Crowe, John M., NCA** 22594-MN-437.4-D The Itinerant System

**Crowe, John M., NCA** 22601-MN-533.2-D The Process of Appointment Making

**CTX, NEB** 20107-DI-NonDis-O Affirm the Council of Bishop's statement on Wisdom and our Doctrinal Standards and Theological Task

**CTX, WVA, NIL** 20221-IC-NonDis-O The Ecumenical Decade

**CTX** 20012-FA-NonDis-OS Continue Funding the area of Abuse and/or Misuse of Drugs and Alcohol

**Culver, William Lawson, Harper Chapel UMC, Osage Beach, MO** 22327-CS-75-D National Power and Responsibility

**Cummings, Ben, Mr. & Mrs., UMC, Hope, AR** 22470-FA-906.12-D Funds to Homosexual Groups

**Cummings, Ben Mr. & Mrs., Hope UMC, Hope, AR,** 22907-MN-NonDis-O Exit Procedures

**Cunanan, Jose P.M., PHI,** 23032-MN-518-D Limitation on Years of Service

**Cunanan, Jose P.M., PHI,** 23028-LC-244-D Numerical Requirements in the Organization of a Local United Methodist Church

**Cunanan, Jose P.M., PHI,** 23031-MN-517-D Election, Appointment and Term of District Superintendents

**DAK, DET, NAL, CPA, NNY, WNY, KEN** 20002-FA-NonDis-OS 1997-2000 Apportioned General Funds

**Davis, Don C., NCA** 20036-MN-NonDis-O Annual evaluation of clergy by Pastor-Parish Relations Committee

**Dawe, Esther, Bethany-Calvary UMC, Wauwatosa, WI** 22153-LC-NonDis-O Removal of Inactive Members

**Deborah Circle UMW, Cornerstone and Friendly Class, First UMC, Crawfordville, IN,** 228 96-MN-402.2-D Human Sexuality

**Decker, David L., Rockville UMC, Rockville, MD** 22252-FA-NonDis-O Conference Apportionments for Benevolences

**Decker, David L., Rockville UMC, Rockville, MD** 22314-CS-71-D Abortion

**Decker, David L., Rockville UMC, Rockville, MD** 22316-CS-72-D Affirmative Action

**Decker, David L., Rockville UMC, Rockville, MD** 22320-CS-72-D Urban-Suburban Life

**Decker, David L., Rockville UMC, Rockville, MD** 22321-CS-73-D The Economic Community

**Decker, David L., Rockville UMC, Rockville, MD** 22322-CS-73-D Collective Bargaining

**Decker, David L., Rockville UMC, Rockville, MD** 22323-CS-73-D Work and Leisure

**Decker, David L., Rockville UMC, Rockville, MD** 22324-CS-73-D Poverty

**Decker, David L., Rockville UMC, Rockville, MD** 22325-CS-74-D Basic Freedoms

**Decker, David L., Rockville UMC, Rockville, MD** 22326-CS-74-D Military Service

**Decker, David L., Rockville UMC, Rockville, MD** 22428-IC-NonDis-O Conference Publications

**Deer, Alvin, OKI** 22781-GM-NonDis-O The Sand Creek Apology

**Deer, Alvin, OKL** 22486-GM-NonDis-O Resolution to Support the Return of the FT. Reno, Oklahoma Lands to the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes

**Deer, Alvin, OKL** 22487-GM-NonDis-O To Support Restitution to the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma for the Sand Creek Massacre

**DeLong, Evelyn L. + Sowell, Joe Rev. SCA, Calvary UMC, Circleville, OH** 22716-IC-2201-D General Commission on the Status and Role of Women

**DeLong, Evelyn L., Calvary UMC, Circleville, OH** 22715-IC-741-D Conference Commission on the Status and Role of Women

**DeLong, Evelyn L., Calvary UMC, Circleville, OH** 22718-LC-221-D Regarding Baptism and Dedication

**Deppe, Martin, NIL** 22686-MN-304.1-D Candidacy for Diaconal Ministry

**Deppe, Martin, NIL** 22688-MN-402.2-D Standards for Ordained Ministry

**Deppe, Martin, NIL** 22692-MN-414.4-D Qualifications for Election to Probationary Membership

**Deppe, Martin, NIL** 22693-MN-420.1-D Requirements for Election as Associate Members

**Deppe, Martin, NIL** 22839-MN-424-D Requirements for Admission

**Deppe, Martin, NIL** 22841-MN-431.6-D Qualifications for Ordination

**Deppe, Martin, NIL,** 22880-CS-71-D Human Sexuality

**DET Annual Conference Pornography Task Force, Riverview UMC, Riverview, MI** 22763-GJ-274-D Resolution to Conform to the Observance of "Pornography Awareness Week"

**DET, KSE** 20049-DI-282-D Lay Preacher

**DET, TRY** 20064-CO-38-C Ministerial Delegates to Conferences

**DET, TRY** 20065-CO-702.1-D Voting Rights for Clergy Members

**DET, TRY, SCA, NAL, KSE, NGA, MSS Conf. UMW + 1 Dist.** 20528-GM-NonDis-O Affirm the Purpose of United Methodist Women

**DET** 20013-FA-723-D Basic Salary Plan-Option for Annual Conference

**DET** 20048-DI-68-D Christian Unity

**DET** 20077-GM-NonDis-O An Affirmation of Basic Rural Worth

**DET** 20098-LC-261-D Local Church work area on Prayer

**DET** 20099-LC-262.11-D Local Church Work Area on Prayer.

**DET** 20102-LC-270.2-D Appointed Staff

**DET** 20103-LC-270.2-D Pastor-Parish Relations Committee

**DET** 20114-MN-437-D Itinerate System

**DET** 20138-MN-452-D Pension Liability of Retired Ordained Clergy

**DET** 20147-MN-533.5-D Multiple Staff

**DET** 20148-MN-533.5-D Appointment other than Pastor in Charge

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**Drury, Steve, KEN** 21010-GJ-NonDis-O Relocation of the General Board of Global Ministries

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**Echols, Verna K., First UMC, Lake Wales, FL** 22618-CS-NonDis-O In Support of the United States Food and Drug Administration

**Echols, Verna K., Lake Wales First UMC, Lake Wales, FL** 22617-CS-NonDis-O Reduce Environmental Tobacco Smoke

**Eckert, Jerry, WI** 22352-CO-700-D Establish a Conference Nominating Committee

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**Eckert, Jerry, WIS** 21520-MN-448-D Leave of Absence

**Eckert, Jerry, WIS** 21521-MN-454-D Defining the Role of Advocate

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**Eckert, Jerry, WIS** 21526-MN-454.1-D Grievances, Complaints, and Chargeable Offenses

**Eckert, Jerry, WIS** 21543-MN-2622-D Providing the Right for the Accused to Face the Accusers

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**Eckert, Jerry, WIS** 22087-MN-525-D Grievance Procedures

**Eckert, Jerry, WIS** 22104-LC-107-D Identifying the Primary Purpose of the Church and its Ministry

**Eckert, Jerry, WIS** 22187-CO-749-D Annual Conference Judiciary Committee

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**Eckert, Jerry, WIS** 22353-CO-700-D Formation of an Annual Conference Committee on Petitions

**Eckert, Jerry, WIS** 22357-FA-711.3-D Definition of a Line Item for Use in preparing the Conference Budget

**Eckert, Jerry, WIS** 22371-MN-410.3-D Trial of a Local Pastor

**Eckert, Jerry, WIS** 22372-MN-418-D Discontinuance of Probationary Members

**Eckert, Jerry, WIS** 22373-MN-452.5-D Rights of Retired Ordained Ministers

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**Eckert, Jerry, WIS** 22383-MN-517-D Selecting, Training, Assigning, and Term of District Superintendents

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**Eckert, Jerry, WIS** 22390-MN-2622-D Complainants' Rights in Fair Process

**Eckert, Jerry, WIS** 22392-MN-2623.1-D Rephrasing of the Charge

**Eckert, Jerry, WIS** 22393-MN-2623.1-D Re: Phrasing of the Charge

**Eckert, Jerry, WIS** 22394-MN-2623.3-D A Charge that Could be used Against a Lay Person

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**Eckert, Jerry, WIS** 22397-MN-NonDis-O Reinstatement and Recompense for Rev. Merrily Anderson

**Eckert, Jerry, WIS** 22398-MN-NonDis-O Reinstatement and Recompense for Rev. Bill Brooks

**Eckert, Jerry, WIS** 22399-MN-NonDis-O Reinstatement for Rev. Bruce Southard

**Eckert, Jerry, WIS** 22400-MN-NonDis-O Reinstatement and Recompense for Rev. F.D. Turney

**Eckert, Jerry, WIS** 22402-MN-NonDis-OS Formation of an Impartial Panel

**Eliason, Hap, TEN** 22074-MN-439-D Responsibilities and Duties of a Pastor

**Ellison, Floyd, DET** 22678-LC-253.2-D Need for Clarification of "Outreach" and "Church and Societal Issues"

**Elmslie, James S., Dr., First UMC, Salt Lake City, UT** 22460-CS-NonDis-O World-Wide Celebration on Population

**Elrod, Caroline M., United Methodist Church, Indianapolis, IN** 20005-LC-270.2-D Committee on Pastor-Parish Relations

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**EOH** 20702-CS-71-D Regarding Human Sexuality

**EOH** 20703-CS-71-D Abortion

**EOH** 20708-CO-38-C Election and Eligibility of Clergy Delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conferences

**EOH** 20711-CO-702-D Part-Time Local Pastors

**EOH** 20716-FA-709.2-D Membership on Annual Conference Council on Finance and Administration

**EOH** 20735-MN-408.5-D Rights of Local Pastors

**EOH** 20740-MN-436-D Appointments to Various Ministries

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**EPA** 20248-CS-NonDis-O Opposition to Abusive Treatment of Persons with Mental Disabilities

**EPA** 20259-MN-733.1-D Election of Board of Ordained Ministry Members

**EPA** 20264-CO-NonDis-O Approach legislation on paragraph 71.F and all matters at Gen. Conf. with prayer and openess

**EPA** 20265-MN-756.1-D Quadrennial Election of District Committees on Ordained Ministry

**EPA Conference, 1 Adm. Board & 2 Individuals,** 22894-GJ-NonDis-O Relocation of the GeneraL Board of Global Ministries

**Evangelical Fellowship for UM in West Virginia** 22746-DI-NonDis-O Resolution to Affirm the Confessing Movement within the United Methodist Church

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**Fellowship Sunday School Class, First UMC, Liberty, TX** 22457-CS-NonDis-O Human Sexuality

**Ferris, Donald R., WMI** 22697-MN-733.1-D Conference Board of Ordained Ministry

**Ferris, Donald R., WMI** 22698-MN-756.1-D The District Committee on Ordained Ministry

**Fields, Thomas, Cape Girardeau UMC, Cape Girardeau, MO** 20890-GM-NonDis-O Requirements for Missionaries

**Fincher, Jabe Jr., AFL** 20801-IC-NonDis-O Prejudice/Discrimination

**Fincher, Jabe Jr., AFL** 22259-FA-NonDis-O The Apportionments System

**Fincher, Jabe, Jr., AWF** 20041-MN-NDIS-O Continuance as a Local Pastor

**Fireside Sunday School Class, Clark Memorial UMC, Oklahoma City, OK** 20055-CS-71-D An effort to clarify a position on the issue of Human Sexuality

**First UMC, Bridgeton, NJ** 22229-FA-711.3-D Budgets

**First UMC, Bridgeton, NJ** 22230-FA-712.1-D Apportionments

**First UMC, Bridgeton, NJ** 22242-FA-911.5-D Apportionments

**First UMC, Broken Arrow, OK** 22817-LC-270.2-D The Make-up of the Committee on Pastor-Parish Relations (Staff-Parish Relations)

**First UMC, Broken Arrow, OK** 22818-LC-270.2-D Duties of the Committee on Pastor-Parish Relations (Staff-Parish Relations)

**First UMC, Broken Arrow, OK** 22819-LC-270.2-D Duties of the Committee on Pastor-Parish Relations (Staff-Parish Relations)

**First UMC, Lake Jackson, TX,** 22900-DI-NonDis-O Resolution on Doctrinal Integrity, Administrative Board

**Fishel, Geo.,Hopkins, Ron, Hossler, Robt, Rech,Ed, Wesley UMC, Marysville, PA** 20862-CS-R536-U Gun Control and U.S. Gun Violence

**FLA** 20199-CO-602-D Composition of General Conference

**FLA** 20506-IC-NonDis-O Consultation on Church Union

**FLA** 20514-FA-NonDis-OS 1997-2000 Budget for General Funds

**FLA** 20750-FA-711.3-D World Service and Conference Benevolences

**Folkers, Robert L. + Bowyer, O. Richard, NEB & WVA** 22661-GM-NonDis-OS Cooperative Parish Ministry

**Forsman, Don L., NMX** 22591-MN-412.1-D The Clergy Membership of an Annual Conference

**Forsman, Don L., NMX** 22806-IC-2200-DS General Commission on Alcohol and Drugs

**Forsman, Don L., NMX** 22827-MN-406.6-D Authority and Duties of a Local Pastor

**Francis, John Ed.& Carolyn +52 Other Missionaries, GBGM, World Division, Missionaries in Okinawa, Ginowan-shi, Okinawa** 22348-CS-NonDis-O The Search for Peace and Justice in Okinawa

**Fraser, Marcia P. + Holly, Mary Lynn, First UMC, Franklin, TN** 22762-GJ-4-C Inclusiveness of the Church

**Frederick, Austin, Jr., STX** 21534-GJ-802-D Amenability and Program Accountability

**Frederick, Austin, Jr., STX** 21548-MN-2623.3-D Chargeable Offenses

**Friendly Hour and Cornerstone Classes, First UMC, Crawfordville, IN,** 228 99-CS-NonDis-O Support of the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice

**Fulton, Kenton W., Trinity UMC, Tulsa, OK** 22141-LC-270.2-D Committee on Pastor-Parish Relations

**Gardner, Larry + Gipson, Robert + Jones, Dale, Trinity UMC, Maysville, KY** 22721-LC-257.3-D The Administrative Board, Powers and Duties

**Gardner, Larry + Gipson, Robert W. + Jones, Dale, KEN** 22647-CO-704-D Powers and Duties of the Annual Conference

**GBCS, GBGM** 21066-GM-NonDis-O Liberia

**GBCS** 20918-CS-70-D Water, Air, Soil, Minerals, Plants

**GBCS** 20919-CS-70-D Animal Life

**GBCS** 20920-CS-70-D Space

**GBCS** 20921-CS-70-D Science and Technology

**GBCS** 20922-CS-71-D Divorce

**GBCS** 20924-CS-72-D Rights of Religious Minorities

**GBCS** 20925-CS-72-D Rights of Persons with Handicapping Conditions

**GBCS** 20926-CS-72-D Media Violence and Christian Values

**GBCS** 20927-CS-72-D Right to Health Care

**GBCS** 20928-CS-73-D Consumption

**GBCS** 20929-CS-73-D Poverty

**GBCS** 20930-CS-73-D Gambling

**GBCS** 20931-CS-74-D Political Responsibility

**GBCS** 20932-CS-74-D Education

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**GBCS** 20934-CS-74-D Military Service

**GBCS** 20935-CS-728.1-D Annual Conference Board of Church and Society

**GBCS** 20936-CS-728.2-D Membership of the Annual Conference Board of Church and Society

**GBCS** 20937-CS-1102-D The purpose of the Board of Church and Society

**GBCS** 20938-CS-1103-D Objectives

**GBCS** 20939-CS-1104-D Responsibilities

**GBCS** 20940-CS-1106-D Organization of the General Board of Church and Society

**GBCS** 20941-CS-1107-D Vacancies

**GBCS** 20942-CS-1108-D Officers

**GBCS** 20943-CS-1109-D Executive Committee

**GBCS** 20944-CS-1110-D Meetings

**GBCS** 20945-CS-1111.1-D Financial Support

**GBCS** 20946-CS-1111.2-D Financial Support

**GBCS** 20947-CS-1112-D Internal Organization

**GBCS** 20948-CS-1113.1-D Staff

**GBCS** 20949-CS-1113.2-D All other staff

**GBCS** 20950-CS-1114-D Headquarters
**GBCS** 20951-CS-1115-D Bylaws
**GBCS** 20956-GM-NonDis-O Continue Interagency Task Force on AIDS
**GBCS** 20957-LC-212-D The Meaning of Membership
**GBCS** 20958-LC-262.2-D The work area chairperson of Church and Society
**GBCS** 20960-LC-264.1-D The Church School
**GBCS** 21038-CS-NonDis-O God's Vision of Abundant Living
**GBCS** 21039-CS-NonDis-O Caring Communities - The United Methodist Mental Illness Network
**GBCS** 21040-CS-NonDis-O Immigrants in the United States: Ministries of Hospitality, Advocacy and Justice
**GBCS** 21041-CS-NonDis-O Observance of Health Care Sabbaths
**GBCS** 21042-CS-NonDis-O Tobacco Marketing by Philip Morris and RJR Nabisco
**GBCS** 21043-CS-NonDis-O The U.S Campaign for a Peace Tax Fund
**GBCS** 21044-CS-R517-U Human Rights
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**GBCS** 21046-CS-R87-U U.S. Agriculture and Rural Communities in Crisis
**GBCS** 21047-CS-R229-U Drug and Alcohol Concerns
**GBCS** 21048-CS-R412-U Gambling
**GBCS** 21049-CS-R561-U Peace, The United Methodist Church and
**GBCS** 21050-CS-R633-U Ratification of United Nations Covenants and Conventions by the United States
**GBCS** 21051-CS-R643-U Terrorism
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**GBCS** 21064-GM-NonDis-O National Observance of Children's Sabbaths
**GBCS** 21065-GM-NonDis-O Eradicating Abusive Child Labor
**GBCS** 21078-IC-R248-U Global Racism
**GBGM, GBCS** 21062-GM-NonDis-O World AIDS Day Observance
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**GBGM, GBOD** 21347-GM-R135-U Putting Children and Their Families First
**GBGM,GBOD** 21361-GM-NonDis-O Reducing the Risk of Child Sexual Abuse in the Church
**GBGM** 21296-GM-NonDis-O Restructure of the General Board of Global Ministries
**GBGM** 21297-CO-664.6-D Assignment of Missionaries and Mission Traveling Preachers in the Conference
**GBGM** 21298-CO-664.7-D Administration, Initiation, and Coordination of a Mission
**GBGM** 21299-CO-726.5-D Committees, Task Forces, and Consultations
**GBGM** 21300-CO-726-D Committee on Hispanic Ministry
**GBGM** 21301-FA-2554-D Trustees of Church Institutions
**GBGM** 21302-GJ-275.2-D One Great Hour of Sharing
**GBGM** 21303-GJ-803.7-D Deputy General Secretary
**GBGM** 21304-GJ-805.2-D Basic Membership
**GBGM** 21305-GJ-915.4-D Advance Specials
**GBGM** 21306-GJ-915.5-D Promotion of Advance Specials and One Great Hour of Sharing
**GBGM** 21307-GJ-1007.5-D Administering Agency
**GBGM** 21308-GM-634.4-D Meetings and Elections
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**GBGM** 21343-GM-NonDis-OS National Plan for Hispanic Ministry
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**GBGM** 21346-GM-NonDis-OS National Committee on Deaf Ministries
**GBGM** 21348-GM-R200-U The Church and People with Mental, Physical, and/ or Psychological Disabilities
**GBGM** 21349-GM-R207-U Communications Access for People Who Have Hearing and Sight Impairment
**GBGM** 21350-GM-R208-U Compliance with the American with Disabilities Act for Employers
**GBGM** 21351-IC-R248-U Global Racism: A Violation of Human Rights
**GBGM** 21352-GM-R484-U The Church in a Mass Media Culture
**GBGM** 21353-GM-R507-U Immigrants and Refugees: To Love the Sojourner
**GBGM** 21354-GM-R557-U God's Shalom for the People of Central America
**GBGM** 21355-GM-R634-U Recognition of Cuba
**GBGM** 21356-GM-NonDis-O National Comprehensive Plan for Town and Country
**GBGM** 21357-GM-NonDis-O Africa Reconstruction and Development
**GBGM** 21358-GM-NonDis-O Rape in Times of Conflict and War
**GBGM** 21359-GM-NonDis-O East Timor
**GBGM** 21360-GM-NonDis-O The Middle East and North Africa
**GBGM** 21362-GM-NonDis-O Holy Boldness: A National Plan for Urban Ministry
**GBGM** 21363-GM-NonDis-O Communities of Shalom
**GBGM** 21364-CS-R504-U Gun Violence in the U.S.
**GBHEM, GBPHB** 21172-MN-417-D Continuation in Probationary Membership
**GBHEM, GBPHB** 21192-MN-441-D Support for Ordained Ministers
**GBHEM, GBPHB** 21246-MN-458-D Readmission after Termination by Action of the Annual Conference
**GBHEM** 21127-CO-35-C Amend The Constitution of The United Methodist Church
**GBHEM** 21128-HE-NonDis-O Education: The Gift of Hope
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**GBHEM** 21130-LC-270.2-D Committee on Pastor-Parish Relations
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**GCOM** 21666-IC-740.1-D Conference Commission on Religion and Race

**GCOM** 21667-IC-741-D Conference Commission on the Status and Role of Women

**GCOM** 21668-IC-1907.1-D Membership of the General Commission on Communications

**GCOM** 21669-IC-2006-D Membership of the General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns

**GCOM** 21670-IC-2103-D Membership of the Commission on Religion and Race

**GCOM** 21671-IC-2204-D Membership of the Commission on the Status and Role of Women

**GCOM** 21672-MN-733.1-D Conference Board of Ordained Ministry

**GCOM** 21675-GJ-NonDis-O GCOM Quadrennial Report

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**GCOM** 21683-GJ-NonDis-O The Book of Resolution

**GCOM** 21684-GJ-NonDis-O Churches' Center for Theology and Public Policy

**GCOM** 21685-GJ-NonDis-O World Service Special Gifts Program

**GCOM** 21686-GJ-NonDis-O Peace With Justice Special Program

**GCOM** 21687-GJ-NonDis-O Evaluation of the General Program-Related Agencies, Etc.

**GCOM** 21688-GJ-NonDis-O National Plan for Hispanic Ministries

**GCOM** 21689-GJ-NonDis-O Ethnic Local Church Concerns Committee

**GCOM** 21690-GJ-NonDis-O Advance for Christ and His Church

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**GCORR** 20969-IC-R159-U Affirmative Action

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**GCORR** 21035-DI-1306.2-D Voting Membership of National Youth Ministry Organization Steering Committee

**GCORR** 21604-IC-R248-U Elimination of Racism in The United Methodist Church

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**GCSRW** 20851-MN-NonDis-O Sexual Abuse Within the Ministerial Relationship and Sexual Harassment Within the UM Church

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**General Commission on Central Conference Affairs,** 23023-CC-NonDis-O Episcopal Oversight in the Commonwealth of Independent States

**General and Jurisdictional Delegation, Florida Annual Conference, Leesburg, FL** 20733-MN-NonDis-O Mandatory Retirement Age for Clergy, Bishops and other Church Employees

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**George R. Rhoads, Rogers, ARK** 21017-LC-2539-D Incorporated Local Church Property - Notice and Authorization

**Gibson, James A. III, SGA** 22332-CS-1104-D The Responsibilities of the General Board of Church and Society

**Gibson, James A. III, SGA** 22333-CS-1104-D The Responsibilities of the General Board of Church and Society

**Gibson, James A. III, SGA** 22334-CS-1104-D Responsibilities of the General Board of Church and Society

**Gibson, James A. III, SGA** 22335-CS-1104-D Responsibilities of the General Board of Church and Society

**Gibson, James A.III, SGA** 21539-GJ-816-D Policies Relative to Socially Responsible Investments

**GJ** 20540-GJ-NonDis-O$ REPORT: Site Selection Task Force for GBGM

**Gooding, Dick, Calvary United Methodist Church, Sherrodsville, OH** 20786-DI-NonDis-O Baptism Study

**Gregg, Odie, Hartselle UMC, Hartselle, AL** 22164-CO-602-D Composition of The General Conference

**Gregg, Odie, Hartselle United Methodist Church, Hartselle, AL** 20797-GJ-4-C Inclusiveness of the Church

**Gregg, Odie, United Methodist Church of Hartselle, Hartselle, AL** 20778-CO-13-C Meeting of the General Conference

**Gregg, Odie, United Methodist Church of Hartselle, Hartselle, AL** 20779-CO-14-C The Responsibility of General Conference

**Griffith, Thomas H., CAP** 22560-FA-2516-D Sale, Transfer, Lease or Mortgage of Annual Conference Property

**Griffith, Thomas H., CAP** 22561-FA-2518.2-D Mortgage of Sale of Real Property by a District Board of Trustees

**Griffith, Thomas H., CAP** 22564-FA-NonDis-O Plan Document for the Ministerial Pension Plan

**Griffith, Thomas H., CAP** 22565-FA-NonDis-O Plan Document of the Ministerial Pension Plan

**Griffith, Thomas H., CAP** 22574-LC-257.3-D Responsibilities of the Administrative Board

**Griffith, Thomas H., CAP** 22596-MN-448.1-D Leave of Absence

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**Griffith, Thomas H., CAP** 22605-MN-2618-D Statement of Information by the Judicial Council

**Griffith, Thomas H., CAP** 22606-MN-2622.3-D Fair Process

**Griffith, Thomas H., CAP** 22607-MN-2623.1-D Additional Chargeable Offenses

**Griffith, Thomas H., CAP** 22608-MN-2625.3-D Investigation of a Clergy Member of an Annual Conference

**Griffith, Thomas H., CAP** 22609-MN-2628-D Miscellaneous Provisions

**Grimes, Shirley, Shiloh UMC, Granite Quarry, NC** 22759-FA-906-D Regarding the "Black College Fund" and the "United Methodist Student Day Fund"

**Gross, Martha J., WOH** 22134-LC-270.1-D Committee on Nominations and Personnel

**GSW** 20071-GJ-4-C Inclusiveness of the Church

**Guerard, Susan & John + Allred, Scott, St. Mark's UMC, Bakersfield, CA** 22582-CS-71-D Abortion

**Hallman, Howard W., Araby UMC, Frederick, MD** 22092-MN-532-D Criteria in the Appointment Making Process

**Handy, W. T., Bishop, COB** 22063-MN-423-D Rights and Responsibilities

**Handy, W. T., Jr, Bishop, COB** 22154-CO-12-C Composition of General Conference

**Handy, W. T., Jr., Bishop** 22111-LC-227-D Affiliate and Associate Members

**Hardeman, John C., First UMC, Florence, AL** 22821-LC-NonDis-O Lay Member/Reserve Lay Members to Annual Conference

**Heavner, B., Quick, J., Anderson, T. Euper, Jackie, NWT, NAK, WNY, DET Youth Directors, Lubbock, TX** 22747-DI-NonDis-OS Celebrate and Implement the Focus on Young People: Walking Together in the Way that Leads to Life

**Held, Richard E. + 10 Members of Louisa UMC, KEN, Louisa, KY** 21023-MN-313.2-D Mandatory Retirement

**Held, Richard E. + 10 Members of Louisa UMC, KEN** 22079-MN-509.1-D Mandatory Retirement

**Held, Richard E., KEN** 22263-GJ-814.3-D Provisions Pertaining to Staff

**Held,Richard,Pierce, Ward,+ 2 Church Grps., 2 Ind., KEN & WMI, Louisa, KY** 21024-MN-452.1-D Mandatory Retirement

**Herndon, Charles M., OKL** 20830-MN-518-D Missional Reasons

**Hershberger, Nyle M., Belmont UMC, Johnstown, PA** 22558-DI-NonDis-O Institute Service of Infant Dedication

**Hill, James R., CAP** 22676-LC-248.14-D Duties of the Charge Conference

**Hill, James R., CAP** 22690-MN-402.2-D Relation of Ordained Ministers to the Ministry of All Christians

**Hill, James R., CAP** 22734-CO-506.2-D Process of Election at Jurisdictional and Central Conferences

**Hill, James R., CAP** 22735-CO-603-D Presiding Officers of General Conference

**Hill, James R., CAP** 22752-FA-712-D Apportionments

**Hill, James R., CAP** 22820-LC-2533.1-D Board of Trustees - Powers and Limitations

**Hill, James R., CAP** 22830-MN-413.2-D Voting Rights of Probationary Members

**Hill, James R., CAP** 22838-MN-423.1-D Rights and Responsibilities

**Hill, James R., CAP** 22847-MN-514.2-D Specific Responsibilities of Bishops

**Hill, James R., CAP** 22852-MN-2623.1-D Chargeable Offenses

**Hill, James R., CAP** 22853-MN-2623.1-D Chargeable Offenses

**Hill, James R., CAP** 22854-MN-2623.1-D Chargeable Offenses

**Hines, William, WOH** 22253-FA-NonDis-O Distribution of Limited Funds

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**Historical Society, the United Methodist Church** 20757-GJ-810.1-D Provisions pertaining to General Agency Membership

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**Historical Society, the United Methodist Church** 20760-LC-248.5-D Powers and Duties

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**Holmes, Kilton, Arlington United Methodist Church, Poynette, WI** 20025-CS-NonDis-OS Task Force to Study Food Distribution in the United States to Low Income Persons

**Horton, Alvin J., VIR** 22469-FA-711.3-D World Service and Conference Benevolences Budget

**Hurst, David M., DET** 22695-MN-452.6-D Retired Ordained Ministers

**Ingram, Robert D., EOH** 22641-GJ-276-D Special Sundays: Earth Day

**Interagency Task Force on AIDS** 21674-GM-NonDis-OS Report and Recommendation of the Interagency Task Force on AIDS

**Iowa Annual Conference Human Sexuality Committee** 22612-CS-71-D Homosexuality and the Church

**Isley, Samuel W. Jr., Edenton St. UMC, Raleigh, NC** 22414-MN-402.1-D Ministry in the Christian Church

**Ivey, Ruth Ann, Bethany UMC, Summerville, SC** 22246-FA-1606.2-D Powers, Duties, and Responsibilities

**Ivey, Ruth Ann, Bethany UMC, Summerville, SC,** 22901-FA-1606.20-D The Annual Conference Board of Pensions

**IWA, CNV, WNC, MSS, DKT, NNJ, WIS, and 25 other, Annual Conferences** 20082-IC-NonDis-O Adoption of COCU Proposal

**IWA, EOH, GBOD, NYMO** 20235-DI-NonDis-O Youth/Young Adult priority of General Conference for 1997-2000

**IWA, EOH, KSE** 20112-MN-412.1-D Part-time and Student Local Pastor

**IWA, RBM** 20239-GM-NonDis-O Encounter with Christ Program

**IWA** 20040-MN-408.5-D Part-time and student local pastors

**IWA** 20066-CO-702-D Part-Time and Student Local Pastors

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**James Martin, Zion United Methodist Church, Adell, WI** 20805-MN-NonDis-O Study of The Itineracy

**Johnson, David K. + 2 Church Groups + 6 Ind., Bering Memorial UMC, Houston, TX** 21028-MN-402.2-D Human Sexuality

**Johnson, David L., Bering Memorial UMC, Houston, TX** 22214-DI-NonDis-O The Renewal of Theology and Mission in The United Methodist Church

**Johnson, William R., IWA** 22156-CO-38-C Ministerial Delegates to General, Jurisdictional or Central Conferences

**Johnson, William R., IWA** 22158-CO-39-C Lay Delegates to the General, Jurisdictional or Central Conference

**Johnston, Janet, Lakeway UMC, Pottsboro, TX** 22532-LC-264.6-D United Methodist Women

**Jones, Dale E., KEN** 22563-FA-NonDis-O Evaluate the Comprehensive Protection Plan for Active Clergy during 1997-2000

**Jones, Scott J. & Heitzenrater, Richard P., First UMC, Commerce, TX** 22385-MN-527.5-DS Committee on Theological Dialogue

**Jones, W. Paul, Dr., MOW** 20815-MN-448-D Ecumenical Affiliation

**Jones, W. Paul, Dr., MOW** 20822-DI-NonDis-O Ecumenical Commitment within Our Theological Task

**Kalamazoo District Committee on Ordained Ministry, Cassopolis, MI** 22622-CO-36-C Annual Conferences

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**KEN** 20704-CS-71-D Abortion

**KEN** 20705-CS-71-D Abortion

**KEN** 20706-CS-71-D Abortion

**KEN** 20707-CS-71-D Abortion

**KEN** 20717-FA-710.3-D Requests rather than Apportionments

**KEN** 20718-FA-711.3-D The Separation of World Service and Conference Benevolence into two separate line items

**KEN** 20725-LC-NonDis-O Work Area on Prayer in the Local Church

**KEN** 20734-MN-402.2-D Ordination and Appointment of Homosexual Persons and Advocates of the Homosexual Lifestyle

**KEN** 20744-GJ-NonDis-O Relocation of the General Board of Global Ministries

**KEN** 20745-MN-733.1-D Annual Conference Board of Ordained Ministry

**Kingswood Project, MOW** 22709-GJ-NonDis-OS Resolution Proclaiming a Quadrennium of the Worker

**Knotts, Alice G., ORI** 22575-LC-262.11-D The Work Area Chairperson of Worship

**Knotts, Alice G., ORI** 22580-CS-71-D Rights of Homosexual Persons

**Knotts, Alice G., ORI** 22590-MN-404.4-D Eliminate the Footnote

**Kremer, James F., CPA** 20828-MN-416.2-D Special Conditions

**KSE, SCJ T.F. on Proposed K. C. Episcopal Area** 20542-CO-NonDis-OS Metropolitan-Based Episcopal Areas

**KSE** 20359-CS-NonDis-O Separation of Church and State

**KSE** 20387-MN-416.2-D Special Conditions for Admission to Probationary Membership

**KSE** 20388-MN-419-D Elimination of Category of Associate Members

**KSE** 20389-MN-420-D Elimination of Category of Associate Member

**KSE** 20390-MN-421-D Progression to Full Membership for Associate Members

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**KSW, KSE, SCJ T.F. on Proposed K.C Episcopal Area** 20541-CO-NonDis-OS The Jurisdictional System of Organization

**KSW** 20372-FA-714.2-D Annual Audit Reports

**KSW** 20385-MN-406.1-D Local Pastor: Authority and Duties

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**Kuyper, Robert L., CNV** 22155-CO-35-C Equalization of Clergy and Lay Members at Annual Conference

**Kuyper, Robert L., CNV** 22239-FA-906.12-D Support for Programs Inconsistent with the Social Principles

**Kuyper, Robert L., CNV** 22311-CS-71-D Supporting the Rights of Former Homosexuals

**Kuyper, Robert L., CNV** 22434-CO-610.3-D Support for Programs Inconsistent with the Social Principles

**Kuyper, Robert L., CNV** 22516-GJ-4-C Opening Our Church to Those Who Struggle with Homosexuality

**Kuyper, Robert L., CNV** 22528-LC-208-D Church Membership

**LaDelfa, Laurie K., Riviera UMC, St. Petersburg, FL** 22731-CS-NonDis-O A Commitment to Our Children, Regarding the Use of Tobacco

**Lane, James W., Levy UMC, Sherwood, AR** 22107-LC-208-D The Church Membership

**Lawler, Larry, CIL** 20782-CO-38-C Clergy Conference Membership

**Lawler, Larry, CIL** 20784-CO-702-D Clergy Conference Membership

**Lawler, Larry, CIL** 20913-MN-412-D Clergy Conference Membership

**Lawler, Larry, CIL** 20914-MN-423-D Rights and Responsibilities of Full Members

**Lay Members, Aldersgate, Good Samaritan UMC, St. Louis Park, Edina, MN** 20007-LC-248-D Responsibility of the Charge Conference

**Leckrone, June R., Centenary UMC, Portsmouth, VA** 22365-LC-221-D Children and The Church

**Lepley, Ralph J, NCA** 22592-MN-423.1-D Rights and Responsibilities of Full Clergy Members

**Lepley, Ralph J., NCA** 22599-MN-530.1-D Appointment Making

**Lepley, Ralph J., NCA** 22600-MN-533.7-D Process of Appointment-Making

**Lepley, Ralph J., WNC** 22248-FA-NonDis-O Basic Salary Plan

**Lewis, Ruth W., Ames UMC, Baltimore, MD,** 23027-GJ-274-D Children and Youth Sunday

**Lippse, Charles E., TEN** 22846-MN-513-D Involuntary Termination of Office

**LRK** 20001-CS-71-D To change wording in the Social Principles concerning abortion

**Lum, Allen H., NNY** 22339-CS-NonDis-O The Homosexual Issue

**Lum, Allen, NYK,** 22875-CS-71-D Openess to Homosexuals in the United Methodist Church

**Lundy, J. T., First-Centenary U.M.C., Chattanooga, TN** 20807-MN-50-C Council of Bishops

**Lundy, J.T., First-Centenary United Methodist Church, Chattanooga, TN** 20785-CO-702.1-D Local Pastors voting rights

**Lundy, James T., First-Centenary U.M.C., Chattanooga, TN** 20811-MN-435.3-D The Order of Elder

**Lydick, Howard +33 other Individuals & 1 Adm. Bd., First UMC, Richardson, TX** 22035-IC-NonDis-OS Establish a Standing General Commission on Alcohol and Drugs

**Lydick, Howard L., First UMC, Richardson, TX** 21537-GJ-803-D Amenability and Program Accountability

**Lydick, Howard L., First UMC, Richardson, TX** 21547-MN-2623.1-D Chargeable Offenses

**Lydick, Howard L., First UMC, Richardson, TX** 21554-GJ-NonDis-O Relocation of the General Board of Global Ministries

**Lydick, Howard L., First UMC, Richardson, TX** 22048-MN-404.4-D The Certified Candidate

**Lydick, Howard L., First UMC, Richardson, TX** 22198-CO-NonDis-O Use Standard English in The Book of Discipline

**Lydick, Howard L., First UMC, Richardson, TX** 22222-DI-NonDis-O Include the Hymn "Eternal Father, Strong To Save" in the Next Printing of the U.M. Hymnal

**Lydick, Howard L., First UMC, Richardson, TX** 22223-DI-NonDis-O Include The 2nd. Verse of "America The Beautiful" in the Next Printing of the U. M. Hymnal

**Lydick, Howard L., First UMC, Richardson, TX** 22224-DI-NonDis-O Omit the 4th. Verse of the Hymn "Praise To The Lord, The Almighty" in the Printing of the Hymnal

**Lydick, Howard L., First UMC, Richardson, TX** 22225-DI-NonDis-O Regarding the Service of Holy Communion

**Lydick, Howard L., First UMC, Richardson, TX** 22356-CO-NonDis-O Commend Rev. Donald E. Wildmon

**March, Susan, Amboy UMC, Amboy, IN** 22604-MN-1529-D Responsibilities of the Division of Ordained Ministry

**MARCHA** 22704-CS-NonDis-O Resolution for Economic Development of Puerto Rico

**MARCHA** 22706-CO-NonDis-O Resolution in Support of the Rio Grande Conference

**MARCHA** 22708-GJ-NonDis-O In Support of the General Council on Ministries

**MARCHA** 22711-GM-NonDis-O In Oppositio of Building a Radar in the Lajas Valley and the Town of Vieques, Puerto Rico

**MARCHA** 22712-GM-NonDis-O Encounter with Christ in Latin America and the Caribbean

**MARCHA** 22713-GM-NonDis-O Free the Puerto Rican Political Prisoners

**MARCHA** 22714-GM-NonDis-O Proposition 187 of California

**MARCHA** 22788-HE-NonDis-O! Funding the Evangelical Seminary of Puerto Rico

**MARCHA** 22810-IC-NonDis-O Institutional Racism in General Church Processes

**Marsh, Susan D., Amboy UMC, Amboy, IN** 22585-CS-72-D Rights of the Unborn

**Martin, James, Zion UMC, Adell, WI** 20823-FA-NonDis-O The Annual Salary of Bishops

**Martin, James, Zion United Methodist Church, Adell, WI** 20787-DI-NonDis-O The Washing of Feet

**Martin, James, Zion United Methodist Church, Adell, WI** 20788-DI-NonDis-OS Establish a General Board of Evangelism

**Martin, James, Zion United Methodist Church, Adell, WI** 20804-MN-NonDis-O Pastoral Changes

**Martin, James, Zion United Methodist Church, Adell, WI** 20806-MN-NonDis-O Selecting the District Superintendent

**Martin, James, Zion UMC, Adell, WI,** 23014-CO-NonDis-O The Election Procedures for Bishops

**Martin, James, Zion UMC, Adell, WI,** 23013-CO-NonDis-O General Conference Legislative Committees

**Martin, James, Zion UMC, Adell, WI,** 23012-CO-NonDis-O Lay Persons Responsibilities at General Conference

**Martin, James, Zion UMC, Adell, WI,** 23011-CO-NonDis-O Responsibilities of Bishops at General Conference

**Martin, James, Zion UMC, Adell, WI,** 23015-CO-NonDis-O Jurisdictions and Jurisdictional Conferences

**Martin, James, Zion UMC, Adell, WI,** 23010-CO-NonDis-O General Conference Sessions

**Martin, James, Zion UMC, Adell, WI,** 23009-CO-NonDis-O Delegates Expenses to Conferences

**Martin, James, Zion UMC, Adell, WI,** 23020-LC-NonDis-O Chair of the Local Church Nominating Committee

**Martin, James, Zion UMC, Adell, WI,** 23016-CO-NonDis-O Annual Conference Membership

**Martin, James, Zion UMC, Adell, WI,** 23017-CO-NonDis-O Voting Rights of Pastors

**Martin, James, Zion UMC, Adell, WI,** 23018-GJ-NonDis-O Chairpersons of Boards and Agencies

**Martin, Wilber Jarold, Oswego Prairie UMC, Montgomery, IL** 20989-DI-279.1-D Local Church Lay Speaker

**Martineau, Larry W., NAK** 20878-DI-745.2-D Membership of the Conference Council on Youth Ministry

**Mayhugh, W. Michael, NTX** 22146-LC-2534.5-D Permanent Endowment Fund Committee

**Mayo, Robert, WMI** 20109-DI-NonDis-O Development of Bible Distribution Ministries within the United Methodist Church

**McCullough, June D., Audubon UMC, Audubon, NJ** 22418-MN-513.5-D Complaints prepared by the Review Committee

**McCullough, June D., Audubon UMC, Audubon, NJ** 22477-GJ-810.3-D Eligibility for Election to General Agencies

**McDonald, Pat, First UMC, Bridgeport, TX** 20900-LC-NonDis-O Day Care Facilities

**McGinley, A.T + 7 other individuals & 1 Adm. Bd., Findlay, OH** 22525-IC-NonDis-O$ Churches in Covenant Communion: The Church of Christ Uniting

**McGonegal, Donal, White Stone UMC, White Stone, VA** 20981-CS-72-D Rights of Racial and Ethnic Persons

**McGonegal, Donal, White Stone UMC, White Stone, VA** 20982-CS-74-D Criminal Justice

**McGonegal, Donal, White Stone UMC, White Stone, VA** 20983-CS-74-D Military Service

**McIntyre, Alan, OKL** 22529-LC-216.1-D Admission into the Church

**McNaughton, John, WMI** 20972-CS-71-D Reconciling Congregations

**Methodist Federation For Social Action, CPA, 2, Churches** 20886-GJ-NonDis-O Relocation of the General Board of Global Ministries

**Methodist Federation for Social Action, CPA, Harrisburg, PA** 20857-CS-NonDis-O Clinic Violence

**Methodist Federation For Social Action, CPA, Harrisburg, PA** 20858-CS-NonDis-O Use of "The Church Studies Homosexuality"

**Methodist Federation For Social Action, CPA** 20836-FA-722.12-D Shared Salary Plan Option

**Methodist Federation For Social Action, CPA** 20843-MN-304.1-D Candidacy for Diaconal Ministry

**Methodist Federation for Social Action, CPA** 20859-CS-R536-U Gun Violence

**Methodist Federation For Social Action, CPA** 20860-GM-NonDis-O Opposition to Abusive Treatment Methods of Persons with Mental Disabilities

**Methodist Federation for Social Action, CPA** 20861-CS-NonDis-O Tobacco Marketing by Philip Morris and RJR Nabisco

**Methodist Federation for Social Action, CPA** 20863-CS-R634-U Recognition of Cuba

**Methodist Federation for Social Action, CPA** 20865-CS-71-D Human Sexuality

**Methodist Federation for Social Action, CPA** 20866-CS-73-D Right to a Job

**Methodist Federation for Social Action, CPA** 20868-CS-72-D Basic Human Rights

**Methodist Federation For Social Action, CPA** 20876-DI-NonDis-O Affirming Our Theological Task

**Methodist Federation For Social Action, CPA** 20887-GJ-NonDis-O The Church and God's Creation

**Methodist Federation for Social Action, CPA** 20888-GJ-NonDis-O$ Meetings and a U. S. Convocation on "Heterosexism And The Mission of The Church"

**Methodist Federation For Social Action, CPA** 20895-IC-NonDis-O Concerning Names Demeaning to Native Americans

**Methodist Federation for Social Action, CPA** 20896-IC-NonDis-O Reaffirmation of the Ecumenical Decade in Solidarity with Women

**Methodist Federation for Social Action, CPA** 20897-IC-NonDis-O Racism Today

**Methodist Federation for Social Action, NYK** 22410-DI-NonDis-O A United Methodist Alternative to Promise Keepers

**Methodist Federation for Social Action, NYK** 22411-DI-NonDis-O Affirming our Theological Task

**Methodist Federation for Social Action, NYK** 22423-IC-2101-D Affirming the Commission on Religion and Race

**Methodist Federation for Social Action, NYK** 22424-IC-2201-D Affirming the Commission on the Status and Role of Women

**Methodist Federation for Social Action, NYK** 22425-IC-R580-U Holy Land Tours

**Methodist Federation for Social Action, NYK** 22426-IC-NonDis-O Racism Today

**Methodist Federation for Social Action, NYK** 22427-IC-NonDis-O Concerning Names Demeaning to Native Americans

**Methodist Federation for Social Action, NYK** 22454-CS-NonDis-O Call for a Rebirth of Compassion

**Methodist Federation for Social Action, NYK** 22456-CS-NonDis-O Use of The Church Studies Homosexuality

**Methodist Federation for Social Action, NYK** 22461-CS-NonDis-O A National Health Care Program

**Methodist Federation for Social Action, NYK** 22462-CS-NonDis-O Affirming the Household EcoTeam Program

**Methodist Federation for Social Action, NYK** 22464-CS-R536-U Gun Violence

**Methodist Federation for Social Action, NYK** 22465-CS-NonDis-O World-Wide Abolition of Nuclear Weapons by the Year 2000

**Methodist Federation for Social Action, NYK** 22468-FA-723-D Shared Salary Plan Option

**Methodist Federation for Social Action, NYK** 22505-CS-NonDis-O Jerusalem

**Methodist Federation for Social Action, NYK** 22508-CS-NonDis-O Abundant Living - Sustainabler Lifestyle

**Methodist Federation for Social Action, NYK** 22518-GJ-NonDis-O$ A U.S. Convocation on "Heterosexism and the Mission of the Church"

**Methodist Federation for Social Action, NYK** 22519-GM-R634-U Recognition of Cuba

**Methodist Federation for Social Action, NYK** 22521-GM-NonDis-O The U.S. Agricultural Crisis

**Methodist Federation for Social Action, NYK** 22526-IC-NonDis-O Reaffirmation of the Ecumenical Decade in Solidarity with Women

**Methodist Federation for Social Action, NYK** 22533-LC-2533-D Local Church Energy Audit

**Methodist Federation for Social Action, NYK** 22589-MN-404.4-D Regarding Fidelity

**Methodist Federation for Social Action, WOH** 22475-FA-722.12-D Equitable Compensation

**Methodist Federation for Social Action, WOH** 22503-CS-NonDis-O Boycott Phillip Morris & R.J.R. Nabisco

**Methodist Federation for Social Action, WOH** 22504-CS-NonDis-O Use of The Church Study on Homosexuality

**Methodist Federation for Social Action, WOH** 22507-CS-NonDis-O Global Economy and the Environment

**Methodist Federation for Social Action, WOH** 22509-CS-NonDis-O A Resolution on Reducing Gun Violence

**Methodist Federation for Social Action, WOH** 22515-DI-NonDis-O A Renewal Faithful to Our Heritage

**Methodist Federation for Social Action, WOH** 22522-GM-NonDis-O United States Relations with Cuba

**Methodist Federation for Social Action, WOH** 22531-LC-248.13-D Powers and Duties of the Charge Conference

**Methodist Federation for Social Action** 22415-MN-402.2-D Not Define "Self-Avowed Practicing Homosexual"

**Methodist Federation for Social Action** 22416-MN-304.1-D Regarding Fidelity

**Methodist Federation for Social Action** 22445-CS-72-D Basic Human Rights

**Methodist Federation for Social Action** 22446-CS-73-D Right to a Job: Work and Leisure

**Methodist Federation for Social Action** 22447-CS-72-D The Rights of Sexual Minorities

**Methodist Federation for Social Action** 22471-FA-907.3-D General Agency Energy Audits

**Methodist Federation for Social Action** 22472-FA-2513-D Conference Trustees Energy Audits

**Methodist Federation for Social Action** 22473-FA-2518-D District Trustees Energy Audit

**Methodist Federation for Social Action** 22474-FA-NonDis-O$ A Budget to Sustain the Church's Mission

**Methodist Federation for Social Action** 22476-FA-NonDis-O Adequate Funding for Racial/Ethnic Minority Programs

**Methodist Federation for Social Action** 22478-GJ-NonDis-O$ Quadrennium of the Worker

**Methodist Federation for Social Action** 22485-GM-NonDis-O Abusive Treatment Methods for Persons with Mental Disabilities

**Methodist Federation for Social Action** 22489-GM-NonDis-O The Church's Response to Ethnic and Religious Conflict

**Methodist Federation for Social Action,** 22898-CS-R235-U Tobacco Marketing by Phillip Morris and RJR Nabisco

**Methodist Federation for Social Action,** 22902-GJ-NonDis-O The Church and God's Creation

**Methodist United for Peace with Justice** 21373-MN-NDis-O "Nuclear Abolition"

**Methodist United for Peace with Justice** 22220-DI-NonDis-O Curriculum on Nonviolent Action and Peaceful Conflict Resolution

**MFSA, WOH BGM, 2 Churches and 19 Individuals,** 22891-GJ-NonDis-O Location of the General Board of Global Ministries

**MFSA, 2 Adm. Councils/Groups & 45 Individuals,** 22873-CS-71-D Human Sexuality

**Michael, Greg, Northville UMC, Northville, MI** 22251-FA-NonDis-O Establishing a Relationship with a Major Credit Card Company

**Milloy, Peter F., MNN** 21529-MN-513.5-D Complaints Against Bishops

**Milloy, Peter, MNN** 20092-LC-225-D Confirmation without vows of full membership

**Mission, C & S Committee and Adm. Council, St. Paul and St. Andrew UMC, New York, NY** 22510-CS-NonDis-OS A Reconciling Denomination

**Mission, C & S Committee and The Adm. Council, St. Paul and St. Andrew UMC, New York, NY** 22527-IC-R242-U Ecumenical Decade: Churches in Solidarity with Women

**Mission, Church & Society and The Adm. Council, St. Paul and St. Andrew UMC, New York, NY** 22408-DI-NonDis-O Creation of Commitment Ceremonies for Same-Sex Couples within the United Methodist Church

**Mission, Church & Society Committee and Adm. C., Church of St. Paul and St. Andrew UMC, New York, NY,** 22892-GJ-NonDis-O For the General Board of Global Ministries to Remain in New York

**Mission and Outreach Cluster, Dumbarton UMC, Washington, DC,** 22889-CS-NonDis-O Campaign Finance Reform in the United States

**Missions & Concerns Cte., St. John's of Baltimore, City, 2 additional Churches and 1 Sunday School, Class** 21003-GJ-4-C Inclusiveness of the Church

**Missions and Social Concerns Committee, Church of the Redeemer UMC, Cleveland Heights, OH** 20974-CS-71-D Human Sexuality

**MNN, NIL** 20206-FA-906.12-D Fair and Inclusive Treatment of Persons of Homosexual Orientation

**MNN** 20014-FA-737.4-D Propositional payment

**MNN** 20028-IC-NonDis-O Healing the Wounds of Genocidal Acts toward Native American and African American People

**MNN** 20038-MN-314-D Grievance procedures for Diaconal Ministers

**MNN** 20142-MN-454.1-D Congregation Notification and Extension of Clergy Suspension

**MNN** 20143-MN-454.1-D Joint Review Committee

**MNN** 20144-MN-454.1-D Notification of Congregation

**MNN** 20145-MN-454.1-D Declaration of Lost Credentials

**MNN** 20196-CS-71-D Fair and Inclusive Treatment of Persons of Homosexual Orientation

**MNN** 20202-CO-609-D Omission of Unconstitutional Clauses: Editing

**MNN** 20203-CO-611.2-D The Book of Resolution

**MNN** 20211-MN-2616-D Omission of unconstitutional clauses: Notification

**MNN** 20212-MN-2622.2-D Notice of Hearing

**MNN** 20213-MN-2622-D Advocate or Counsel in a Fair Process

**MNN** 20217-MN-2623-D Chargeable Offenses

**MNN** 20225-MN-NonDis-OS Ordained Ministry in the 21st. Century

**MNN** 20227-LC-248.19-D Powers and Duties of a Charge Conference

**MNN** 20245-LC-270.1-D Local Church Committee on Nominations and Personnel

**MNN** 21516-MN-426.2-D Ministers from Other Denominations

**MOE & MOW Structure Task Force of Reorientation, Columbia, MO** 22633-FA-709.6-D Amenability of the Annual Conference Council on Finance and Administration

**MOE, MOW** 20067-CO-726-D Flexibility in Annual Conference structure

**Morris, Paul B., Dr., WPA** 22829-MN-411-D Counseling Elders

**MOW & MOE Structure Task Force on Reorientation, Columbia, MO** 22634-FA-710-D Responsibilities of the Council on Finance and Administration

**MOW, MOE, NYK** 20086-IC-739-D Conference Commission /Committee on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns

**MOW, MOE** 20050-DI-729-D Flexibility in Annual Conference Structure

**MOW, MOE** 20068-CO-747-D Committee on Ministry

**MOW, MOE** 20069-CO-752-D District Council on Ministries

**MOW, MOE** 20079-GM-731-D The Responsibilities of the Board of Global Ministries

**MOW, MOE** 20081-HE-732-D Responsibilities of the Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry

**MOW, MOE** 20085-IC-738.1-D Flexibility in Annual Conference Structure

**MOW, MOE** 20088-IC-740-D Conference Commission on Religion and Race

**MOW, MOE** 20089-IC-741-D Flexibility in Annual Conference structure

**MOW, MOE** 20090-IC-742-D Responsibilities of a Commission on the Small Membership Church

**MOW, MOE, NYK** 20072-GJ-748-D Flexibility in Annual Conference structure

**MOW, MOE** 20008-CS-728-D Flexibility in Annual Conference Structure

**MOW, MOE** 20051-DI-730-D Flexibility in Annual Conference Structure

**MOW** 20105-LC-2549-D Retiring United Methodist Churches

**MOW** 20236-GJ-NonDis-OS A Quadrennium of The Worker and Ministries to Working People and The Workplace

**MS** 21733-MN-101-D Ministry of all Christians

**MS** 21734-MN-101-D Our Spiritual Forbears

**MS** 21735-MN-103-D Servants of Christ

**MS** 21736-MN-104-D The Heart of Christian Ministry

**MS** 21737-MN-105-D The Ministry of All Christians

**MS** 21738-MN-106-D The General Ministry of All Christians

**MS** 21739-MN-111-D One Ministry in Christ

**MS** 21740-MN-112-D The Journey of a Connectional People

**MS** 21741-MN-109-D Connectionalism in United Methodist Tradition

**MS** 21742-MN-108-D Servant Ministry and Servant Leadership

**MS** 21743-MN-110-D The Ministry of All Christians

**MS** 21744-MN-111-D Offices of Elder and Deacon

**MS** 21745-MN-112-D Servant Ministry

**MS** 21746-MN-112-D Christian Discipleship

**MS** 21747-MN-113-D Our Relationship With God

**MS** 21748-MN-114-D Our Relationship with Christ in the World

**MS** 21749-MN-108-D Servant Leadership

**MS** 21750-MN-108-D Servant Leadership

**MS** 21751-MN-116-D The Office of Lay Ministry Steward

**MS** 21752-MN-110-D Ordained Ministry

**MS** 21753-MN-113-D Called to Inclusiveness

**MS** 21754-MN-113-D Called to Inclusiveness

**MS** 21755-MN-114-D The Fulfillment of Ministry Through The United Methodist Church

**MS** 21756-MN-114-D Fulfillment of Ministry

**MS** 21757-MN-201-D The Office of Lay Ministry Steward

**MS** 21758-MN-201-D Congregations as Covenant Communities

**MS** 21759-MN-202-D The Purpose of Christian Discipleship

**MS** 21760-MN-202-D Christian Discipleship

**MS** 21761-MN-203-D Christian Formation

**MS** 21762-MN-204-D The Nature of the Office of Lay Ministry Steward

**MS** 21763-MN-204-D The Nature of the Office of Lay Ministry Steward

**MS** 21764-MN-205-D Qualities Desired in a Lay Ministry Steward

**MS** 21765-MN-205-D The Gifts of the Lay Ministry Steward

**MS** 21766-MN-206-D The Exercise of the Office of Lay Ministry Steward

**MS** 21767-MN-206-D Servant Leadership Roles of the Lay Ministry Steward

**MS** 21768-MN-207-D Entrance Procedures for Lay Ministry Stewards

**MS** 21769-MN-301-D Relation to the Ministry of All Christians

**MS** 21770-MN-302-D The Nature of Diaconal Ministry

**MS** 21771-MN-303-D Entrance into Diaconal Ministry

**MS** 21772-MN-304-D Candidacy for Diaconal Ministry

**MS** 21773-MN-305-D Continuation of Candidacy

**MS** 21774-MN-306-D Completion of Candidacy

**MS** 21775-MN-307-D Consecration

**MS** 21776-MN-308-D General Provisions

**MS** 21777-MN-309-D Rights of Diaconal Ministers

**MS** 21778-MN-310-D Service Appointment of Diaconal Ministers

**MS** 21779-MN-311-D Credentials and Records

**MS** 21780-MN-312-D Transfers

**MS** 21781-MN-313-D Change in Charge Conference Relationship

**MS** 21782-MN-314-D Relationship to the Charge Conference

**MS** 21783-MN-315-D Relationship to Employing Agency

**MS** 21784-MN-316-D Review of Diaconal Minister's Performance

**MS** 21785-MN-317-D Termination Procedures

**MS** 21786-MN-429-D Ordination and Apostolic Ministry

**MS** 21787-MN-430-D The Purpose of Ordination

MS 21788-MN-431-D Qualifications for Ordination
MS 21789-MN-432-D The Act of Ordination
MS 21790-MN-433-D Classification of Ordination
MS 21791-MN-434-D The Order of Deacon
MS 21792-MN-435-D The Order of Elder
MS 21793-MN-401-D Relation of Ordained Ministers to Ministry of All Christians
MS 21794-MN-402-D Ministry of Word, Sacrament, and Order
MS 21795-MN-403-D Wesley's Questions
MS 21796-MN-404-D Candidacy for Ordained Ministry
MS 21797-MN-405-D Continuation of Candidacy
MS 21798-MN-406-D Authority and Duties of Local Pastor
MS 21799-MN-407-D License as a Local Pastor
MS 21800-MN-408-D Categories of Local Pastor
MS 21801-MN-409-D Continuance as a Local Pastor
MS 21802-MN-410-D Existing, Reinstatement, and Retirement of Local Pastor
MS 21803-MN-411-D Counseling Elders
MS 21804-MN-412-D General Provisions
MS 21805-MN-413-D Eligibility and Rights of Probationary Membership
MS 21806-MN-414-D Qualifications for Election to Probationary Membership
MS 21807-MN-415-D Educational Requirements
MS 21808-MN-416-D Special Conditions
MS 21809-MN-417-D Continuation in Probationary Membership
MS 21810-MN-418-D Discontinuance from Probationary Membership
MS 21811-MN-419-D Eligibility and Rights of Associate Members
MS 21812-MN-420-D Requirements for Election as Associate Members
MS 21813-MN-421-D Progression into Full Membership
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MS 21827-MN-311-D Purpose for an Order
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MS 21829-MN-313-D Membership in an Order
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MS 21831-MN-315-D Relation to the Ministry of All Christians
MS 21832-MN-316-D The Ministry of Deacons
MS 21833-MN-317-D Qualifications for Ordination as Deacon
MS 21834-MN-318-D The Ordained Deacon as Probationary Member
MS 21835-MN-318-D Meaning of Ordination
MS 21836-MN-319-D Probationary Service of A Deacon
MS 21837-MN-320-D Eligibility and Rights of Probationary Membership
MS 21838-MN-321-D The Ordained Deacon in Full Connection
MS 21839-MN-321-D Ministry, Authority and Responsibilities of Deacons in Full Connection
MS 21840-MN-322-D Requirements for Admission of Deacon in Full Connection
MS 21841-MN-323-D Appointment of Deacons in Full Connection to Various Ministries
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MS 21856-MN-426-D Clergy from Other Annual Conferences and Denominations
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MS 21866-MN-411-D Mentors
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MS 21869-MN-421-D Progression into Full Membership
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MS 21873-MN-444-D Evaluation
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MS 21885-MN-455-D Readmission to Probationary Membership
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MS 21889-MN-459-D Readmission After Involuntary Retirement
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MS 21891-MN-412-D General Provisions
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**NEB** 20251-DI-280-D Membership/Lay participation

**NEB** 20252-DI-1202.1-D Incorporate Membership/Lay Paricipation

**NEB** 20258-MN-454.1-D Regarding Joint Review Committee Evidence

**NEB** 20263-CS-74-D The Political Community. Add H) Cultural Violence

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**NEB** 20270-FA-NonDis-O Comprehensive Protection Plan Contributions

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**NEB** 20278-MN-NonDis-O The Permanent Diaconate

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**NEB** 20749-CS-71-D Abortion

**NEN** 20250-DI-NonDis-O Baptism and Confirmation: Amend the study "By Water and the Spirit."

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**NGA** 20183-GM-NonDis-O$ Establish an Office on Hunger and a Hunger Challenge Fund

**NGA** 20751-GJ-800-D$ Committee on Audit and Review

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**Spady, R.+ Cate, Wm. & Jan, + Ellington, + Harding,Joe + 40 Lay Members & Adm C. St. Peters UMC, Seattle, WA** 22705-CO-610-D Speaking for the Church

**Spencer, Gordon, OKL** 22075-MN-439.1-D Responsibilities and Duties of a Pastor

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**United Methodist Appalachian Development Committee** 22483-GJ-NonDis-O Program Funds of the General Board of Global Ministries

**United Methodist Men Foundation, Madill, OK** 20880-DI-1223-D United Methodist Men

**United Methodist Men Foundation, Waymire, Dale, Pres., Madil, OK, Adams, David C., Nashville, TN** 20712-DI-NonDis-OS General Commission on United Methodist Men

**United Methodist Rural Fellowship + Elliott, Dirk, WOH** 22236-FA-722-D Basic Salary Plan - Option for Annual Conference

**United Methodist Rural Fellowship +Paige, Margaret, WMI** 22176-CO-702-D Voting Rights for Clergy Members

**United Methodist Rural Fellowship +Paige, Margaret** 22284-GM-NonDis-O Rural Life Regional Centers

**United Methodist Rural Fellowship +Paige, Margaret** 22436-LC-206-D Strengthening Cooperative Ministries through Training and Funding

**United Methodist Rural Fellowship +Paige, Margaret** 22437-LC-208-D Study of Local Church Potential

**United Methodist Rural Fellowship, National** 21519-GJ-277.3-D Setting the Annual Theme for Rural Life Sunday

**United Methodist Rural Fellowship, National** 21528-MN-509-D Termination of Office — Bishop

**United Methodist Rural Fellowship, National** 21531-MN-733.1-D Board of Ordained Ministry - Associate Member

**United Methodist Rural Fellowship, National** 21536-GJ-802.6-D Fostering Greater Awareness of Cooperative Ministries among all General Boards and Agencies

**United Methodist Rural Fellowship, National** 21542-GJ-1007.1-D Length of Service on General Council on Ministries

**United Methodist Rural Fellowship, Pigeon, MI** 22020-IC-742-D Small Membership Church Commission

**United Methodist Rural Fellowship, WMI** 22038-MN-53-C Limitation of Tenure for Bishops

**United Methodist Rural Fellowship, WMI** 22050-MN-407.5-D Local Pastor - Physical Evaluation

**United Methodist Rural Fellowship, WMI** 22051-MN-408.2-D Definition of Part-Time Local Pastors

**United Methodist Rural Fellowship, WMI** 22057-MN-416.2-D Special Conditions for Admission to Probationary Membership

**United Methodist Rural Fellowship, WMI** 22059-MN-419-D Rights of Associate Members

**United Methodist Rural Fellowship, WMI** 22061-MN-421-D Progression to Full Membership for Associate Members

**United Methodist Rural Fellowship, WMI** 22065-MN-424.3-D Associate Members Prior to Elimination of Category

**United Methodist Rural Fellowship, WMI** 22066-MN-426.4-D Ordained Ministers from Other Nations - Affiliate Members

**United Methodist Rural Fellowship, WMI** 22069-MN-435-D Order of Elder and Elimination of Category of Associate Member

**United Methodist Rural Fellowship, WMI** 22071-MN-437-D Part-Time or Bi-Vocational Ministry

**United Methodist Rural Fellowship, WMI** 22073-MN-439-D Duties of a Pastor: Community Context

**United Methodist Rural Fellowship, WMI** 22080-MN-514-D Specific Responsibilities of Bishops

**United Methodist Rural Fellowship, WMI** 22081-MN-517-D Assignment of District Superintendent to Area-Wide Responsibilities

**United Methodist Rural Fellowship** 21545-MN-532-D Community Context in Appointment Making

**United Methodist Rural Fellowship** 22096-MN-756-D Committee on Ordained Ministry - Associate Member

**United Methodist Rural Fellowship** 22099-MN-1528-D Division of Ordained Ministry - Laity as Members

**United Methodist Rural Fellowship** 22106-LC-207.5-D Churches in Transitional Communities

**United Methodist Rural Fellowship** 22117-LC-248.13-D Enabling Legislation for Basic Salary Plan Option- The Charge Conference

**United Methodist Rural Fellowship** 22118-LC-253.2-D Clarification of Responsibilities of the Chairperson of Outreach Ministries

**United Methodist Rural Fellowship** 22121-LC-257.3-D Enabling Legislation for Basic Salary Plan Option- The Administrative Board

**United Methodist Rural Fellowship** 22123-LC-262.2-D Responsibilities of Work Area Chairperson of Church and Society

**United Methodist Rural Fellowship** 22129-LC-264-D Program Agencies: Involvement in Community Ministries

**United Methodist Rural Fellowship** 22130-LC-264.1-D The Church School and Non-Violence

**United Methodist Rural Fellowship** 22137-LC-270.2-D Enabling Legislation for Basic Salary Plan Option- Committee on Pastor-Parish Relations

**United Methodist Rural Fellowship** 22138-LC-270.2-D Responsibilities of Pastor-Parish (Staff-Parish) Relations Committees Regarding Lay Preachers

**United Methodist Rural Fellowship** 22151-LC-2551-D Study of Local Church Potential

**United Methodist Rural Fellowship** 22157-CO-38-C Election & Eligibility of Clergy Delegates to General, Jurisdictional or Central Conference

**United Methodist Rural Fellowship** 22159-CO-505-D Number of Bishops in Jurisdictions

**United Methodist Rural Fellowship** 22161-CO-506.2-D Election of Bishops and Limited Tenure

**United Methodist Rural Fellowship** 22174-CO-612.1-D Interjurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy and Number of Bishops in Jurisdictions

**United Methodist Rural Fellowship** 22180-CO-707.4-D Membership on Annual Conference Councils, Boards & Agencies

**United Methodist Rural Fellowship** 22182-CO-726.2-D Annual Conference Council on Ministries Membership

**United Methodist Rural Fellowship** 22184-CO-726.10-D Responsibilities of Annual Conference Council on Ministries

**United Methodist Rural Fellowship** 22189-CO-752.2-D Membership in District Council on Ministries

**United Methodist Rural Fellowship** 22204-DI-1202.4-D Board of Discipleship Responsibilities

**United Methodist Rural Fellowship** 22206-DI-1218.5-D Christian Formation Responsibilities

**United Methodist Rural Fellowship** 22221-DI-1218.4-D Christian Formation Responsibilities - EUB Traditions

**United Methodist Rural Fellowship** 22228-FA-709.2-D Membership on Annual Conference Council on Finance & Administration

**United Methodist Rural Fellowship** 22233-FA-718-D Enabling Legislation for Basic Salary Plan - Clergy Support

**United Methodist Rural Fellowship** 22234-FA-719-D Enabling Legislation for Basic Salary Plan Option -Proportional Payments

**United Methodist Rural Fellowship** 22235-FA-720-D Enabling Legislation for Basic Salary Plan Option - Clergy Base Compensation

**United Methodist Rural Fellowship** 22245-FA-925-D Enabling Legislation for Basic Salary Plan - Option Episcopal Fund

**United Methodist Rural Fellowship** 22247-FA-NonDis-O The Book of Resolutions in Computer Readable Format

**United Methodist Rural Fellowship** 22255-FA-NonDis-O$ General Conference Budget

**United Methodist Rural Fellowship** 22275-HE-NonDis-O$ Funding Seminary Education

**United Methodist Rural Fellowship** 22276-HE-NonDis-O$ Chair of Town and Country Ministries at Each Seminary

**United Methodist Rural Fellowship** 22277-HE-NonDis-O Consistency in Language in The Book of Discipline Regarding Pastors/Clergy Members

**United Methodist Rural Fellowship** 22279-GM-731.4-D Disaster Response Coordinator

**United Methodist Rural Fellowship** 22280-GM-731.5-D Conference Parish & Development Committee

**United Methodist Rural Fellowship** 22282-GM-1460-D Training of Disaster Response Coordinators: Responsibility of U.M.C.O.R.

**United Methodist Rural Fellowship** 22285-GM-NonDis-O Affirming Rural Chaplaincy

**United Methodist Rural Fellowship** 22286-GM-NonDis-O National Mission Personnel

**United Methodist Rural Fellowship** 22287-GM-NonDis-O Office of Town and Country Ministries and Office of Urban Ministries

**United Methodist Rural Fellowship** 22288-GM-R204-U The Church's Response to Changing Rural Issues

**United Methodist Rural Fellowship** 22289-GM-NonDis-O Rural Crisis in the USA: Special Emphasis

**United Methodist Rural Fellowship** 22290-GM-R157-U An Affirmation of Basic Rural Worth

**United Methodist Rural Fellowship** 22292-GM-NonDis-O Appalachia: God's Face Toward the Mountains

**United Methodist Rural Fellowship** 22294-GM-NonDis-O$ Continuation of the Shalom Initiative

**United Methodist Rural Fellowship** 22319-CS-72-D The Social Community: Rural Life

**United Methodist Rural Fellowship** 22331-CS-728.4-D Annual Conference Board of Church and Society Responsibilities

**United Methodist Rural Fellowship** 22388-MN-756.5-D District Committee on Ordained Ministry and Lay Preacher

**United Methodist Rural Fellowship** 22403-DI-282-D Lay Preacher

**United Methodist Rural Fellowship** 22420-MN-520-D District Superintendent and Lay Preacher: Supervision

**United Methodist Rural Fellowship** 22421-MN-521-D The District Superintendent and the Lay Preacher: Personnel

**United Methodist Rural Fellowship** 22429-IC-NonDis-O Support "Racism in Rural Areas" Task Force Report

**United Methodist Rural Fellowship** 22430-IC-NonDis-O Designate "The Elimination of Racism in Its Many Forms" as a Special Emphasis for 1997-2000

**United Methodist Rural Fellowship** 22479-GJ-NonDis-O Staffing of General Boards and Agencies

**United Methodist Rural Fellowship** 22520-GM-R87-U U.S. Agriculture and Rural Communities in Crisis

**United Methodist Rural Fellowship** 22523-HE-1531-D Schools of Theology and Small Membership Churches

**United Methodist Women, First UMC, Roswell, NM** 22858-MN-NonDis-O Resolution on the Re-Imaging Conference

**United Methodist Women, LRK UMW +11 Other Conf. UMW, 3 Dist. 20 Local Unit, and 20 individuals** 20087-GM-NOND-O Affirm to Continue Giving through the Proper Channels of United Methodist Women

**United Methodist Women, St. James UMC, St. James, MN** 22131-LC-264.6-D Raffles of Handicraft Products

**Upper Room Sunday School Class, Central UMC, Fitzgerald, GA** 22514-DI-NonDis-O Re-Affirm the Historic Foundation of United Methodist

**Van Giesen, David L., MOW** 22083-MN-518-D Limitations on Years of Service

**Van Giesen, David L., MOW** 22205-DI-1217-D Leadership and Ministry Development Responsibilities

**Van Giesen, David L., MOW** 22226-DI-282.2-D Lay Preacher

**Vieira, Gilbert H., CNV** 20869-CO-NonDis-O Annual Conference Voting by Retired Clergy

**VIR** 20011-CS-71-D Family Violence and Abuse

**VIR** 20205-CO-703.2-D Timing of Conferences

**VIR** 20220-GM-1411.3-D Reaffirmation of Bishop's Working Group on Mission

**VIR** 20247-HE-NonDis-O Guidelines for Sexual Misconduct Policies

**Virginia Annual Conference Board of Laity** 22433-CO-36-C Voting Rights of the Annual Conference

**Voice for Life, South Georgia Annual Conference** 22730-CS-NonDis-OS Establishment of a Ministry Promoting the Sanctity of Human Life

**Walter, Duane and Diane, Lakewood UMC, Sunfield, MI** 22062-MN-421-D Admission and Continuance of Full Membership in the Order of Elder

**Walter, Duane and Diane, Lakewood UMC, Sunfield, MI** 22068-MN-435-D Admission and Continuance of Full Membership in the Annual Conference and the Order of Elder

**Wasson, William, MOW** 22076-MN-445-D Continuing Education and Spiritual Growth

**Welton, Marilyn, Grand Avenue UMC, Crowder, OK** 22780-GM-NonDis-OS Ministry to Persons Who have Mental Illness

**West Ohio Conference MFSA,** 22905-IC-NonDis-O Racism Today

**West Ohio Conference MFSA,** 22904-GM-NonDis-O Opposition to Abusive Treatment Methods of Persons with Mental Disabilities

**Wheat, Frank, MSS** 22442-LC-270.2-D Committee on Pastor-Parish Relations

**White, Charles, Jr., Western North Carolina Annual Conference** 20752-MN-448-D Leave of Absence

**White, Michael L, AFL** 22217-DI-NonDis-O A United Methodist Creed

**White, Michael L., AFL** 22034-IC-NonDis-O A United Methodist Presence on The Internet

**White, Michael L., AFL** 22041-MN-402.2-D Human Sexuality

**White, Michael L., AFL** 22172-CO-610.1-D Accountability for United Methodist Agencies/ Officials

**White, Michael L., AFL** 22241-FA-906.1-D A Uniform Church-Wide Apportionment Formula

**White, Michael L., AFL** 22340-CS-NonDis-O An Official Denominational Stance on Homosexuality

**White, Michael L., AFL** 22571-LC-230-D Care of Members

**White, Michael L., AFL** 22572-LC-232.1-D Membership Records and Reports

**White, Michael L., AFL** 22823-MN-402-D Clergy Members as Employees of the Annual Conference

**Whitfield, D. Max, LRK** 20817-MN-454-D Complaints

**Whitfield, D. Max, LRK** 21031-LC-252-D Committee on Pastor-Parish Relations

**Whitfield, D. Max, LRK** 22148-LC-2541.2-D Voting of Members of the Local Church Property Committee

**Whitfield, D. Max, LRK** 22149-LC-2544.7-D Voting of the Membership of the Building Committee

**Whitfield, D. Max, LRK** 22178-CO-703.7-D Organization of the Annual Conference

**Widmer, Scott & Members, First UMC, Elysburg, PA, WPA** 22463-CS-NonDis-O Proposal to Reduce the Waste of Paper

**Wilcox, Deborah M., St. Paul UMC, Terre Hill, PA** 22192-CO-NonDis-O Date of 2000 General Conference

**Williams, Mitchell, Asbury UMC, Birmingham, AL** 21535-GJ-802.4-D Amenability and Program Accountability

**Williamson, H. C., Mullins UMC, Memphis, TN** 20789-MN-NonDis-O Compensation of Local Pastors

**Williamson, H. C., Mullins UMC, Memphis, TN,** 22906-LC-NonDis-O Compensation of Local Pastors

**Willis, Clarence J., The United Methodist Church of Bernardsville, Bernardsville, NJ,** 23024-CS-NonDis-O Worth of a Life of Service

**Wilson, Wayne, Hughes United Methodist, Wheaton, MD** 20004-CS-NonDis-O Support rights to object to an autopsy on religious grounds

**Winget, Garry, KSW** 22432-CO-35-C Composition of the Annual Conference

**Winget, Garry, KSW** 22435-CO-702-D The Purpose of the Annual Conference

**Winget, Garry, KSW** 22448-CS-73-D The Economic Community

**WIS, EPA** 20149-MN-733.1-D Giving Lay Members of the Board of Ordained Ministry a vote on all matters before the Board

**WIS, EPA** 20151-MN-756.1-D Lay Members of the Dist. Committee on Ordained Ministry vote on all matters before Committee

**WIS, KEN, AKM** 20186-CO-36-C Remove Prohibition of Laity voting on Ordination, Character, and Conference Relations of Ministers

**WIS, MNN, CAP, NYMO** 20136-MN-402.2-D Correcting Language which Classifies Lesbians and Gay Persons

**WIS, NEB, NIL** 20030-IC-R178-U Concerning Demeaning Names to Native Americans

**WIS, NEB, RKM, NYK, NIL** 20031-CS-R634-U Recognition of Cuba

**WIS, WYO, NEB, NYK** 20516-GJ-NonDis-O Vote to keep the headquarters of the General Board of Global Ministries in New York City

**WIS, WYO, NEB** 20032-CS-NonDis-O Use of the Church Studies on Homosexuality

**WIS** 20015-FA-906.12-D Correcting Language which Classifies Lesbians and Gay Persons

**WIS** 20046-MN-443.1-D Interim pastors as category of appointment

**WIS** 20115-MN-437.3-D Iterim Pastors

**WIS** 20116-MN-452.1-D Raising the Mandatory Retirement Age for Clergy from Seventy to Seventy-five

**WIS** 20118-MN-533.3-D Changes to the Appointment Process

**WIS** 20119-MN-1529-D Certification Standards for Conference-Approved Interim Pastors

**WIS** 20120-CS-71-D Correct Language which classifies Lesbian and Gay Persons

**WIS** 20140-MN-454.1-D Supervision in the Grievance Procedures

**WIS** 20146-MN-454-D Clarifying a Confusing Passage to Conform with Judicial Council Decision 695

**WIS** 20150-MN-733.2-D Recommendation of Conference Approved Interim Pastors

**WIS** 20189-CO-702.1-D Enabling Laity as Voting Members of the Clergy Session

**WIS** 20190-CO-705.6-D Giving lay members of the Board of Ordained Ministry vote at the Clergy session

**WIS** 20214-MN-2622-D A Description of the Nature of an Appeal

**WIS** 20215-MN-2622-D Reasonable setting of time and place for fair Process Hearings and Interviews

**WIS** 20216-MN-2622-D Stating the Constitutional Right of Protection from Self-Incrimination

**WIS** 20218-MN-2625.3-D Democratizing the Nomination of the Committee of Investigation

**WIS** 20224-LC-230-D Period of Grace for Inactive Members of a Local United Methodist Church

**WMI, HOL** 20285-CS-71-D Human Sexuality

**WMI** 20284-CS-71-D Amendment on Human Sexuality

**WMI** 20288-CS-71-D Violence against Abortionists

**WMI** 20290-CO-602.2-D Definition of membership in the Annual Conference

**WMI** 20291-CO-702-D Definition of membership in the Annual Conference

**WMI** 20293-IC-740.3-D Boundaries and Relationship of the Conference Commission on Religion and Race

**WMI** 20294-MN-406.1-D Definition of "Charge"

**WMI** 20295-MN-411.3-D Associate Members replacing Counseling Elders for Local Pastors

**WMI** 20296-MN-419.3-D Eligibility and Rights of Associate Members

**WMI** 20297-MN-424.3-D Admission and continuance of Full membership in Annual Conference

**WMI** 20298-MN-441-D Equalized Salary Task Force

**WMI** 20300-MN-452.1-D Mandatory Retirement of Clergy

**WMI** 20303-MN-435-D The Order of Elders

**WNC, NIL, GCCUIC, The Council of Bishops** 20018-FA-918.2-D The Church of Christ Uniting in the Interdenominational Cooperation Fund

**WNC, NIL, GCCUIC, The Council of Bishops** 20084-IC-5-C Ecumenical Relations

WNC, NTX 20345-LC-254-D Eliminate Administrative Board
WNC, NTX 20346-LC-255-D Eliminate Administrative Board Membership
WNC, NTX 20353-LC-262-D Eliminate Local Church Work Area Chairpersons
WNC, NTX 20354-LC-263-D Eliminate Local Church Program Support Personnel
WNC, NTX 20356-LC-266-D Eliminate Local Church Age-Level and Family Councils
WNC, NTX 20357-LC-267-D Eliminate Local Church Work Area Commission
WNC, NTX 20358-LC-268-D Eliminate Local Church Task Groups
WNC, NTX 20472-CS-728-D Eliminate Annual Conference Board of Church and Society
WNC, NTX 20476-CO-747-D Committee on Ministry To and With Persons with Handicapping Conditions
WNC, NTX 20478-GM-731-D Eliminate Annual Conference Board of Global Ministries
WNC, NTX 20479-HE-732-D Eliminate Annual Conference Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry
WNC, NTX 20480-IC-738-D Eliminate Annual Conference Commission on Archives and History
WNC, NTX 20481-IC-739-D Eliminate Annual Conference Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns
WNC, NTX 20483-IC-741-D Eliminate Annual Conference Commission on the Status and Role of Women
WNC, NTX 20484-IC-742-D Eliminate Annual Conference Commission on the Small Membership Church
WNC, NTX 20488-GJ-748-D Eliminate Annual Conference Committee on Native American Ministry
WNC, SNJ 20568-GJ-1001-D Eliminate General Council on Ministries
WNC, SNJ 20570-GJ-1002-D Eliminate General Council on Ministries
WNC, SNJ 20571-GJ-1003-D Eliminate General Council on Ministries
WNC, SNJ 20572-GJ-1004-D Eliminate General Council on Ministries
WNC, SNJ 20573-GJ-1005-D Eliminate General Council on Ministries
WNC 20091-IC-2402-D Covenantal Relationships in the Church of Christ Uniting
WNC 20555-CS-753-D Eliminate District Director of and Committee on Church and Society
WNC 20556-CO-12.1-C Effective Bishops as Members of General Conference
WNC 20557-CO-505-D President of Council of Bishops
WNC 20558-CO-506-D Eliminate Nominations for Episcopal Elections
WNC 20559-CO-611.2-D Review of Resolutions
WNC 20560-CO-629-D Eliminate Jurisdictional Council on Ministries
WNC 20561-CO-630-D Eliminate Jurisdictional Agencies
WNC 20562-CO-638.32-D Status of Retired Bishops
WNC 20563-CO-703.8-D Conference Lay Leader
WNC 20564-CO-706.2-D Eliminate General Council on Ministries
WNC 20565-CO-707-D Connectional Relationships
WNC 20566-CO-726-D Eliminate Conference Council on Ministries
WNC 20567-CO-752-D Optional District Council
WNC 20577-DI-279.1-D Church Council Approval of Lay Speaker
WNC 20578-DI-280-D Church Council Approval of Certified Lay Speaker
WNC 20579-DI-632-D Eliminate Council on Ministries
WNC 20580-DI-729-D Eliminate Annual Conference Board of Discipleship
WNC 20581-DI-730-D Eliminate Annual Conference Board of Laity
WNC 20582-DI-745.1-D Relationships of Council on Youth Ministry
WNC 20583-DI-757-D Eliminate District Board of Laity
WNC 20584-DI-762-D District Youth Council
WNC 20585-DI-1307-D Membership of National Youth Ministry Organization Steering Committee
WNC 20586-DI-751.1-D District Lay Leader
WNC 20587-FA-709.2-D Annual Conference Council on Finance and Administration
WNC 20588-FA-711.1-D Annual Conference Budgeting Procedures
WNC 20589-FA-712-D Annual Conference Apportionment Procedures
WNC 20590-FA-716.1-D Duties of Treasurers
WNC 20591-FA-722-D Equitable Compensation
WNC 20592-FA-904-D Amenability of General Council on Finance and Administration
WNC 20593-FA-905-D Organization of General Council on Finance and Administration
WNC 20594-FA-906-D Fiscal Responsibilities of General Council on Finance and Administration
WNC 20595-FA-907.1-D Administrative Responsibilities of General Council on Finance and Administration
WNC 20596-FA-908-D General Program Agency Funds
WNC 20597-FA-910-D Definition of General Funds
WNC 20598-FA-911-D General Policies of General Council on Finance and Administration
WNC 20599-FA-912-D Support of the General Program Agencies of the Church
WNC 20600-FA-913-D Eliminate World Service Special Gifts
WNC 20601-FA-916.1-D Eliminate General Council on Ministries
WNC 20602-FA-922-D Eliminate General Council on Ministries
WNC 20603-FA-1602.1-D Membership of General Board of Pension and Health Benefits
WNC 20604-FA-1604.8-D Funding of General Board of Pension and Health Benefits
WNC 20605-FA-1702-D Organization of General Board of Publication
WNC 20606-FA-1737-D Elimination General Council on Ministries
WNC 20607-GJ-275-D Eliminate General Council on Ministries
WNC 20608-GJ-276-D Eliminate General Council on Ministries
WNC 20609-GJ-277.3-D Eliminate Annual Conference Council on Ministries
WNC 20610-GJ-727-D Conference Advance Program
WNC 20611-GJ-802-D General Agency Accountability
WNC 20612-GJ-803-D General Agency Definitions, Structures, and Titles
WNC 20613-GJ-805-D General Agency Membership
WNC 20614-GJ-806-D Eliminate Committee to Nominate Additional Members
WNC 20615-GJ-810.5-D General Agency Members on Annual Conference Agencies
WNC 20616-GJ-813-D Election of General Secretaries
WNC 20617-GJ-814.6-D Convening of General Secretaries
WNC 20618-GJ-818-D Consultation Concerning Use of General Church Programs and Funds
WNC 20619-GJ-914.1-D The Advance
WNC 20620-GJ-1006-D Eliminate General Council on Ministries
WNC 20621-GJ-1006.2-D Funding of General Agencies
WNC 20622-GJ-1007-D Eliminate General Council on Ministries
WNC 20623-GM-1409.1-D Election of General Secretary of General Board of Global Ministries
WNC 20624-GM-1411.4-D General Board of Global Ministries Funding
WNC 20625-GM-1412.6-D Membership of General Board of Global Ministries
WNC 20626-GM-1415.1-D Authority of National Division
WNC 20627-GM-1429-D Membership of Women's Division
WNC 20628-GM-1446-D Financial Support of Health and Welfare Ministries Department
WNC 20629-HE-1503-D Amenability of General Board of Higher Education and Ministry
WNC 20630-HE-1509.2-D Support of General Board of Higher Educationa and Ministry
WNC 20631-HE-1512-D Funding of Division of Chaplains and Related Ministries
WNC 20632-IC-740-D Eliminate Annual Conference Commission on Religion and Race
WNC 20633-IC-754-D Eliminate District Director of and Committee on Ethnic Local Church Concerns
WNC 20634-IC-755-D Eliminate District Director of and Committee on Religion and Race
WNC 20635-IC-1803.2-D Accountability of General Commission on Archives and History
WNC 20636-IC-1804.2-D Membership of General Commission on Archives and History
WNC 20637-IC-1904-D Amenability of General Commission on Communication
WNC 20638-IC-1906.12-D Promotion of Funds by General Commission on Communication
WNC 20639-IC-1906.21-D Eliminate General Council on Ministries
WNC 20640-IC-1907.1-D Membership and Staff of General Commission on Communication

**WNC** 20641-IC-1908-D Funding for General Commission on Communication
**WNC** 20642-IC-2003-D Eliminate General Council on Ministries
**WNC** 20643-IC-2004-D Eliminate General Council on Ministries
**WNC** 20644-IC-2006.1-D Membership of General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns
**WNC** 20645-IC-2101.1-D Amenability of General Commission on Religion and Race
**WNC** 20646-IC-2103-D Membership of General Commission on Religion and Race
**WNC** 20647-IC-2204.1-D Membership of General Commission on the Status and Role of Women
**WNC** 20648-IC-2208-D Eliminate General Council on Ministries
**WNC** 20649-LC-206.3-D Church, Charge and Parish Councils
**WNC** 20650-LC-227-D Associate Church Membership and Church Council
**WNC** 20651-LC-228-D Church Council and Care of Members
**WNC** 20652-LC-229-D Church Council and Membership Groups
**WNC** 20653-LC-230-D Church Council and Inactive Church Members
**WNC** 20654-LC-233-D Church Council and Church Membership Audit
**WNC** 20655-LC-235-D Church Council and Membership Secretary
**WNC** 20656-LC-244-D Local Church Organization in Relationship to District and Annual Conference Structure
**WNC** 20657-LC-247-D Charge Conference Membership and Honorary Council Members
**WNC** 20658-LC-248-D The Charge Conference and the Church Council
**WNC** 20659-LC-248.14-D Local Church Apportionments
**WNC** 20660-LC-249-D The Church Council and Church Conference
**WNC** 20661-LC-250-D Basic Leadership of the Local Church
**WNC** 20662-LC-251-D Eliminate Certain Mandated Local Church Officers
**WNC** 20663-LC-252.1-D Local Church Lay Leader, Lay Member of Conference, and Church Council Chairperson
**WNC** 20664-LC-253.1-D The Church Council
**WNC** 20665-LC-256-D Eliminate Administrative Board Officers
**WNC** 20666-LC-257-D Eliminate Administrative Board Responsibilities
**WNC** 20667-LC-257.4-D The Church Council and Local Church Funding
**WNC** 20668-LC-258-D Eliminate Local Church Council on Ministries
**WNC** 20669-LC-259-D Eliminate Local Church Council on Ministries
**WNC** 20670-LC-260-D Eliminate Local Church Coordinators
**WNC** 20671-LC-261-D Eliminate Local Church Work Areas
**WNC** 20672-LC-264-D Local Church Program Agencies
**WNC** 20673-LC-269-D Eliminate Local Church Classes and Leaders
**WNC** 20674-LC-270.1-D Local Church Administrative Committees
**WNC** 20675-LC-271.6-D Constituting Church Conference
**WNC** 20676-LC-2553.1-D Church Council in Shared Facility Situation
**WNC** 20677-MN-50-C Membership of the Council of Bishops
**WNC** 20678-MN-57-C President of the Council of Bishops
**WNC** 20679-MN-315.4-D Church Council and Diaconal Minister
**WNC** 20680-MN-445.3-D Church Council and Clergy Growth Leave
**WNC** 20681-MN-445.4-D Eliminate Conference Council on Ministries
**WNC** 20682-MN-452-D Ad Interim Clergy Retirement
**WNC** 20683-MN-510-D Status of Retired Bishops
**WNC** 20684-MN-514-D Election of General Secretaries
**WNC** 20685-MN-514.3-D Limit Travel of Bishops
**WNC** 20686-MN-516.3-D Announcement of Appointments
**WNC** 20687-MN-734.1-D Diaconal Ministry
**WNC** 20688-MN-519-D Council on Ministries and District Superintendents
**WNC** 20689-MN-521-D Limit Travel of District Superintendent
**WNC** 20690-MN-524.1-D Council on Ministries and District Superintendents
**WNC** 20691-MN-527-D Responsibilities of Council of Bishops
**WNC** 20692-MN-527-D Responsibilities of Council of Bishops
**WNC** 20693-MN-533-D Consultation in Appointment-Making
**WNC** 20694-MN-1529.5-D Responsibilities of Division of Ordained Ministry
**WNC** 20695-IC-2106-D Eliminate General Council on Ministries
**WNC** 20696-LC-245-D Basic Organizational Plan for the Local Church
**WNC** 21126-CS-NonDis-OS Denominational Office and Director of Prison Ministry
**WNY** 20370-DI-NonDis-O Reaffirm our "Doctrinal Standards and Our Theological Task"
**WNY** 20378-GM-NonDis-O Holy Boldness and Urban Ministry
**Wofford, Delbert R., Settle Memorial UMC, Owensboro, KY** 22813-LC-253-D Chairperson of Prayer Ministries
**Wofford, Delbert R., Settle Memorial UMC, Owensboro, KY** 22814-LC-261-D Work Area on Prayer in the Local Church
**WOH** 20719-GJ-NonDis-O Relocation of the General Board of Global Ministries
**Work Area of Church and Society, Williamsburg UMC, Williamsburg, VA,** 22883-CS-71-D Rights of Homosexual Persons
**Work Area of Church and Society, Williamsburg UMC, Williamsburg, VA,** 22882-CS-71-D Human Sexuality
**Work Area of Church and Society, Williamsburg UMC, Williamsburg, VA,** 22881-CS-71-D Human Sexuality
**Work Area of Church and Society, Williamsburg UMC, Williamsburg, VA,** 22887-CS-NonDis-O Responsible Parenthood
**WPA Board of Ordained Ministry** 22053-MN-411-D Change in Language Concerning Quadrennial Training of Counseling Elders
**WPA Board of Ordained Ministry** 22097-MN-756.1-D Extending Voting Privileges of Lay Persons on District Committee on Ordained Ministry
**WPA, GBCS** 20304-CO-NonDis-O Implementing the "People First" Language
**WPA, SGA, WMI, NTX, RKM** 20242-LC-102-D The Ministry of all Christians
**WPA, SGA, WMI, NTX, RKM** 20243-LC-103-D The Churches
**WPA, SGA, WMI, NTX, RKM** 20244-LC-101-D The Mission and Ministry of the Church
**WPA, SGA, WMI, NTX** 20234-DI-69-D Mission statement
**WPA, SGA, WMI, NTX** 20241-LC-101-D The Mission of the Church
**WPA** 20305-CS-72-D Rights of Persons with Handicapping Conditions
**WPA** 20306-CS-76-D Our Social Creed
**WPA** 20307-CO-628-D Authority of the Jurisdictional Conference. Amend
**WPA** 20308-CO-702-D Annual Conference membership of Local pastors
**WPA** 20309-CO-707.4-D Membership on Boards and Agencies
**WPA** 20310-CO-747-D Committee on Ministry to and with persons with Handicapping Conditions
**WPA** 20311-CO-752.2-D Membership of the District Council on Ministries
**WPA** 20312-DI-729.1-D General responsibilities of the Conference Board of Discipleship
**WPA** 20313-DI-730.3-D Membership of the Conference Board of Laity
**WPA** 20314-DI-757.2-D Membership of the District Board of Laity
**WPA** 20315-DI-1209.5-D Standards Governing Camping
**WPA** 20316-DI-1210.2-D Ministry to Persons with Handicapping Conditions
**WPA** 20317-DI-1221.4-D Membership of the Committee on Older Adult Ministries
**WPA** 20318-FA-2519-D Board of Church Location and Building
**WPA** 20319-FA-2521-D Approval of construction, purchase, or remodeling plans for local churches
**WPA** 20320-GJ-805.1-D General Agency Membership
**WPA** 20321-GJ-815-D Policies relative to nondiscrimination
**WPA** 20322-GM-731-D Responsibilities of the Conference Board of Global Ministries
**WPA** 20323-GM-1440-D Purpose of the Health and Welfare Ministries Department
**WPA** 20324-GM-1441.5-D Responsibilities of the Health and Welfare Department
**WPA** 20325-GM-1442-D Responsibilities of the Health and Welfare Department
**WPA** 20326-HE-1515.-D Responsibilities of the Board of Higher Education
**WPA** 20327-IC-740.2-D Conference Commission on Religion and Race
**WPA** 20328-LC-250.7-D Special Attention for the Inclusion of all
**WPA** 20329-LC-251.4-D Duties of the Charge Conference
**WPA** 20330-LC-259-D Elections to the Council on Ministries
**WPA** 20331-LC-260-D Age-Level, Family, and Specialized-Ministries Coordinators
**WPA** 20332-LC-263.2-D The Health and Welfare Ministries Representative
**WPA** 20333-LC-2533.6-D Accessibility Audit by the Board of Trustees
**WPA** 20334-LC-2544-D Responsibility of the Building Committee
**WPA** 20335-MN-306.4-D Completion of Candidacy
**WPA** 20336-MN-412-D Annual Conference membership of Local Pastors
**WPA** 20337-MN-414.4-D Qualification for Election to Probationary Membership
**WPA** 20338-MN-439.1-D Responsibilities and Duty of a Pastor
**WPA** 20340-MN-735.1-D Conference Committee on Episcopacy

**WPA** 20341-MN-759.1-D Membership of Committee on District Superintendency

**WVA Church and Community Ministry Committee** 22283-GM-NonDis-O Program of Church and Community Ministry

**WVA** 20299-MN-448.2-D Charge Conference Membership Requirements

**WVA** 20339-MN-452.5-D Charge Conference Membership Requirement

**WVA** 20499-FA-722.12-D Shared Salary Plan Option

**WVA** 20524-CS-NonDis-O Principles of Welfare Reform

**WVA** 20533-MN-414.8-D Deacon Candidates

**WVA** 20534-MN-424-D Elder Candidates

**WVA** 20772-IC-NonDis-OS General Commission on Inclusiveness of Persons with Handicapping Conditions

**WYO, CAP, WVA, NYK, NIL** 20023-CS-72-D Basic Rights of all Persons

**WYO, RKM** 20033-IC-NonDis-O Racism Today

**WYO,TRY, RKM, NYK, NIL** 20029-CS-NonDis-O Clinic Violence around Reproductive Rights

**WYO** 20019-FA-931-D Shared Salary Plan

**WYO** 20026-CS-NonDis-O The Embargo against Cuba

**WYO** 20044-MN-434.4-D Certificate of Ordination to those Ordained as Deacons

**WYO** 20045-MN-435.4-D Certificate to Ordination to those Ordained as Elders

**WYO** 20047-MN-453.2-D Withdrawal to Unite with another Denomination

**WYO** 20113-MN-412-D Credentials to all Clergy Members of the Annual Conference

**WYO** 20230-CO-NonDis-O Voting Rights of Retired Clergy Members

**WYO** 21467-CO-35-C Composition of the Annual Conference

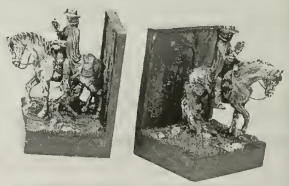
**Yeakel, Joseph H., Bishop, BMW** 22673-LC-114-D Definition of Clergy

**Yeaman, John F., STX** 22845-MN-503-D The Office of District Superintendent

**Yeaman, John F., STX** 22850-MN-532.2-D Criteria in Appointment Making


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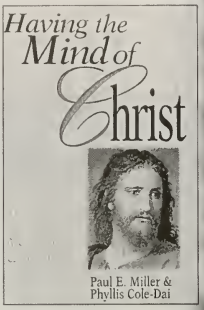
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DCA-348-6

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DCA-354-6

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DCA-337-6

# TELL THE FOLKS BACK HOME



**to set their VCRs to the Faith & Values (F&V) Channel *tomorrow* – April 17 – from 2 to 3 p.m. Central time.**



*Bishop Judith Craig*

Your family and friends and church will be able to share the Episcopal Address by Bishop Judith Craig and the opening communion service scheduled for the convention center here tonight.

Brought to you by UMCom united methodist communications

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*Daily Report*

# Daily Christian Advocate

THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**Denver, Colorado** **Wednesday, April 17, 1996** **Vol. 3 No. 2**

## Holy Communion, Episcopal Address Highlight Day One

When the early circuit riders and missionaries struggled to the foot of the Rockies, where Native Americans were already at home, did they ever imagine the future? Did they conceive of a time when nearly 1,000 delegates plus their reserves, 125 bishops, and 2,000 staff and visitors would gather in Denver to celebrate and map the future of a worldwide, vibrant United Methodist Church?

But on Day One of the 1996 United Methodist General Conference it happened, beneath the familiar cross and flame symbol and the theme: "In Essentials Unity, In Non-Essentials Liberty, In All Things Charity".

The opening procession for the Communion service began with the cross lifted high, followed by the bishops from Africa, Asia, Europe and the United States. Bishop Sharon Brown Christopher and Bishop Woodie W. White served as liturgist and celebrant respectively.

In his sermon, Bishop Roy I. Sano challenged delegates to embrace a future which appreciates the distinctive contributions of women, people of color and those marginalized. "The past will be surpassed, but not supplanted," he said. "New surprises and new possibilities await us. Let us keep open to new possibilities and respectful of our past."

After debating the report of the Committee on Plan of Organization and Rules of Order (reported elsewhere in the DCA), the gathering dispersed throughout the convention center to meet in legislative committees, elect officers and begin to consider more than 3,000 petitions, reports and proposals.

### Agenda

**April 17, 1996**

| | |
|---|---|
| 8:15 a.m. | Choral Music |
| 8:30 a.m. | Morning Worship |
| 9:00 a.m. | Laity Address |
| 10:00 a.m. | Ministry Study |
| 12:30 p.m. | Lunch |
| 2:30 p.m. | Legislative Committees |
| 5:00 p.m. | Dinner |
| 7:30 p.m. | Legislative Committees |
| 10:00 p.m. | Adjournment |




**A combined choir from six congregations in the Denver area. UMNS photo by Mike DuBose.**

In the evening the General Conference experienced three of many "firsts" for the 10-day event. Bishop Judith Craig, the first woman to deliver the Episcopal Address, echoed the unity theme: "The church we order must be an open house, where Jesus sits at the doorway and welcomes all who come." For the first time, the address was accompanied by a multi-image visual, prepared by United Methodist Communications, and a choir of bishops and their spouses sang, another first.

Acknowledging potential conflicts over several issues, Bishop Craig heralded the church as "alive and well." She listed: 29 Africa University graduates just six years after the school's beginning; 400,000 Disciple Bible Study graduates; more than 500,000 persons completing the Walk to Emmaus; more than 2,700 U.S. youth and young adults attending events focusing on ordained and diaconal ministry; a National Plan for Hispanic Ministry taking wing; a growing United Methodist presence in Russia; and more than 103,000 Volunteers in Mission. And the list continued.

"Is the church alive? Does evangelizing bear fruit? . . . You know the signs. You are the signs," the bishop said. "The [Communion] table stands between the old and new covenants, bringing together as one the continuing activity of the God of all covenants."

*Roger L. Burgess*

## The Computer Bug Ate Them

That's the only explanation we have for four petitions that should have been in one of the two advance editions of the DCA.

"We caught the missing petition related to the Korean Missionary Conference early," said J. Richard Peck, *DCA* editor. "We were able to include that petition in yesterday's edition." The editor's furrowed brow would lead one to believe he is concerned a few more petitions might show up missing.

"I hope the bug had a restricted diet," the editor continued. "If not, the achieved record of entering 3,064 petitions and only dropping four isn't bad. I guess we could get our contract renewed!"


## Daily Christian Advocate

**Editorial Offices - Exhibit Hall B**
**Denver Convention Center**
**Sales and Subscriptions - DCA Booth**

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## Correction

Council of Bishops listing in the April 16th *DCA*.

Bishop Bruce P. Blake's name was spelled incorrectly.
Bishop James K. Mathews is an active Bishop.
Bishop Benjamin R. Oliphint's name was misspelled.

## *Now Signing in Autograph Area*

*Tex Sample*
*6:00-7:00 p.m.*
*Hard Living People and Mainstream Christians*

*Joe Harding and Ralph Mohney*
*12:30-1:15 p.m.*
*VISION 2000*

*Raquel Martinez*
*12:30-1:15 p.m.*
*MIL VOCES (U.M. Spanish Hymnal)*

*Eddie Fox*
*12:30-1:15 p.m.*
*Faith Sharing*

*Philip Wogaman*
*1:30-2:30 p.m.*
*To Serve the Present Age*

*Michael Slaughter*
*1:45-2:30 p.m.*
*Spiritual Entrepreneurs*

*Ellsworth Kalas*
*1:45-2:30 p.m.*
*The Grand Sweep*

*Reuben Job*
*1:45-2:30 p.m.*
*A Guide to Retreat for All God's People*

*Maxie Dunnam*
*12:30-1:30 p.m.*
*Let Me Say That Again*

## Reception Honors Bishops, Judicial Council

The evening before the official opening of the 1996 General Conference, delegates and friends came together for a "homecoming" to honor episcopal leaders and their spouses and the 10 members of the Judicial Council.

"Welcome the world to our neighborhood!" was the theme for the festive Monday evening event in the Convention Center ballroom. Honored were 68 active bishops, including 17 from conferences in Africa, Asia and Europe; 60 retired bishops and their spouses from around the world; and 33 widows of bishops.

"The Tongan Village Dancers," Rocky Mountain Annual Conference church members from Tonga, provided entertainment. The ballroom was divided into sections, decorated and named for Tongan villages.

This first gathering gave General Conference goers an opportunity to greet their episcopal leaders and reunite with friends in other conferences worldwide. Participants took full advantage of this opportunity with joy, tears, memories and the discovery of new friends.

*-Bettie W. Story*



**The "Tongan Village Dancers" welcome the guests to the Bishops' and Judicial Council Reception Monday evening in the Ballroom.**

**UMNS photo by Mike DuBose**



**Bishop Mary Ann Swenson (left) and her husband, Jeff Swenson, welcome delegates and visitors.**

**UMNS photo by Mike DuBose**

### Buttons, Buttons, Everywhere!!!

If you have a message for the delegates at General Conference, it has probably been put on a button. Many groups, caucuses, boards and agencies have created buttons to make themselves visible here. The buttons are just beginnning to become visible. Share your buttons with the *DCA*, and we will publish a collage of the buttons in a future issue. Drop them by the DCA office, attention Brad Motta.

## Legislative Committee Officers

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Minerva G. Carcaño, secretary, Rio Grande

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*Don Pike*, chair, Central Texas
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*Earl W. Bledsoe*, vice chair, Texas
Louise K. Schock, secretary, Northwest Texas

**Street Side Cafe, Convention Center**
Wednesday, April 17, 1996
7:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

| | |
|---|---|
| Waffles with whipped cream & fresh strawberries | 5.00 |
| Green chili burritos with scrambled eggs | 5.00 |
| Scrambled eggs, hash browns & bacon or sausage | 5.00 |
| Hot cereal or burrito | 2.00 |
| Cold cereal (adult selection) | 1.50 |
| Assorted breakfast pastries | 1.50 |
| HOT ENTREES: | 6.50 |
| Herb roasted chicken served with four bean ragout and fresh market vegetables | |
| Vegetarian Wellington with four bean ragout | |
| ASSORTED SALADS | 4.25 |
| Tuna, chicken, pasta, fruit | |
| Soup of the day | 2.00 |
| Submarine sandwich (by the inch) | 1.25 |
| Whole fresh fruit | 1.25 |
| Potato chips | 1.00 |
| ASSORTED DESSERTS | 2.00 |
| Yogurt | 1.75 |
| Brownies | 1.50 |
| Granola | 1.50 |
| Homemade cookie | .75 |
| BEVERAGES | |
| Iced tea/lemonade | 2.00 |
| Mineral water | 2.00 |
| Assorted juices | 2.00 |
| Fountain sodas | |
| Large | 1.50 |
| Small | 1.25 |
| Milk | 1.00 |
| Coffee | 1.00 |

### Newly Elected Officers Take Crash Course

Twenty newly elected chairpersons and vice-chairpersons met with several General Conference leaders for a crash course in how to be effective leaders of their respective legislative committees. Robert W. Stevens, Pacific Northwest Conference lay delegate, focused on how to move legislation through so it will be in good shape for consideration by the General Conference.

Carolyn Marshall, General Conference secretary, acted as moderator and offered assistance to the leaders, most of whom are in their positions for the first time.

Bishop Dan E. Solomon cautioned: "Remember you are about God's business. You must give leadership in that light. You have accountability to the gospel and accountability to the task."

The new leaders also heard from representatives of groups which will work with them: the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women, which will monitor the legislative committees; United Methodist Communications, which is videotaping the plenary sessions; and the translators.

"Your job starts immediately," Bishop Solomon said, "because you must return to your rooms tonight and become familiar with your petitions. It will be a very long night."

*-Carolyn Simms*

# CHURCHES IN COVENANT COMMUNION

## The Church of Christ Uniting

Approved and recommended to the churches by the Seventeenth Plenary of the Consultation on Church Union

### PART I

### THE COVENANTING PROPOSAL

### WHAT KIND OF UNITY?

1) Scripture makes clear that Jesus calls the church to become visibly one. On the night before his crucifixion, Jesus prayed for the disciples and for those who would follow:

"I do not pray for these only, but also for those who are to believe in me through their word, that they may all be one; even as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me."— John 17:20-21

2) Based on the conviction, grounded in Scripture and Tradition, that God wills the unity of the church, the following proposal describes a covenantal form of unity. Biblical examples of unity are expressed in metaphor, such as Isaiah's vision of the peaceable kingdom (Isaiah 11), and in parable, such as Jesus' story of the great feast. (Luke 14) Rooted in the nature and action of the triune God, who is revealed to us as unity in diversity, the covenanting churches of the Consultation on Church Union hold to the vision of a reconciled and reconciling household of faith. Scripture and Tradition provide guidance on matters of unity, even though no blueprint exists.

3) Attentive to the yearnings and insights discerned from ecumenical dialogues over many years, the partner churches have come to believe that such a form of unity bears at least the following characteristics:

(a) Celebration of God's grace will be central to our life together. (Eph. 2:12-21)

(b) Working together in Christ's mission of salvation for the whole world will mark our endeavors. (Matt. 28:18-19a)

(c) Each member, by virtue of baptism, will be understood to be a member of the apostolic and priestly ministry. (I Peter 2:9-10)

(d) The form of unity will mirror the diversity of its membership in every aspect of its fellowship and ministry. (I Cor. 12:12-27)

(e) In seeking God's justice in church and world, the reconciled communions will embody the unity that is God's gift. (Lk. 2:46-55)

(f) Because of the mutual enrichment of our several traditions, this covenantal form of unity will more faithfully reflect the universality of the body of Christ and include the strengthening of our previous ecumenical commitments. (I Cor. 1:12-17)

(g) Covenant communion assumes a new kind of ecclesial reality, an organic life that includes, in Pauline language, those "joints and ligaments" which enable the church to act as one body knit together under Christ the head. (Col. 2:19; Eph. 4:15-16)

4) Given such characteristics of the unity God wills for the church, the Consultation on Church Union calls upon its member churches to confess their complicity in the sin of the church's division, and to do all that can be done to exhibit that unity. Moreover, the Consultation proposes to the member churches, in the pages that follow, a form of unity which it believes to be at once faithful to God's will, appropriate to the present circumstances, and open to the future for renewal and reformation. It is a proposal which calls for unity of heart and mind, for unity in faith, in prayer, in the breaking of bread, in the Word of the gospel, in ministry, in sharing, and in witness and service to the world. (Acts 2:42-44) Such unity will be a visible witness to the world of God's saving power in Jesus Christ. The Consultation on Church Union calls the churches to communion in Christ —a covenantal communion in faith, sacraments, ministry, and mission. The name here given to the churches in covenant communion is **The Church of Christ Uniting**, and the means by which it comes into being is referred to as "covenanting."

### II. WHAT IS COVENANTING?

1) "Covenanting," as the Consultation uses the term, is both an act and a process by which the churches come into a new relationship with one other.

2) It is an *act* of covenant by churches which, though one in Christ, are currently divided from one another. By this solemn act the churches will commit themselves, before God and each other, to live henceforth in one covenantal communion even though they continue to exist as distinct ecclesiastical systems.

3) Such a covenantal act will inaugurate also a *process* of deepening commitment by these churches to one another in which the Spirit's gift of unity in Christ will be enabled to grow and to flower. The process will be one of maturing in unity as the covenanting churches jointly identify and take such mutually agreed actions as may serve to deepen their communion in faith, sacrament, ministry, and mission.

4) In covenanting, diversities remain even while the covenanting partners become truly one. Moreover covenant communion is itself a way of *being* one. The church is by its very nature a pilgrim people. Through covenant communion the relationship with one another will grow, deepen, and change as it matures over the years, as this covenant communion is drawn forward by the Holy Spirit into the fullness of God's perfect will for the church.

5) In covenant communion the churches may maintain, for so long as each may determine, their own church structures and traditions, including present forms of worship, systems of ministerial selection, training, and placement, their international, confessional, and communion relationships, and their mission programs. What covenanting means is that these now separated churches will

resolve to live as one in the most basic things — in faith, sacrament, ministry, and mission. Uniformity in structure is not essential to covenant communion.

6) Approaching Christian unity in this way will tend to focus the energy of the churches' shared life upon the local communities of now separated congregations. For it is in such towns, neighborhoods, and local areas that Christians most often gather about the Word and sacraments, served by their recognized ministers, in living communities of faith and mission. Covenanting will make it possible for these several congregations in each place to see themselves not only as members of a particular communion but also as members of a living and functioning communion of communions, sharing the one baptism, proclaiming the one faith, receiving together the one bread and cup, recognizing the ministry of each as a ministry to all, and reaching out as one in love and service to the world.

7) A covenant communion of churches is, by definition, committed to becoming truly inclusive. Each partner is enriched by sharing in the gifts that God has given to the other. Each partner works to take down walls of alienation that exist between the churches, and to overcome attitudes which tend to marginalize persons in regard to race, class, age, gender, disabilities, marital status, sexual orientation, and positions of power and powerlessness, and to live toward a church in which all participate in the wholeness of Christ.

8) In covenanting, the churches will make an act of common repentance for the sin of disunity among them, and for the sins which inhibit community within the human family. In living out that repentance, the covenanting churches dare to believe that in sacramental communion these sins can be faced in a substantially new way. What is needed for reconciliation is a new and intentional community of the Spirit, rooted in one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and nurtured at one eucharistic table. Such unity anticipates God's coming future, now unfolding in Jesus Christ. It is the promised gift of the Holy Spirit to those who penitently ask for it and diligently seek it.

9) Covenant communion is intended to be a sign and foretaste of the community God wills for the world. In its ultimate intent, it is for the salvation of each and all. It is for the redemption of the world.

## III. HOW TO INITIATE COVENANTING

1) Faithfulness to God's mission in the world impels the member churches to enter into covenanting. To initiate covenanting, actions of several different kinds will be required. Just as doctrine, polity, and liturgy are basic to the church's life and mission, so also the initiation of covenanting has these same three interrelated dimensions:

- **Theological**: the churches receive and voice together the faith of the church through the ages.
- **Governmental**: the governing bodies of the church consider and act on commonly developed proposals for Christian unity.
- **Liturgical**: the churches' unity is declared and confirmed in corporate acts of worship.

To initiate covenanting, action in all three of these dimensions is required, in faith that it is God who moves the churches to act and who alone is able to sustain them in covenant communion. In Christ, the interrelationship between these three dimensions can be discerned: the church's theological *affirmation* is grounded in the joyful praise of God, with implications for the church's polity; its governmental *decision* has a theological grounding, with implications for the church's worship; and its liturgical action has a grounding in the church's polity, with implications for the church's theology.

2) **The theological dimension** of entering into covenanting is basic to the rest. The Consultation on Church Union has looked carefully at the differences which historically have divided the several traditions. Through the consultative process, confirmed by the claiming of *The COCU Consensus*, the churches have come to recognize in one another the apostolic faith of the church universal: the Tradition. Through covenanting, the distinctive treasures of these several histories will be maintained, while their insights and emphases will be made increasingly accessible to others for the common good. The process of covenanting begins by joyfully affirming the Christian faith.

3) **The governmental dimension** of entering into covenanting is also essential. This has to do with the decision making processes of each church. It includes voting. For the church, however, voting is much more than an exercise of democratic rule. When Christians gather in church governing bodies and seek God's leading through prayer and careful listening to one another in faith, God is there in the midst of them. The formal decision by each church to enter into this new relationship is therefore much more than a preparation for covenanting, but is itself a dimension of covenanting. Such governing action by each church is, the Consultation believes, a manifestation of God's action through the Holy Spirit in drawing the churches together into covenant communion.

4) **The liturgical dimension** of entering into covenanting is crucial as well. It is God who affects reconciliation in the divided household of faith. Corporate expressions of mutual commitment, shared hope, and common will must therefore be lifted up together in words and actions appropriate to the worship of God. Agreements reached separately must be celebrated together. The liturgical action in covenanting is much more than a ceremonial capstone for a uniting covenant which has been successfully voted; the liturgical action itself will be a sign and means of church unity.

5) Each of these dimensions has both an internal and an external aspect, related respectively to the church's life and to its mission. Thus the church's *doctrinal* life, consisting in appropriation of apostolic faith through continual theological reflection and teaching, finds its missional aspect in the urgent proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ, by word and deed, in and to the world. Similarly, the church's *polity* as the pastoral pattern of its life in Christ at once stands under the constant judgment of the gospel of God's reign and is directed to active mission for a just and life-giving stewardship of creation. Also, the *worship* of God in the church's life issues in mission and

service to the whole human community created in the divine image and redeemed by Christ from its multiple distortions. Mission illuminates each of these three dimensions.

6) Crucial to covenant communion, in all three of the dimensions by which it is initiated, is a deliberate process of reception of the covenanting agreements by the churches. Such reception includes the participation and nurture of the people of the church, enabling them to understand and to receive these agreements and to enter fully the covenant communion into which their churches are being drawn. No such communion is possible, whatever one's system of church government may be, without the willing and joyful assent of the people of God. To that end, it is essential that the membership of the churches be fully informed about what is being proposed, so that their AMEN may be from the heart. A strong educational effort, accompanied by relationships which anticipate covenant life, can be an important part of the reception process. These can serve as vehicles of the Holy Spirit for building and strengthening ecclesial communion, as the churches find themselves increasingly beckoned of God to be and become one covenant people in Christ.

## IV. THE ELEMENTS OF COVENANTING

1) Since the unity that we seek is not chiefly organizational, what then are the identifying characteristics of that covenant communion here described? Through the Consultation on Church Union, the participating churches have together identified eight elements of covenanting, none of which now consistently characterize the relationship between these churches. They are:

1. claiming unity in faith;
2. commitment to seek unity with wholeness;
3. mutual recognition of members in one baptism;
4. mutual recognition of each other as churches;
5. mutual recognition and reconciliation of ordained ministry;
6. celebrating the Eucharist together;
7. engaging together in Christ's mission;
8. formation of covenanting councils.

These are described more fully below. They are called "elements" because each is regarded as basic to a covenant communion of churches. Together, they comprise a single reality, and each in its own way is essential to the whole.

### Claiming Unity in Faith

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all, who is above all and through all and in all.— Ephesians 4:4-6

2) The "one faith" which the church proclaims and by which it lives is the faith of the one holy catholic and apostolic church. This is the faith to which Scripture and Tradition bear witness. Notwithstanding differences of emphasis and interpretation, the covenanting churches dare to affirm their essential unity in the faith. Claiming that faith in common is basic to covenant communion.

3) The ancient ecumenical creeds are not only witnesses to the faith but also abiding symbols of that faith. The divided voices of many churches, however, make it difficult today for the faith of the church to be heard by all as one. After more than two decades of theological work by officially designated persons responsible to the most authoritative bodies in the several churches, it is now evident that an essential core of theological agreement exists and continues to grow among these churches in matters of faith, worship, sacrament, membership, ministry, and mission. That agreement is expressed in *The COCU Consensus: In Quest of a Church of Christ Uniting* (1984). The existence of that document is a sign of these churches' basic unity in faith; their claiming of it is treated as an element of covenanting.

4) *The COCU Consensus* is not a complete exposition of every article of Christian doctrine. It is intended rather as a *sufficient* expression of the apostolic faith, order, worship, and witness to enable the participating churches to enter together into a covenanting relationship. It also is intended as the theological foundation for the vision of a covenant communion of communions which these churches seek by God's grace to become. It is therefore the theological basis of the document in hand, *Churches in Covenant Communion: The Church of Christ Uniting*. For a fuller expression of what it means to "claim" the consensus, see the Foreword of *The COCU Consensus*, pages 2-3.

### Commitment to Seek Unity with Wholeness

5) Commitment to Christian unity is essential if churches are to become visibly one. The Consultation affirms that unity is a gift of God, to be made visible among the churches in response to the prayers and actions of those who diligently seek it.

6) Through patient and persistent work over many years, the covenanting churches have been led by God to overcome seemingly insurmountable obstacles to unity in matters of faith, sacraments, ministry, and mission. For this the church gives thanks to God. Yet the churches still are not one in other ways. Racism and sexism still live as idolatries in churches, continuing to divide and destroy. Handicapism marginalizes people with disabilities as the institutions of both church and society continue to value physical wholeness in divisive and destructive ways. Rich and poor seldom worship God together. These are theological issues, just as truly as those of sacrament and mission, for they demonstrate to the world the church's disobedience to the will of Christ "that they may all be one."

7) Commitment to a living unity, therefore, requires a change of heart — "transformed by the renewal of your mind" — not for the sake of the church alone, but ultimately for the sake of that larger oneness for which our Savior prays. To repent of sins that divide Christ's body is to turn from them to God, committed by God's grace to obey the clear will of Christ. It means being ready to change, especially in these idolatries which alienate and cause pain to sisters and brothers in Christ. It is to seek a unity that is inclusive of all who are baptized into Christ, while rejoicing in the diversity of persons and gifts which the Spirit has given to the church.

8) *In Christ "there is neither Jew nor Greek."* God abhors racism. It is essential to Christian unity that there be a redress of racism and a commitment to racial inclusiveness, in both our churches and our society. This is not alone a matter of justice or mission. This commitment is fundamental to Christian community itself, for the church is continually called to be and to become one living communion in Christ.

9) *In Christ "there is neither bond nor free."* God abhors all forms of oppression, whether economic oppression or that of society's exclusion of persons with disabilities. In a community where any enrich themselves at the expense of the poor, or exert power through the disadvantage of others, Christian unity cannot exist. The gospel which the church proclaims is "good news to the poor... release to the captives... recovery of sight to the blind... liberty to those who are oppressed." Inclusiveness is not just a matter of goodwill, but of the justice which the gospel demands. It is therefore of the very nature of the church, which is called to be one living body in Christ.

10) *In Christ "there is neither male nor female."* God abhors sexism. Degradation or diminution of others on the basis of gender, whether intended or not, is an affront to them and an offense to their Creator. The church often has fostered attitudes which devalue women. Such attitudes are the root cause of many evils which the church deplores, such as domestic violence, pornography, and the disproportionate poverty of women. Opportunities for leadership and full participation in the church are in many instances still effectively closed to women. The church cannot be whole without the gifts both of women and men in covenant communion through Christ.

11) Inclusiveness is essential to Christian unity. The word "inclusive," however, must be used with some care. For example, ethnic minorities often hear the word as a patronizing invitation to become part of the dominant group — to enter another's reality, but one which the other continues to dominate. Gay and lesbian persons in most churches seldom are included at all, if they are open in acknowledging their sexual identity. The appeal to inclusiveness is heard by some as an invitation to give up one's distinctive identity and merge into a culture alien to one's own. So the word "inclusive" is not an altogether adequate word, though it is far better than any others that have yet been proposed to replace it. The Consultation uses it, therefore, sensitive to its possible misuse, being deeply persuaded that there can be no unity for the church unless it is truly inclusive. By "inclusiveness" is meant the catholicity of God's inclusiveness.

12) The goal of this covenant communion is not a homogenization of all differences into a new sameness, but a new community in Christ, in which differences are affirmed, accepted, and celebrated as the gifts of God for the common good. This is a work of divine grace. The integrity, moral authority, and strength of witness that this covenant communion of churches will have within the nation and the world will be in significant measure related to its becoming, by God's grace, a truly inclusive communion in Christ.

### Mutual Recognition of Members in One Baptism

13) Scripture and Tradition are united in witness that there is one baptism with water in the name of the triune God. Baptismal practice among the churches, however, is quite diverse, including both a variety of baptismal modes and, for some, preliminary acts of dedication or blessing and, for others, additional acts of affirmation of baptismal vows such as confirmation. This diversity reflects not different baptisms but different facets of the one baptism into the one body of the one Lord. (Eph. 4:4-6)

14) At its 1974 plenary session the Consultation on Church Union proposed a "Mutual Recognition of Members," by which it invited the member churches to recognize that "all who are baptized into Christ are members of Christ's universal church and belong to and share in Christ's ministry through the people of the one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit." Over the next four years each of the participating churches took formal and official action approving this resolution. These acts were a dramatic witness to our unity in Christ.

15) In its 1979 plenary, the Consultation proposed to its member churches that each take actions to move "Beyond Affirmation to Action" in implementing such mutual recognition. Many suggestions were offered by the plenary, and a number of significant actions were taken in response by the several churches, but much remains to be done. Recovery of our unity in baptism is at the heart of the covenanting journey, for it is central to realization of genuine *koinonia* among the churches. Mutual recognition of members in one baptism is of basic ecclesiological significance. It implies recognition of the ministry of all the others in the common priesthood in which and from which God calls those ministers who will be ordained. Membership in Christ and in Christ's church is for every believer a calling by God to ministry and witness in the world.

### Mutual Recognition of Each Other as Churches

16) A church's membership in the Consultation on Church Union implies at least *some recognition* of the other member churches as participants in the one church of Jesus Christ. So also does membership in a council of churches. In local experience, congregations have sometimes achieved relationships which amount to mutual recognition in spite of certain canons and constitutions of their churches. The fact is, however, that the member churches of the Consultation on Church Union, acting in conformity with their respective foundational documents and theological principles, have not yet recognized each other as churches truly catholic, truly evangelical, and truly reformed. The absence of mutual recognition comes as a surprise to many who have been unaware of the official positions of the churches, and compels us to press on until such mutual recognition is achieved.

17) Covenanting provides the occasion and the means whereby that which is implicit in the relationship among the churches may become explicit, that which is privately and unofficially acknowledged may be openly and joyfully

declared before God and many witnesses. To that end, in the liturgical event in which covenanting is inaugurated, participating churches through their authorized representatives will together make affirmations of:

- faith in the one God who through the Word and in the Spirit creates, redeems, and sanctifies;
- commitment to Jesus Christ as Savior and as the incarnate and risen Lord;
- obedience to the Holy Scriptures which testify to Tradition and to which Tradition testifies, as containing all things necessary for our salvation as well as being the rule and ultimate standard of faith;
- commitment to faithful participation in the two sacraments ordained by Jesus Christ, baptism and the Lord's Supper;
- commitment to the evangelical and prophetic mission of God and to God's reign of justice and peace;
- grateful acceptance of the ministry which the Holy Spirit has manifestly given to the churches.

These affirmations are to be voiced together in the liturgical act by which covenanting will be inaugurated. Through these words spoken together, each church will publicly and officially recognize the others as authentic expressions of the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic church of Jesus Christ. This liturgical action will fulfill the intention to confess the faith together affirmed in Chapter V of *The COCU Consensus*, where the fundamental sources of the doctrine of the faith are described in detail: Scripture, Tradition, and the creeds and confessions of the church, together with worship, mission and inclusiveness as forms of confession.

### Mutual Recognition and Reconciliation of Ordained Ministry

18) Through their baptism all Christians are called and empowered by the Holy Spirit to share in the ministry of Jesus Christ in the church and in the world. Those among them who are ordained to particular ministries share also in that common ministry of the people of God, and represent to every member the ministry of Christ to which all have been called. Because the ministry of the baptized is affirmed already by each of the covenanting churches, there appears to be no impediment to public recognition and reconciliation of this common ministry. Obstacles remain to be overcome, however, to affect the mutual recognition and reconciliation of our ordained ministries. In the paragraphs which follow, therefore, attention is focused largely upon the ordained because that is where obstacles to the mutual recognition and reconciliation of our ministries lie.

19) The theological understanding of ministry, both lay and ordained, which underlies covenanting is set forth in Chapter VII of *The COCU Consensus*. But it is important to remember how that chapter of the Consensus is intended to function in the covenanting process. It is not a constitution.

Many details are deliberately left unsettled. There is room for the participating churches to grow together in unforeseen ways as they work out the implications of the covenant.

In the realm of ministerial order, just as in the doctrines of the faith, there is a historic tradition which these churches hold in common, despite their differing expressions of it; and it is this that the Consultation has sought to express in Chapter VII of *The COCU Consensus*. The concept of ministry expressed there is not embodied in quite this way in any of the participating churches. Yet there can be seen in the divergent polities of the member churches particular ministries which are in fact episcopal, presbyteral, diaconal, and lay in their essential nature. Chapter VII articulates this historic, underlying pattern, providing thereby a common frame of reference for recognizing in one another's ministries the ministry of the church through the ages, and thus for reconciling their ministries one to another. Uniformity among the several church polities is not essential to covenant communion; but mutual recognition and reconciliation of the ordained ministries is essential, for it is integrally related to the recognition of churches.

20) Mutual *recognition* of ordained ministries is intended to acknowledge in these ministries the manifest blessing of God and the fruit of the Spirit, and to affirm that they are rooted in the apostolic tradition. Such recognition does not obscure real differences, but neither does it depend upon first setting those differences aright according to one's own tradition before recognition can be granted. To the contrary, the mutual recognition of ordained ministries is a way of acknowledging both the headship of Christ over every ecclesial tradition and the freedom of the Spirit to work in and through these traditions however the Spirit wills.

21) *Reconciliation* of ordained ministries is intended to refer to actions by the churches, both separately and together, whereby the ordained ministries of each covenanting church become one ministry of Jesus Christ in relation to all. This is not intended to mean that the standard of ministerial training and certification must become the same for all the churches, nor that their call or appointment systems must change, but rather that the ministry of one may function, whenever invited, as a ministry to all. This is not now possible among all of the covenanting churches. Hence, covenanting will make possible an enrichment of the ordained ministry for each church, as well as provide a new and visible demonstration of our essential unity in faith, sacraments, ministry, and mission.

22) The method by which the covenanting churches intend to accomplish reconciliation of ordained ministries is, first, by setting this reconciliation in the context of mutual recognition of members in one baptism, mutual recognition of churches, and mutual recognition of ministries. Within the covenanting liturgy, these three acts will precede the reconciliation of ordained ministries and, taken together, are regarded as foundational to it. For the sake of reconciliation, the sequential order of these acts is important, and their close conjunction with one another is equally important. This ordering is reflected in the accompanying liturgy for declaring covenant and recon-

ciling ordained ministers. Reconciliation of ministries enables full eucharistic sharing.

23) Having mutually recognized one another's ministries, these ministers will then offer themselves in mutual commitment to one another, so that their ministry in the wider covenant communion may be received and appropriately ordered in all of the covenanting churches. To this end, the accompanying liturgies provide that the reconciliation of bishops shall include words of mutual commitment to one another in covenant, and an act of mutually laying hands upon each other in acknowledgment of the authority of the other churches within which each will, from time to time, exercise elements of shared ministry through covenanting. So also, the accompanying liturgy for the reconciliation of presbyters and welcoming of deacons includes words which similarly acknowledge the authority of the other churches within which each is enabled to minister occasionally through covenant communion and an act of laying on of hands by a reconciled minister of *episkope,* together with other signs of reconciliation and peace.

24) Lest there be any misunderstanding in regard to the sign of reconciliation which these liturgies employ — the laying on of hands by an authorized minister of oversight —the covenanting churches recognize and declare that these are not liturgies of ordination or reordination, but of reconciliation among those whose ordained ministry already has been mutually recognized. The act of laying on hands is used for many different purposes within the church. It is used in blessing, in confirmation, in dedication, in anointing the sick, in commissioning to tasks of education or of mission, as well as in ordination. In each case, it is the context which defines its purpose. In the covenanting liturgies, the laying on of hands is administered in silence. The context, especially the prayer which precedes or follows, leaves no doubt as to its meaning: it is an act of reconciliation.

25) The Consultation is persuaded that no other sign serves that purpose as well as the ancient sign of the laying on of hands by the churches' authorized ministers of oversight. From the beginning of their journey together, the covenanting churches have sought a distinctively new communion: one that is simultaneously catholic, evangelical, and reformed. However evangelical and reformed this covenant communion may be, it will not effectively invite recognition of its ordained ministries by all parts of the universal church if the reconciliation of ordained ministries does not include the historic sign of episcopal succession — the laying on of hands. Its use under the circumstances here defined has to do, not with ordination, but with the recovery of a visible and widely valued sign of unity and continuity within the church of God, a sign that in this case signifies the mutual sharing of our ordered ministries. This understanding is in harmony with increasingly universal ecumenical understanding.

26) Just as the use of this sign is judged to be essential, so also the way it is used is equally essential: by the mutual laying on of hands. It is in the mutuality of this act that each tradition gives to the other a sign of acceptance and of deepened or enriched understandings of ordination and *episkope* as they have been preserved and practiced in the separate churches.

27) When reconciliation of ordained ministries has been achieved at the regional level, everyone who is ordained thereafter in that region will be ordained into an already reconciled ministry. No further act will be required to accomplish reconciliation. Nonetheless, the ordination of women and men to the ministry is such a highly visible act in the life of the churches that it provides for our covenant communion an unparalleled opportunity to demonstrate before the church and the world the unity which God has given. From the date of inauguration of covenant communion, there will be no more ordinations carried out in denominational isolation from the other covenanting churches. The Covenanting Councils will enable the conduct of all ordination of persons, credentialed by the churches, through the laying on of hands and prayer by reconciled bishops together with the presence and participation of ministers, both lay and ordained, from as many of the covenanting churches as possible. Moreover, it is the desire of the covenanting churches that these ordinations be conducted according to mutually acceptable rites, in order to facilitate participation from all parts of the covenant communion.

28) All of the participating churches in COCU already have a ministry of Word and sacrament, but not all now have a personalized ministry of *episkope* at the middle judicatory level where ordination and pastoral care of pastors is lodged. Nor do all now have a regularly constituted office of deacon. It will be the responsibility of each participating church, prior to the COCU liturgy in which covenant is declared and ministries are reconciled, to determine how its present categories of ordained ministry relate to the historic categories set forth in *The COCU Consensus,* Chapter VII.

29) Among the several functions of deacons listed in paragraph VII.63 of *The COCU Consensus,* the one function which may be regarded as *sine qua non* in identifying persons who are to be put forward initially for reconciliation as deacons is: "(f) Servants in Pastoral Care." Among the several functions of presbyters listed in *The COCU Consensus* VII.56, those which may be regarded as *sine qua non* in identifying persons who are to be put forward initially for reconciliation as presbyters are: "(a) Preachers of the Word," and "(b) Celebrants of the Sacraments." Among the several functions of bishops listed in paragraph VII.51 of *The COCU Consensus,* those which may be regarded as *sine qua non* in identifying those who are to be put forward initially for reconciliation as bishops are: "(c) Pastoral Overseers" of districts or regions, "(e) Representative Ministers in the Act of Ordination," and "(g) Servants of the Unity of the Church."

30) Each covenanting church may find these ministerial offices already existing within its polity, or may make amendment of existing offices to the extent necessary to fulfill the intention of ministry reconciliation through covenanting, or may create a new office within the integrity of its continuing polity but in a manner conformable to the intention of ministry reconciliation through covenanting. Each church may assign or continue to use such names for these offices as it may desire; however, in the shared life of the churches they commonly will be identi-

fied as deacons, presbyters, and bishops of the covenant communion of the churches.

31) By reconciliation through covenanting, a presbyter or bishop does not acquire new rights, powers, or authority within his or her own denomination or communion. Such decisions about authority are properly left to the member churches. Rather, through ministry reconciliation it becomes possible to act in ecclesial unity with other lay and ordained ministries of the covenanting churches to make manifest in new and wider ways the visible and organic unity of the church.

### Celebrating the Eucharist Together

32) The Lord's Supper is the sacred feast of the people of God. In communion with Christ, members of the church are renewed in their communion with one another in Christ, and are commissioned afresh to be Christ's agents of reconciliation in the world. The sacrament is at the heart of the church's life. Regular celebration of the Eucharist together is at the heart of covenanting as well.

33) Observance of the Lord's Supper is a sign of the church's unity in Christ. In the present divided state of the churches, it is an ironic witness against their disunity as well. As Christians gather in all their diversity at one table of the Lord, they give evidence that their communion is with Christ, and hence, that they are in communion with one another in Christ. But when Christians are unable or unwilling to partake together of the one Eucharist, they witness against themselves and give a visible demonstration of the brokenness of Christ's body. Common celebration of Holy Communion is essential to the unity we seek.

34) The sacrament of the Lord's Supper exhibits a richness of meaning that is larger than the tradition of any single church. Its essential meaning is briefly stated in *The COCU Consensus*, Chapter VI, paragraphs 15-19. Without obscuring differences which remain, the covenanting churches find in *The COCU Consensus* sufficient agreement regarding the meaning of the Lord's Supper to enable partaking of it as one, while allowing for diversity of administration and practice. At the same time, they share in an increasingly universal convergence of Christian understanding that includes the following elements which should characterize all eucharistic liturgies:

- it is a *great thanksgiving* to God for everything accomplished in creation and redemption;
- it is a *memorial* of the crucified and risen Christ and a sign of Christ's redeeming love for all humankind;
- it is an invocation of the Holy Spirit who makes the crucified and risen Christ really present to us in the sacramental meal;
- it is a communion of the faithful who, in communion with Christ, are in communion with one another in Christ;
- it is a meal of the kingdom, a foretaste of the final redemption of all things in Christ.

The eucharistic liturgies already authorized by the churches of the Consultation reflect such a mutually accepted pattern.

35) Shared celebration of the Eucharist is both a sign and a means of unity in Christ. Even before the inauguration of covenanting, the churches' experience of interim eucharistic fellowship over more than a decade has demonstrated the dynamism of regular eucharistic sharing for the sake of Christian unity. The power of reconciling grace made present in the sacrament has been compelling in furthering a new degree of unity between churches which have been deeply separated for many years along racial lines. It is that same power which has long been evident at the Lord's Table within each church, effecting the reconciliation of those who have become personally, politically, or theologically estranged from one another.

36) The Lord's Supper also is a powerful centering reality for the church's mission. The church always is tempted to pursue either institutional or ideological ends in mission, substituting its own will for the will of Christ. Some even regard Christian unity as an enemy of the church's mission, in the belief that unity draws energy away from cherished causes. But at the eucharistic table, we "show forth the Lord's death until he comes." That is in itself a powerful act of gospel proclamation, providing the spring for Christian witness and action. Indeed, it is the paradigm of all that the church is called to say and to do in mission in the world. Unity and mission are one at the Lord's Table.

37) In covenanting, it is important that common celebrations of the Eucharist be planned with intentional regularity. The frequency of such occasions is left to the discretion of the covenanting partners in each place.

### Engaging Together in Christ's Mission

38) Mission is essential to the church's apostolicity. The church is apostolic not only because it continues in the faith and teaching of the apostles, but also because it is sent, like the apostles, to carry out Christ's mission to all people. Mission is essential to life in the church. It is essential as well to life in covenant communion among the churches.

39) The mission of the church takes many forms. In simplest terms, it is a mission of reconciliation and redemption. It is participation as a commissioned servant in God's mission, which is "to unite all things in Christ, things in heaven and things on earth." (Eph. 1:10) The church engages in mission through *worship*, through *proclamation* of the gospel, and through *action* which embodies God's justice, peace and love.

40) **In worship**, the church recalls and celebrates the mighty acts of God in creation, redemption and providence, is graciously forgiven and renewed in faith, hope and love, and is sent out in the power of the Holy Spirit, individually and collectively, to be ambassadors, witnesses and servants of Christ to the world. But in worship the church does more than just prepare for mission. Worship itself is one of the ways the church engages in its mission until the end of time. Even in places where some forms of mission are forbidden by the state, the faithful assembling of the people for Christian worship is a mighty witness to the gospel. What happens in worship is of vital significance for the world: the church intercedes for the world, and Christ is present for the life of all people. There is no such thing as Christian mission not

rooted and renewed continuously in the church's worship. Worship is mission.

41) **Proclamation of the gospel** also is mission. Beyond the gathered worshipping community, faithful telling of the story by which the church lives is an essential part of its apostolate to the world. The church has been entrusted with the story that is life for the world. It is preserved and sent into the world to proclaim that story. The church can never be content simply to signify its faith by deeds done in silence, however essential such deeds are. The church is called as well to confess unambiguously the Christ in whom it lives, and to invite all who will to enter the fellowship of life in Christ through the church, and thus be faithful to its evangelistic task. Proclamation is mission.

42) **Action which embodies Christ's mission** of justice, peace and love is the church's mission, too. Without such action, the church's worship and proclamation are betrayed, "for the tree is known by its fruit." This action is described in many ways in Scripture: it is relief for the poor, release for prisoners, sight for the blind, liberty for the oppressed; it is food for the hungry, drink for those who thirst, welcome for strangers, clothes for those who have none, companionship for those who are sick, imprisoned, or alone. God in Christ has a special concern for those whom the world mistreats or overlooks: the poor, the weak, the oppressed, those excluded from full participation in society, and those who by reason of physical or mental disability, race, language or culture (such as African American, Asian, Pacific Islander, Hispanic, Native American) are dehumanized. Faithful participation in Christ's mission of justice, peace and love for all people, and the integrity of creation, requires repentance of the church: a deliberate turning away from all the various expressions of unconscious racism — individual, corporate, systemic — naming them and renouncing them. But such repentance is not enough unless it results in actions for justice, focused on eliminating those conditions which permit racism to fester and violate human life.

43) It is appropriate to add something more specific regarding the church's action in mission, in view of the racial and ethnic diversity of this covenant communion. Christian unity, for churches of predominantly African American membership, is a subject never far removed from struggles to overcome poverty and to achieve social, economic, and racial justice. The struggle for civil rights in this country was rooted in the African American churches, and it became the greatest contribution of these churches to Christian unity in this century. With its holistic concern for the civic, spiritual and material well-being of every person, this evangelical movement for human rights gave new meaning to the word from which "ecumenical" is derived, *oikoumene*: "the whole inhabited earth." It embodied "ecumenical altruism": love that leaps all boundaries out of a profound respect for all people. This movement has taught us that where there is no condemnation of idolatry and no call to social justice, there can be no positive or prophetic ecumenical vision of unity or of peace. The covenant communion upon which we enter deliberately claims and shall seek by God's grace to embody this understanding of what it means to be the body of Christ in mission to the world.

44) The Consultation desires that its unity in mission find expression in all three of these dimensions of mission. For the sake of the world, these churches wish to find occasions for worshipping together in covenant communion, and celebrating the eucharist together. For the sake of the world, they seek ways in which their proclamation of the gospel may be made with one voice in covenant communion. For the sake of the world, they seek opportunities for acting together in the service of God's justice, peace and love in the world, that the unity and diversity of this covenant communion may be a sign to all people of God's redemptive will "to unite all things in Christ, things in heaven and things on earth."

### Formation of Covenanting Councils

45) Wherever covenanting occurs — nationally, regionally, or locally — one of the inaugural covenanting acts will be the formation of a covenanting council in each such "place." The reason for doing this is that church unity will be neither visible nor organic if it is not embodied in tangible form. The church exists not alone in the mind. It takes up space on the earth. It can be seen. It can act, and be accountable for its actions. In a covenant communion of churches, therefore, it is essential that there be a company of persons who representatively give expression and leadership to its common life. Such groups we refer to as covenanting councils.

- 46) The primary purpose of these covenanting councils will be to enable the communion of churches in covenant. Several of their functions are of a distinctly ecclesial nature. By giving visible expression to the unity of the churches in covenant communion, the covenanting councils create the corporate ecclesial setting for the ordering of the covenanting ministries of bishops, presbyters, deacons, and lay persons. Among them are:

- ordering the sacrament of Holy Communion in ways that are faithful to the Tradition as claimed in the covenanting agreements, and assembling the people from time to time to celebrate it as one;

- enabling joint ordinations among all the covenanting churches in which reconciled bishops lay on hands with prayer together with the presence and participation of representative ordained and lay persons from as many of the covenanting churches as possible;

- giving joint spiritual oversight (*episkope*) of the things which enable covenant communion among the churches, including;
  - pursuit of inclusiveness,
  - pursuit of a fuller embodiment within each church of the full vision of ministry described in Chapter VII of *The COCU Consensus,*
  - provision of public occasions which visibly bear witness to unity in Christ, such as common baptisms, confirmations, ordinations, and other sacred occasions;

- acting as one in the service of justice on behalf of all for whom justice is delayed or denied, doing so within existing ecumenical bodies where appropriate; and,

- providing opportunity for shared decision-making in our common engagement in Christ's mission in the world.

The covenanting councils may also be given other tasks which the participating churches find appropriate to give them. Covenanting councils will not have authority over the churches. They will derive their authority to act from the judicatories which brought them into being. They will exercise a shared oversight of the covenanting process upon which the churches will enter.

47) This list of functions makes clear that the primary focus of the covenanting process is the local worshiping community, gathered around the Word and sacraments, and giving expression to the church's missionary vocation in the world. It is the local covenanting council, more than the regional or the national, on which primary attention falls in the covenanting process.

48) **Local covenanting councils** will exist to enable congregations of the covenanting churches, located in close proximity to one another (in the same town or in an urban or rural neighborhood) to live and act as one covenant communion in that place, even while maintaining their distinct existences and traditions. Through a shared life of Word and sacrament, publicly confessing the one faith together, and served by ordained ministers who are fully reconciled and hence fully accessible to all, these congregations will be able to reach out in mission as one people of Christ in ways not possible before they entered into covenant communion.

49) **Regional covenanting councils** bring together representatively those judicatories of the covenanting churches where ordination and oversight is located. They are a collegial expression of shared oversight of the covenanting commitment of the churches, particularly in relation to the ordained ministries, congregations of the faithful, and common mission. Additionally, they facilitate formation of local covenanting councils, and encourage and assist those which have been formed.

50) **The national covenanting** council will encourage regional judicatories to enter into covenanting, and will assist those that have been formed. It will invite other communions of Christ's church to enter the covenant. The national covenanting council will provide a forum where churchwide concerns may be considered, including concerns that arise from local and regional covenanting experience. It will enable the churches to think together about matters of worship, including mutually acceptable liturgical norms for shared worship. It will enable churches to think together about matters of ecclesiastical polity as each church seeks increasingly to embody the vision of ministry contained in *The COCU Consensus*, in partnership with the other covenanting churches. Any necessary amendments to the two documents embodying the basic agreements of the covenant communion shall be recommended to the participating churches by the national covenanting council. In sum, it will give collegial guidance to the covenanting process in matters of a general nature.

51) The covenanting churches will continue to participate fully in the life of other ecumenical bodies. The relationships nurtured through the conciliar movement have done much to bring the covenanting churches into closer relation with each other, and it is anticipated that the ecclesial depth of relationship among the covenanting churches will mean much to the conciliar movement as well. Councils of churches represent a broader constituency than do the covenanting councils; hence, councils of churches will continue to be of great importance to the covenanting churches. It is intended that the relationship between covenanting councils and the councils of churches will be a cooperative, complementary, and mutually enriching one. It is intended that the funding and human resources now committed by the churches in their present separateness will not be eroded when they enter into covenant communion. Covenanting councils are not a substitute for councils of churches; rather, they give expression to a covenantal form of church union.

52) Each covenanting council may be organized in such manner as seems appropriate to the consenting covenanting churches in that "place," provided only that the following basic agreements be observed:

—covenanting councils shall be composed of elected representatives of churches which have formally entered into covenanting through affirmative action on *The COCU Consensus* and *Churches in Covenant Communion and through participation in the inaugurating liturgies of covenanting;*

—covenanting councils shall be composed in such a way as to be representative of the total ministry of the people of God, lay ministries as well as ordained ministries, within these churches; the churches, with appropriate consultation, will determine in what way their existing ministries will be represented in the councils, and the particular persons who will be sent to them;

—covenanting councils shall be composed in such a way as to be inclusive of the diversity which God has given to the churches which form them.

The size, organization, and frequency of meeting of the several covenanting councils, as well as their geographical territories or boundaries, shall be determined in the joint discretion of the ecclesiastical bodies which form them in each "place."

## V. THE PROCESS OF COVENANTING

1) The process of covenanting is intended to be implemented by the churches through a series of deliberate steps and stages.

### Claiming the Theological Consensus

2) The first formal act of covenanting is for each church to claim *The COCU Consensus: In Quest of a Church of Christ Uniting* (1984). What that means specifically is stated in the foreword to that document, namely that each participating church is asked, by formal action, to recognize in it:

[1] an expression, in the matters with which it deals, of the Apostolic faith, order, worship, and witness of the Church,

[2] an anticipation of the Church Uniting which the participating bodies, by the power of the Holy Spirit, wish to become, and

[3] a sufficient theological basis for the covenanting acts and the uniting process proposed at this time by the Consultation.

The churches' action on these resolutions began in 1986. It is expected that by 1989 all of the member churches of the Consultation will have had opportunity to consider and act upon them.

### Approving the Covenanting Proposal

3) The second formal act of covenanting is for the participating churches to receive, study, and take formal action upon the document, *Churches in Covenant Communion: The Church of Christ Uniting* (1988). What that means specifically is stated in the resolution of transmittal of this document to the churches, issued by the 1988 Plenary of the Consultation on Church Union (see Preface). This document contains the essentials of the covenanting agreements, together with the liturgies by which the covenant is to be inaugurated.

### The Consultation Considers Next Steps

4) After the participating churches have considered and acted upon the proposals of the Consultation contained in the two documents, *The COCU Consensus* and *Churches in Covenant Communion*, the Consultation on Church Union will carefully examine the actions of the churches on these recommendations, and determine next steps accordingly. No judgment has been made in advance regarding the number of churches that must approve the proposals in order for them to be implemented, nor on other questions concerning the nature of the churches' actions upon them. Such matters will be addressed together by the churches, through the Consultation on Church Union, after the participating churches have acted upon the proposals now before them. If the decision of the Consultation is that the actions of the churches justify implementation of the covenanting proposals as presented, the following two sections of this chapter on "The Process of Covenanting" then apply. If the decision is other than that, the Consultation on Church Union in plenary session will itself determine what action to recommend to the churches.

### Preparations to Implement Covenanting

5) The fourth step in the covenanting process may be somewhat different for each church. It has to do with the particular preparations that each church will need to make in order to participate fully in the inaugurating liturgies of covenanting. Each church which takes affirmative action on the first two steps described above will then need to take other steps as promptly as possible, internal to its own polity, to prepare itself in what- ever ways it may deem to be necessary for the acts of recognition and of reconciliation which are described in the covenanting document and its accompanying liturgies. Specifically this could mean as many as four things:

(a) discovering what categories of ordained ministry within one's polity correspond most closely to that of "bishop," "presbyter," and "deacon" as described in the two documents named above;

(b) making such amendment of one's polity or ecclesiastical system as may be necessary — in good faith, in dialogue with other participating churches, and in the spirit of this covenantal commitment — in order:

[1] to make possible the participation of one's church in a covenantal form of church union as here proposed,

[2] to delegate to covenanting councils (upon their formation) sufficient authority to act in the ways described in this document,

[3] to make possible, through whatever changes may need to be made, full participation within the covenant communion of those who are to be put forward for reconciliation as covenanting bishops and presbyters — utilizing the collegial processes of the Consultation on Church Union to assure mutual acceptability of these forms of ministry within the covenant communion of churches;

(c) naming its representatives to the national service of covenanting, and its representatives to the national covenanting council which will be inaugurated soon thereafter; and

(d) encouraging its regional bodies to name their representatives for participation in regional services of covenanting.

### Participation in the Covenanting Liturgies

6) The fifth step in the covenanting process is the act of consummating the new relationship of covenant communion among the churches. Each church will participate representatively in the liturgies of covenanting, by which covenant will be declared, ministries reconciled, covenanting councils inaugurated, and the Eucharist shared by all. The full text of these three liturgies is attached. These covenanting acts are parts of a single reality. Though they occur in three liturgical settings, each is integrally related to the others. These three liturgical actions are described as follows.

7) *The first will be the national service of declaring covenant.* This liturgy will include an act of mutual recognition of each other as churches, together with an act for the reconciliation of a small but representative number of ordained ministers (a bishop, a presbyter, and a deacon) from each church. The primary services for the reconciliation of ordained ministries will be held later, in many regional and local settings: bishops will ordinarily be reconciled in regional liturgies, presbyters and deacons in local liturgies. The national liturgy, however, is chiefly focused upon the formal declaring of the covenant on behalf of the participating churches as a whole. Nonetheless, in so doing, it will anticipate as well the reconciliation of ministries which is to follow both there and elsewhere. The national service will not include an act for the inauguration of a national covenanting council, but will instead express the commitment of the churches to do so later after recognition and reconciliation of ministry has oc-

curred in several regions. The liturgy for declaring covenant among the churches will conclude with the celebration of the Lord's Supper, done in a manner that expresses the new relationship among the participating churches, under the leadership of a reconciled covenanting bishop.

8) *The second liturgical action will be the regional service for the reconciliation of bishops.* This action is intimately related to the first. Therefore, the first of these regional services will occur in close conjunction with the national service. The choice of location for the national service will be in part made in light of the readiness of the middle judicatories of the covenanting churches in that place to enter promptly into the implementation of the covenant through the reconciliation of their ordained ministers of regional *episkope*. It is hoped that several of these regional services will be held immediately following the national service, perhaps simultaneously with one another at different places across the country. The reconciliation of bishops will be accomplished through the mutual recognition of one another's ministry of *episkope* and through a mutual laying on of hands among the bishops, together with other appropriate signs, and prayer. The regional service will include an act for the inaugurating of a regional covenanting council. The regional service will conclude with the celebration of the Holy Communion, done in a way that expresses the new relationship among the participating churches.

9) *The third liturgical action will be the local service for celebrating the covenant, for reconciling presbyters and for welcoming deacons and other ordained ministers of governance.* These local services will occur within regions where there has already been a regional service for the reconciliation of bishops. They will, of course, occur in many localities throughout the region. The first such local celebration may well occur on the same day as the regional service of reconciliation of bishops, and possibly in the same place. The local service will include an acknowledgment of the reconciliation of bishops that has occurred in that region. It will then move to the reconciliation of presbyters, this being essential to eucharistic fellowship. To that end, the liturgy will include the laying on of the hands of a reconciled bishop upon each of the presbyters there gathered, together with the giving of the hand of fellowship and other appropriate signs of welcome.

10) The diaconal ministries of the churches are now so dissimilar to one another that a meaningful act of reconciliation into a single ministry of deacon is difficult to contemplate at this time. Nonetheless, every church does engage in diaconal ministry; some of these diaconal ministers are ordained and others are unordained. So also, each church provides in some manner for the participation of other persons in ecclesial governance — persons variously defined as Elders, members of the Vestry or of the Official Board. For some, these ministries of governance are an ordained office, and for others they are not. Hence, no meaningful act of reconciliation into a single ministry of governance can be effected at this time. Nonetheless, the local liturgy will include a public act for the mutual welcoming of all ordained deacons and all ordained ministers of governance within the shared life of the covenant communion of churches, but it will not include a liturgical act for the reconciliation of these varied ministries.

11) The service will include an act for the inauguration of a local covenanting council, and will be concluded with the celebration of the Eucharist, done in a way that expresses the new relationship among the participating churches.

### The Expanding Process of Covenanting

12) It is not anticipated that covenanting will commence in all places at the same time. While the national church bodies will declare covenant and will proceed sometime thereafter to form a national covenanting council, regional church judicatories will in turn celebrate covenant, reconcile ministries, and form a regional covenanting council when they are ready to do so. Even after the regional judicatories of the churches have entered into covenanting, groups of congregations within the region will celebrate the covenant and form a local covenanting council when they are prepared so to do. Relationships can be encouraged but not compelled.

13) For an indefinite period, therefore, there may be some unevenness and indeed some anomaly in this covenant communion of churches. One may judge, however, that the anomaly will not be greater than the divisions which now fracture the one body and the one Table of Christ. Covenanting provides a means whereby the Holy Spirit may draw the churches into an ever widening and deepening unity, where and when the Spirit wills.

### ♀♀♀♀♀♀♀ Blessed Be the Women: Be Counted! ♀♀♀♀♀♀♀

Officers of the 10 Standing Legislative Committees:

| | Male | Female | Lay | Clergy |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Chairperson | 7 | 3 | 6 | 4 |
| Vice-Chair | 3 | 7 | 5 | 5 |
| Secretary | 1 | 9 | 8 | 2 |
| TOTAL | 11 | 19 | 19 | 11 |

Plenary:

Adoption of Plan and Rules: 22 speeches by females, 34 speeches by males

- We celebrate that about 50% of the speeches by laity were by racial/ethnic minority females. Half of the speeches by laity were by females; and 30% of speeches by clergy were by females.

Information provided by the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women

# THE EPISCOPAL ADDRESS
## 1996

By Bishop Judith Craig

**The Grace and Peace of Jesus Christ** be with you, sisters and brothers of the Household of Faith.

Your Bishops greet you in the fresh and lively light of Easter Dawn that lingers in these days of Eastertide.

We come together in the presence of the Triune God. As God is Three, yet One, so we come from many cultures and expressions of faith, yet we are one in baptism and profession of faith in Jesus Christ.

Nothing reveals our unity more than having come to One Table this afternoon. At that Table we met the Risen Christ and each heard: "Take this . . . do this . . . remember this." A lay woman, Amy Spencer, wrote a prayer for the Table: "Help me to understand that your words . . . (take, do, remember) . . . are really an invitation to know you, trust you and follow you." Let us thank God for the inviting Table. Let us thank God for the rich and varied ways we may respond according to our national origins, our unique traditions, and our historic identities. With Amy let us pray that as a General Conference we will come to know Christ more deeply, trust Christ more fully, and follow Christ more faithfully in the conduct and completion of our work.

**United Methodists are part** of a world fellowship. Our global nature is made visible by the largest number of delegates in our history from Central Conferences: one hundred thirty eight (138) delegates from the Annual Conferences in our six (6) Central Conferences. In addition there are ten (10) delegates from those with whom we have concordat relationship, thirty-three (33) from affiliated autonomous churches in the Methodist family, and two observers from Russia.

In our Central Conferences we see our fastest numerical growth. At the end of 1994 the Central Conferences accounted for more than One and Half Million (1,500,000) of the worldwide ten million two-hundred thirty-six thousand, eight hundred thirty-five (10,236,835) members of United Methodism. This growth keeps giving birth to new annual conferences around the globe. Every day new professions of faith are made in chapels, house churches, cathedrals, and open air meetings around the world. The missionary enterprise is truly global, with no one way streets, no sense of one part of the world sending and another receiving. We all send to each and each receives from all.

**We gather in a beautiful** place where we can feel secure and comfortable. Here we have enough to eat, enough to wear. Some of us come from places in the world where security and comfort are a privilege restricted to the few. There danger stalks the daily walk of the many. Others live in places where freedom from war or disease is the usual. In those places the privilege of feeling secure and having more than enough for daily needs belongs to the majority. Yet we confess a sad truth: No place in this world is safe from violence and disruption at the hands of those whose anger and frustration explode in destruction of life.

Some of our delegates have left homes where wars rage, coming here not knowing what they will find when they return. Others have known the terror of violence in homes and cities and towns we do not usually think of as danger zones. Among us are Bishops who have escaped brushes with death and survived serious injury at the hands of violent people. And some — Bishops and delegates — are not here at all, caught in cross fire of battles at this moment and shut out of the United States for want of a visa.

But here our relative sense of safety and comfort numbers us among the privileged of the world as we are free to debate and think and decide with honor for each and all.

In our security, we dare not slip into a false sense of God abiding with us only. God is not confined in our assembly. God's attention is not limited to debates about order within The United Methodist Church. God's knowing and doing range far beyond us. God surely cares what we decide and how we decide. But God insists that our decisions embrace the creation plan for justice and life abundant for all the created order without limitation or exception. Our work here must manifest the justice and abundance envisioned by the Creator.

May the peace of Christ hold us as we are here. May the peace of Christ go with us as we return to our homes near and far when the work of this General Conference is completed.

**The United Methodist Church** is alive and well around the world. While many lament and wring their hands with worry and despair about the Church, there are signs of God at work all around us and within us. There is so much good in the Church, we could, in the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., "dig a tunnel of hope through every mountain of despair."

Consider these signs:

- Twenty-nine (29) persons have graduated from Africa University a bare six years after its beginnings. Now there are five faculties in place and enrollment in 1996 is three hundred (300). That University was a vision, birthed in a few inspired minds, caught by a General Conference and extended by a global community. It is the church alive, touching minds and hearts with knowledge and faith.

- More than four hundred thousand (400,000) persons have finished one or more courses of Disciple Bible

Study. One seminary professor reports Disciple graduates bring a deepened foundation to their studies. The study is now in five languages — English, German, Korean, Spanish and Chinese. More than sixteen thousand (16,000) people are trained to lead.

- A series of spiritual growth movements is deepening faith and sharpening skills in Christian life and witness. They are reconnecting us to the almost lost principles of mutual accountability once at the heart of classes and bands. For instance, more than one-half million people have taken the Walk to Emmaus with more than twelve hundred (1,200) walks in 1995 alone. Covenant Disciple Groups and Wesley Classes are meeting in every Annual Conference in the United States. Four hundred twenty (420) persons benefitted from the two-year Academy of Spiritual Formation and Annual Conference Academies are springing up faster than they can be counted. The list is too long to catalogue. You add the specific movements and events that are part of our Church's response to the expression of a spiritual hunger resident among people around the world.

- In a majority of our Annual Conferences we hear with fresh urgency the questions: What is our primary task? Where does God call us to focus our resources in this age? They rise from initiatives born in congregations and conference gatherings. They are prompted in some places by participation in Vision 2000 and forms of Quest for Quality.

- Three events have been held in the United States inviting youth and young adults to listen for a call from God to ordained and diaconal ministry. More than two thousand seven hundred (2,700) have attended. Many are responding "yes." The average age of seminary students in the United States is lowering each year. The number of students in seminaries and schools of ministry in the Central Conferences is increasing each year.

- The National Plan for Hispanic Ministry has taken wing. It is bringing into being new congregations. Through its energy we are training and deploying lay missioners, establishing faith communities, new outreach ministries and church schools. The report of this ministry is before the General Conference showing the measurable and hope-filled effect of an initiative of the 1992 General Conference.

- United Methodist presence is being experienced in places where we had scarecly been four years ago. Consider the Russia Initiative where new congregations gather for worship, Christian education and service because of United Methodist invitation. The initiative also fosters major work in medical, economic, educational, industrial and agricultural growth for the people of the region.

Signs of hope are not limited to congregational life or work among the membership of The United Methodist Church.

- The Church has been a voice for freedom, quietly and openly working against oppression in government and seeking to bring justice to people without a voice. Consider the Christian witness in South Africa through the dismantling of apartheid — the Middle East, where the Christian voice is small, but effective in giving hope — and Eastern Europe, where Christian communities survived forty years of oppression and being cut off from brothers and sisters in the rest of the world.

- Four years ago the General Conference set aside its agenda for a day to address a crisis of anger and destruction in one of the cities of North America. A vision was set forth. In the intervening years that vision has taken specific form. By the end of 1995 there were ninety-five (95) established or developing Shalom Zones on record.

- In the last four years over one-hundred three thousand (103,000) people participated in Volunteer in Mission events in forty-six (46) countries, supported by over thirty-eight million, eight-hundred thousand dollars ($38,800,000).

- And how shall we count contacts with legislators, letters written to influence public policy, information and testimony given to offer Christian perspective on decisions that affect the course of nations and communities? All that activity is also a sign of vital life among the Church's people. Such active discipleship brings the Gospel to bear on issues that shape the life of persons who may or may not be part of the Church of Jesus Christ, but are still the concern of God.

In all these signs of hope we see a marvelous linking of individual disciples, congregations, districts, conferences, and general boards and agencies. Signs of hope show the connection at work, doing together what we cannot do alone.

Is the Church alive? Does evangelizing bear fruit? All around us are stories of lives resurrected with ethical strength and moral toughness, of hope kindled in the face of despair, of generosity in spite of shrinking resources.

You know the signs. You are the signs. You know the stories. We urge you: tell them to each other. As you walk to and from meetings, as you have meals, as you share refreshments, tell the stories of the Church alive and shaping the world's peoples.

**Signs of hope evidence evangelical fervor.** Evangelizing is the natural outgrowth of knowing the Gospel. We receive to give away. The Gospel is

effective if it is on the tip of our life-tongues — in both talk and walk

Our zeal to invite through example and exhortation must be motivated by more than a desire to effect membership numbers. If that is our only goal, we will know disappointment and be counted as unfaithful. Numerical growth is a by-product of spiritual growth which is the sign of faithful evangelizing. To evangelize is to tell about Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, reconciling the tattered world to the healing Creator's love. We must not truncate evangelism by limiting it to any sectarian definitions or motives other than compassionate, inclusive announcement of God's redeeming love. Our discipleship is defective if we try to limit God's encircling embrace of grace to those we judge acceptable.

As part of learning to be faithful evangels, we urge our people to examine their relationships in congregational and personal life. If the Christian community is consumed with conflict and arguments about power and control, the Body of Christ is fractured and ministry impeded. How tragic to hear persons say, "I would be more interested in Christian faith if I didn't see the way church people treat each other." Our baptism means we have put on Christ. Let us be sure our actions reveal the wearing of Christ lest our sacraments become a hollow shell of false religion. Let us make sure those who wait to hear good news are not deafened by contradiction in our profession and practice.

The heart of the Gospel reaches beyond relationship of persons to Christ and Christ to Church. The Gospel is the expression of the Grace of God which intends social justice in the whole society of humankind and all of nature. To separate the salvation message from a call to justice, both within and beyond the communities of congregations, diminishes the thrust and energy of the Evangel. The whole Good News is ours to proclaim in word and act. Individuals, institutions and systems must be redeemed to free persons from any imprisonment that would deny the abundant life bought through a terrifying cross and an empty tomb.

We have so much for which to shout Hallelujah! At the same time, we are deaf if we do not hear underneath our shouting the groans and screams of a creation in pain. We learn from the Psalmist the strength of lament, a mixture of weeping and praising. The Psalmist was so sure of a listening, responding God as to dare to say it all: that which was cause for great joy and that which confounded and wounded. As the Psalmist, we live in a world that celebrates freedom even as it weeps because it is caught in the webs of pain and sin still begging for the news of redemption.

Look at God's world into which the Incarnate One came and comes to reconcile and redeem and bring life abundant.

## FILM IMAGES.....PAIN AND HOPE.....

Images of God's people in God's world. They leave us with so much to mourn and so much to celebrate.

What has the agenda of this General Conference to do with the images we have seen, with the global concerns of God? How will our debates and decisions make visible the Body of Christ in the midst of creation's joy and wounds? The wind of God's spirit sweeps across places of deprivation, violence, fear and denial of dignity. We must welcome that wind blowing us to decisions and lives that reveal the reign of God.

We labor here in response to the Creator who looked on all that was made and said, "Behold, it is very good." That same Creator now weeps over impoverished cities and villages, ravished lands, polluted streams, depleted soil, poisoned air, fractured humanity. The weeping God beckons us to become God's healing presence in human communities and all the created order.

Humankind has lost its sense of reverence. We see the loss when life is robbed of meaning and dignity by unequal opportunity and unjust distribution of the basic goods that sustain life. The poor rise in number and sink in despair as political and economic systems continue to protect the comfort of the few at the expense of the many. Poverty strips human beings of their dignity and robs them of hope for the abundant life our Gospel promises. The Gospel of Jesus Christ stands against the forces that hold people in the captivity of poverty.

Loss of reverence relentlessly assaults the young of the world. Children are abused by images of carelessness with life. They both see and experience that carelessness daily. Our young are hungry and malnourished. They are dislocated and orphaned by war. They are held hostage to the power struggles of people without conscience. Children are scarred and deformed by systems that do not give first attention to their need for shelter, safety, education and nurture. The terror of carelessness with the lives of children is real in every nation, from the poorest and war torn to the richest where no declared wars are fought. Do you know the United States is the only industrialized country in which children are the largest segment of the population who lives in poverty?

Loss of reverence touches youth in their teens. A generation is at peril, hungry for help in standing over against the temptation to instant gratification and the altering of reality with drugs and alcohol. Their sense of future is blocked by walls of economic and educational limitations, blinding them to opportunity and inviting short-term goals that undermine long-term well-being. Values and morals are challenged and twisted by alternative views of life that are inconsistent with the Gospel vision.

As a Council of Bishops, we believe the Church can offer no more powerful sign of steward responsibility than making the welfare of children and youth the first concern. They are the ones who will inherit the wind of our terror or the nurturing breeze of our care. Their needs are the most urgent cries to which we must respond quickly and without reserve. To that end we urge this General Conference to keep the image of the most powerless of people — the poor, children, youth,

women — always in the forefront as we do the work given us to do.

In the very near future your Bishops will be inviting you to major attention through an Episcopal Initiative addressing issues of children and poverty. All else we do will be wasted if we do not engage in shaping the future so that it offers life abundant instead of squeezing life out of the next generations.

**As we think about what is now, we are aware also of the future coming toward us. This General Conference convenes** on the threshold of a new millennium. A thousand years ago United Methodism had not been born. The second millennium has witnessed radical changes in how we speak of the faith. Our ancestors ordered the household of faith through reform after reform in that thousand years. Now we are they whose privilege and responsibility it is to think "long thoughts" after the fashion of God as we position The United Methodist Church for the third millennium. How we do our work must be influenced by this sense of time. We are gifted with an urgency and potential unlike anything given to previous generations. Some say that the revolutions of knowing and human comprehension facing us in the next thousand years will dwarf anything that occurred in the thousand years now ending. For instance, neuroscientists and linguists are unlocking the mysteries of how language is formed in ways that will revolutionize teaching and communication. Encounters with such revolutions are not new for the Church. Expanding knowledge has always called the Church to join in new expression and encounters with emerging truths. The Church has not been static in the last Millennium. Ways of speaking the faith and intersecting with life issues have developed and shifted according to God's continuing revelation.

We sing, "as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. . ." We proclaim God's word, "Behold, I make all things new." They are two phrases of one truth. What has always been is that God is always making things new.

In fact, United Methodists are the inheritors of major intrusions into the understanding of Church. It was a revolution when John Wesley dared to take preaching to the streets and open fields, declaring faith empty if not accompanied with insistence on justice. Listen to these words from Mr. Wesley's diaries:

"Saturday, March 31. In the evening I reached Bristol and met Mr. Whitfield there. I could scarce reconcile myself at first to this strange way of preaching in the fields . . . having been all my life (till very lately) so tenacious of every point relating to decency and order, that I should have thought the saving of souls almost a sin if it had not been done in a church."

Such a scandal, Mr. Wesley! But preach he did, in those unorthodox ways, often using the text from Luke: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me . . . to proclaim Good News to the poor . . . " One story carries the memory of an angry crowd throwing empty whiskey bottles at Mr. Wesley. A woman whose stature was considerably more expansive than that of the slight Mr. Wesley strode out of the crowd, stood before him, and threatened all who would further assault, saying, "Let the little man preach."

Oh yes, we are the inheritors of radical breaks in tradition and revolutions in ways of being "church." Our faith and it's practice are not frozen in time or space. What we do and say reveals whether or not we stand in continuity with what is always the same — the new and far reaching activity of God.

**God's continuing revelation requires us to claim what we already know and keep listening for what God has yet to teach us about divine grace and its reach.** Some look at us and wonder how we can pronounce the limitless grace of God and then call together huge assemblies to define who and what falls beyond that limitless grace. The church we order must be an open house where Jesus sits at the doorway and welcomes all who come, regardless of whether the townspeople think it proper or not! It is an offense to God to define so carefully and describe church so rigidly as to create a family tree that says most clearly who is not welcome. It is unfaithful to focus so much on our own internal life that we have nothing left to give as moral leaders and stewards of the whole of God's creation.

God watches us, perhaps with Divine angst, to see if we who claim to be faithful will indeed act faithfully. The poor, the oppressed, the young and the old listen for the Word spoken in language they can comprehend and recognize in actions that reach their needs. Can we speak God's forgiving, nurturing Word in 21st Century languages and practices? O, please God, make us able to answer with a resounding "Yes!"

**We move toward the new millennium as part of a wounded world.** We are ourselves a wounded community. Our wounds, sign of sin still resident within us, cry out for healing. When they are healed, our message of redeeming hope will have integrity and power in the larger human community among whom God places us. Our announcement of reconciliation begins with confession of those places in our personal and institutional lives wherein we are not reconciled. Our invitation to holiness is accompanied by a fresh determination to live holy lives ourselves. Our call to justice includes ordering life within our own body in ways that are just.

We mark forty years of benefitting from the gifts of women as elders in full conference membership. That gift rises out of a century of history, dating back to the ordination of women as elders in the United Brethren Church as early as 1889.

We celebrate thirty years of having removed from our midst the scandal of formal segregation in the Central Jurisdiction. All our legislation and covenant agreements testify that racism and sexism are sins that must not live in Christ's Church.

Sadly, we know legislation does not guarantee practice. It is difficult to find words to express our outrage at continuing discrimination against women and people of racial ethnic heritage. It lingers in every circle of the church's life. An unrelenting migration toward homogeneity unmasks a myopic vision of God's richly di-

verse creation. The exclusion of persons because of race, gender or status of any kind flies in the face of God's intention to embrace all who name the name of Jesus. Allowing congregations to participate in sinful patterns of discrimination surrounding them is faithless sinking into the ways of culture rather than shaping culture according to God's creation plan.

We call all who bear the name of Christ — United Methodist Bishops included — to confess the sad truth that we continue to participate in institutions and practices that favor Caucasians and males in overt and covert systemic exclusion. Let us repent that we may be led to just behavior.

We are grieved and puzzled by the rising number of allegations of clergy sexual misconduct. That so many of our covenant community seem insensitive and irresponsible about appropriate relationships and pastoral propriety is cause for lament. We join you in seeking to create just ways to respond.

We know the crucial distinction between the sure redeeming love of God for all who sin and the requirements that make one worthy of the sacred trust of the office given with consecration and ordination. We insist that those who carry the precious privilege of ordination and consecration maintain the exemplary lifestyle required by the call of Christ and affirmation of the Church.

Our ways of responding to clergy misconduct must evidence swift, just and gentle care for all the aggrieved — the ones primarily wounded, those in secondary and tertiary circles of disruption, and the wounders themselves. We cannot ignore or be inconsistent in our response to this offense in the Church.

God's gift of sexuality is good! Even as we claim that creation truth, our cultures are bombarded with twisted and demeaning exploitation of sexuality —pornography, promiscuity, the breakdown of covenant relationships. Within the Church our struggle to understand the expression of human sexuality has become painful and divisive.

We yearn for a holy community that embraces sexuality as a good gift of creation rather than something about which to be embarrassed or to interpret and define in ways that exclude persons from full participation in the life of the Church. In cultures saturated with images, abuses and excesses that belittle and demean holy intimacy, the Church is the only community with the possibility of teaching the strength of the divine blessing on human bonding and fidelity.

We affirm the sanctity of marriage. At the same time we are called by a gracious Christ to live with a spirit of welcome for persons of many realities and persuasions. We have much to learn about our human nature and what it means to be created in the image of God. Let us bind ourselves in common search for God's continuing revelation about Divine creation intention, especially the meaning and employment of the beautiful gift of our sexuality.

**How shall we respond to the woundedness around and among us?** So much of life waits for the healing touch of the Gospel. Sometimes it is mediated through human institutions, in systems and structures by which life is ordered. The General Conference is responsible for providing order and visible framework for United Methodism. That organization makes possible our carrying the Gospel's healing touch.

We are a people who value structure. We understand the strength of being connected with each other in orderly fashion that allows the flow of resources and the linking of gifts. Any decisions that weaken the coherence of that connection threaten the urgency of solidarity in witness and practice in a fractured world. So much in life suffers from discontinuity and disconnection. Our connection — manifested in structural coherence that is recognizable from place to place — is a sign of healthy wholeness. It is the means by which we are in ministry together where no one part of us can be effective alone.

We urge consciousness of that wholeness in your deliberations. Frequently ask: if we decide this way here, how will our decision effect what is being considered somewhere else? Let us never forget our linkage as a corporate body. Our language, our customs, our dreams, our desires are each shaped and worthy in their own time and place. Yet all together are the strands on a divine loom that become a tapestry of the Living Christ made visible through the likes of you and me — connected and united.

Remember United Methodists are part of the whole Body of Christ, in relationship with persons who live in other rooms in the grand Household of Faith. Our unity with other communions in councils of churches and covenant relationships moves us toward God's vision of the Church made whole. What we decide about our way of being faithful must be appropriate to ourselves and our tradition. At the same time we must demonstrate respect for our kindred of other Christian traditions and self-understandings.

The Council of Bishops has put before you the opportunity to place United Methodists in formal relationship to Churches in Covenant Communion. We urge you to debate and act in light of the world's need to see and hear a unified witness to Christ.

World consciousness and ecumenism are the twin templates within which to perfect legislative proposals. Let no continent or clan pretend any weight of authority that denies the unique energy of all nations and peoples. Rather, let the uniqueness of culture and continent enhance the beautiful unity of common heritage and practice as United Methodists.

One way our common heritage and practice is made visible is in ordering ministry for service through the Church. Four years ago you entrusted the Council of Bishops with the Study of Ministry. You asked us to undertake our work in a spirit of prayer and discernment. We have sought to be faithful to that task. Before you is a document overwhelmingly commended by the Council of Bishops. We ask you to consider the proposals about the ordering of ministry in the same prayerful and discerning spirit which we have sought to follow.

**We are a people** of The Word, the *The Holy Bible*. We gather to write two books: *The Book of Discipline* and *The Book of Resolutions*. Those we write must

never take the place of the first. Our books must not interpret and order life in any way contrary to the always fresh and contemporary Word of God. Therein lies the tension of our work — an ancient body of truth guiding a contemporary and emerging expression of new things God is doing. We stand in between what God has done and what God will do next. We can be dams of self interest and polluted channels of selfish motives that block and foul the pure force and creative energy of God's will. Or we can be open doors and clean vessels through which God pours continuing Divine intervention into creation.

"In-between-ness" is as old as Scripture. We are told to remember who made us, who delivered us, what God has taught. At the same time we are told to follow the God who makes all things new, who is always doing a new thing. Jesus stood in between, saying "You have heard it said of old — but — I say to you..." When we gathered at The Table earlier today, we were in between: "Do this to remember me . . . until the reign of God comes." In-between-ness is our location in faith.

Wonderful discoveries break into our lives with speed that takes our breath away. Knowledge and ways of communicating unlike anything we imagined in our first decades of life are now commonplace to those born after us. We stand in between generations. One was raised on printed pages. The other knows the flicker of computer screens. One talks of truth in images that are static and contained in books. The other interacts with people around the globe, encountering truth in cultures and faith expressions that are dynamic and mutually enriching. One generation talks about the nuts and bolts of life. The other speaks in languages of bits and bytes. We are truly in between revolutions and revelations, right where the Church has always been. Our memory of God is tested in between.

I heard a story of a four-year-old girl into whose family was born a baby brother. From the day her parents brought him home she began to ask for some time alone with him. The parents were reluctant, not sure just what she would do with him. Finally they relented to her persistent insistence. One evening they told her she could go into the nursery after he had been put to bed, and there be alone with him. They shut the door, then cracked it ajar and watched as she went near the crib, bent down and spoke. She said to her baby brother, "Tell me what God looks like. I am beginning to forget."

The long look requires remembering what we have always known, but learning it in forms and images that are appropriate to our time and place.

When we sing, "O God our help in ages past, our hope for years to come . . . ," we offer a unique gift of assurance that steadies those whirling in the excitement of unfolding revelation. A Church truly faithful to Christ will not be obsolete in the new millennium. The Church knows the Source of all that is coming to light. Our voice is essential, our understanding central, our confidence basic for the well-being of the world in the future as it has been in the past.

The 1996 General Conference comes to life in a birthroom full of what could become destructive controversy. It is always appropriate to examine our beliefs and engage each other in an earnest search for each generation's form of expression and confession. It is troublesome if the engagement scatters seeds of dissension and destruction among seeds meant to germinate in abundant new life for a new century.

We have watched with alarm tensions that rise out of good desire to protect the Church from harm. We fear the desire to protect may turn to desire to control. We urge you to tune in to the wind of the Holy Spirit, letting it drown out the sound and fury of human insistence. We exhort you to approach the work of this General Conference embracing a holy tension: remembering what God has done and expecting God to do something new.

A question confronts us: How can we faithfully guard the irreducible tenets of faith-filled tradition without confining God in any one creed or confession in human language?

Let us repent of our pretentious assumptions that human language and time-encrusted traditions can contain the omnipotent, omnipresent Holy One. The Apostolic faith is ours to enjoy, to give away, and to which to invite others. The Apostolic faith is not locked in expressions or experiences of the Apostolic Centuries. It is sufficiently strong to be flexible in expression and experience to be offered in language and form appropriate to all time, including the new Century we approach.

We are not suggesting a cavalier setting aside of valued and valid tradition. We embrace Trinitarian faith and hold to the centrality of the Incarnation, Atoning Death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. At the same time, we acknowledge the limitations of human formulations and rites to express those unchanging truths. Language and rituals that have been sufficient in the past may not be heard with convicting force in the now and the future. God's Spirit sweeps over the earth searching for expression to transcend tradition, gender, race, and nation.

Opposing temptations beckon us. One is to go on to new things disregarding tradition altogether. The other is to stand so rigidly in tradition as to believe we simply must make what once was happen again. While some retreat into memory, others tend to run ahead as if suffering amnesia. It is for us to find the balance in between, guided by the Holy Spirit who sets us free of partisanship.

We who are your Bishops believe that what you decide and order will make a difference in how both the Church and world recognize the continuing revelation of God among us and through us. So crucial and relevant do we believe your work to be that we issue an invitation.

**We invite you to Holy Conferencing.**. We urge you to claim with confidence our rich heritage that trusts God to offer wisdom through the gathering of varieties of thought and convictions in conferencing. We believe debate can be prayerful expression, honoring the Holy resident among all and within each. It is

possible to disagree with another's ideas while still claiming oneness in Christ. That flavor is what we hunger for in this General Conference.

We invite you to step out of party spirit and walk together in Holy Spirit. We urge you to turn from being slaves to predetermined agendas, no matter how thoughtfully and prayerfully prepared, to a free embrace of the will of the One to whom we belong. We invite you, we urge you, to remember where we began: at the Table. We invite you to create an atmosphere of hospitality and mutual respect that comes from sharing around that Table.

About a year and half ago I sat in a Bedouin tent outside the city of Jerusalem. There some Christians, some Israelis and Bedouin Muslims sat around a rug which was, for our hosts, a table. Around that rug-table Bedouins gather for talk and decision making. Around that rug-table they gather to eat. At that rug-table they asked us to sit as they told us their story of persecution and hope. Surrounded by the dust of the Judean hills, we sat at the Table. The Elder of the tribe did not speak until children had appeared out of the brown dust with sparkling clean glasses on a polished copper tray. They carried a bright blue pot out of which they poured the hot, sweet, strong tea of the Middle East. As we each took a glass and drank together, the barriers of culture, language, and faith began to fall. We found ourselves entering into the stories of each other's dreams and hopes. Tables tumble barriers and bridge distances between people.

Just so we began at the Table. We took broken bread and drank from one cup. This unique Table is central to our faith. From the Table we learn what God means to do — re-member the dis-membered order of life. In fact, Jesus told us to do just that — re-member him, put together again the wholeness of God's presence in this world. At the Table we receive the invitation to bring Christ's broken body back together and to offer Christ's spilled blood to salve the wounds of the world.

The Table stands in between the old and new covenants, bringing together as one movement the continuing activity of the God of all covenants. At the Table one part of God's salvation drama is completed as another waits to be realized in the future.

There were tensions at the table where the twelve sat with their Teacher. Jesus named his betrayer. The disciples quarreled among themselves about greatness. Jesus had to remind them about servanthood. But Jesus stayed at that table. He sat there in the midst of that broken community and gave them a sign of healing and wholeness.

In times of conflict and differing opinion what does it mean to stay at the Table? We believe all that we do can be transformed toward God's will if we will stay at the Table. Our invitation is to heed the call of the Table to re-member lest we pass by on our own way still dis-membering the Body of Christ.

The delegates to this General Conference were invited to prayer, using a common daily guide for the forty days preceding our gathering. It made us one before we saw each other. Your Bishops now offer a specific sign of continuing prayer. Members of the Council of Bishops will be in prayer around the clock for the duration of this General Conference. We have designated teams of prayer partners who will intercede for all of us, asking the Holy Spirit to intrude into all we dream and propose, all we say and decide. We will identify the interecessors each day and the place where they are in prayer. Others may join them there, or in one of the other chapels, or a place of your own choosing. We invite all to join us in making this entire General Conference a season of prayer.

In the same spirit, we ask that each time you gather in a legislative committee, in a caucus meeting, in plenary, you begin with five minutes of reflecting with another person — perhaps someone you do not know well — speaking about these two questions: 1) What is my most earnest hope for the next few hours of this General Conference? 2) What do I believe is God's most fervent hope for these next few hours? Then we ask you to pray with that conversation partner beseeching God to bring the two hopes into one. We go to our discipline of intercessory prayer with confidence God will break in with energy, wisdom and joy. We invite you to your moments of self-revelation and search, equally confident that God will bless the Church and the world through a General Conference earnestly praying and listening for God's guidance. May it be so, in the name of Christ.

We are confident you will respond readily and eagerly to this wrapping of our Conferencing in the mantle of prayer. We are confident you will do your holy work of conferencing always aware of being at the Table with Jesus. As sign of our mutual covenant to do so, let us sing a prayer to undergird all we do in these days as the General Conference of The United Methodist Church in the Year of our Lord, 1996.

Dear Jesus, in whose life I see
All that I would, but fail to be,
Let thy clear light forever shine,
To shame and guide this life of mine.

Though what I dream and what I do
In my weak days are always two,
Help me, oppressed by things undone,
O thou whose deeds and dreams were one.
Amen.

The Episcopal Address has been written by Bishop Judith Craig who was selected by the Council of Bishops. It has been perfected for presentation at the 1996 session of the General conference after considerable preparation, including discussion and debate at regular meetings of the Council of Bishops. Though not reflecting the view of every bishop at every point, in finished form this address has been approved by the Council of Bishops of the United Methodist Church.

Roy I. Sano
President

Melvin G. Talbert
Secretary

# Council of Bishops
## NOMINATIONS

GENERAL COUNCIL ON MINISTRIES

(Three persons from Central Conferences, to be nominated by the Council of Bishops and elected by the General Conference on Ministries ¶1007.1a[7]).
1.Clergy: *Oystein Olsen* (Norway)
2.Laywoman: Franelli Pableo (Philippines)
3.Layman: Solomon Chiripasi (Zimbabwe)
4.Alternate clergy: *Patrick Streiff*
5.Alternate laywoman: Marilina de Carvalho
6.Alternate layman: David Caypuno (Philippines)

GENERAL BOARD OF DISCIPLESHIP

(Elect from Central Conferences; one shall be a woman ¶1204.1).
1.Clergy: *Doris Lenga-Kroma* (Sierra Leone)
2.Layperson: Anselmo Lupdag (Philippines)

GENERAL BOARD OF GLOBAL MINISTRIES

Three persons from each Central Conference; one clergy, one laywoman and one layman. To be elected by each Central Conference (¶1412.6).
1.Africa:
Clergy: *Gift Machinga*
Laywoman: Mrs. Poto (Akasa) Umembudi
Layman: Willas Makombe

2.West Africa
Clergy: *James D. Karblee*
Laywoman: Leah Olusiyi
Layman: Abraham K. Sellu

3.Central and Southern Europe
Clergy: *Peter Siegfried*
Laywoman: Eva Csernak
Layman: No nomination

4.Germany
Clergy: *Friedhelm Kober*
Laywoman: Krimhild Sieweck
Layman: Thomas Kemper

5.Northern Europe
Clergy: *Lars Eric Pettersson*
Laywoman: Laila Hørby
Layman: Anton Zakharchenko

6.Philippines
Clergy: *Francisco Bilog*
Laywoman: Liz Pajaro Mariano
Layman: Alejandrino Valera

GENERAL COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

A.Nine members at large (¶905.1) nominated by the Council of Bishops and elected by the General Conference.
1.Lenora Thompson (E PA)NE
2.*John Woodruff* (Central IL)NC
3.*Eugene Matthews* (Balt.-WA.)NE
4.Jay Brim (SW TX)SC
5.Eunice Sato (CA-Pacific)W
6.Mary Ellen Bullard (AL/W FL)SE
7.*David Orendorff* (MT)W
8.*Elvyn Hamilton* (KY) (under age 30)SE
9.Henning Bjerno (Denmark)CC

Youth under 18 at time of election:
1. Shawn Hartman (Central PA)NE

B.To be nominated by the Jurisdictional Colleges (¶905.1) and elected by the General Conference.
NORTH CENTRAL
1.*Stan Sutton* (W OH)
2.David Aubuchon (E OH)
3.Barbara Ullman (Detroit)
4.*Bertie Hakeem* ( (N IL)
5.*Patricia Hinker* (MN)
6.Bill White (WI)

NORTHEASTERN
1.*Phil Wogaman* (Balt-WA)
2.*Robert Fishel* (New England)
3.Larry Johnson (W VA)
4.Tracy Merrick (W PA)
5.Gail Scott (Wyoming)
6.Lucille Dockery (NY)

SOUTH CENTRAL
1.*Aaron Black* (NB)
2.Mona May Waymire (OK)
3.Marilyn Lloyd (Little Rock)
4.Weldon Mackie (MO E)
5.*Virgilio Vazquez-Garza* (SW TX)
6.Stanley Sager (NM)

SOUTHEASTERN
1.Cashar Evans (NC)
2.Taylor Phillips (S GA)
3.*Lee Sheaffer* (VA)
4.*Lawrence Dill III* (N AL)
5.Richard Kelly (N AL)
6.Connie Mitchell (KY)

WESTERN
1.Melvin Brawn (CA-Nev)
2.*Edsel White* (Pacific NW)
3.Tom Bentley (Desert SW)
4.*Robert Smith* (CA-Pac)
5.Peggy Sewell (Rocky Mtn.)
6.Kay Wolf (OR-ID)

GENERAL BOARD OF CHURCH AND SOCIETY

Elect from Central Conferences upon nomination by the Central Conference College of Bishops. One shall be a woman (¶1106).

1.Clergy: *Edward Puslecki* (Poland)
2.Layman: Rudolfo Beltran (Philippines)
3.Laywoman: Helen Byholt Thorsen (N Europe)

GENERAL BOARD OF PENSION AND HEALTH BENEFITS

To be nominated by the Council of Bishops and elected by the General Conference (¶1602.1a)

1.Joel Huffman (Desert SW)W
2.*Luther W. Henry* (Central TX)SC
3.*Kermit Braswell* (NC)SE
4.Mary Miller (S IN)NC
5.Herbert Smith (TX)SC
6.John English (NJ)NE

GENERAL COMMISSION ON ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

Nominated by the Council of Bishops (¶1894.2) and elected by the General Conference.

1.*John Baker-Batsel* (Rocky Mtn.)W
2.*Ralph Blanks* (E PA)NE
3.*Michelle Grube* (ME)NE
4.*Joseph Lasley* (WNC)SE
5.*Richard O'Neil* (WI)NC
6.*Louis Piel* (Peninsula)NE
7.*John Piper*(Central PA)NE
8.Russell Richey (W NC)SE
9.*Robert Rosas* (Pacific NW)W
10.Emilie Sims (Central IL)NC
11.(Mrs.) Gerry Reiff SE
12.Harold Batiste Jr. (SW TX)SC
13.Michel Weyer (Germany)CC

COUNCIL OF BISHOPS

NOMINATIONS TO GENERAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

STANDING ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE

Committee on Agenda

1.North Central: Carolyn Johnson
2.Northeastern: *Sarah S. Miller*
3.South Central: Nancy Carruth
4.Southeastern: Allen Norris
5.Western: *Elaine Stanovsky*
6.Central Conferences: Eke Halloway
7.Coordinator of Calendar: Fitzgerald Reist
8.Chair, Program Committee: William Quick

Committee on Calendar

1.North Central: Mary Good
2.Northeastern: *Deborah Cronin*
3.South Central: Nancy Dunlap
4.Southeastern: *John Horton*
5.Western: *Sharon Rhodes-Wickett*

Committee on Correlation and Editorial Revision

1.Clelia Hendrix SE
2.Naomi Bartle NC
3.*Earl Riddle* W
4.Richard Evans NE
Alternates:
1.*Richard Plain* W
2.Hobart Hildyard SC

Committee on Courtesies and Privileges

1.North Central: *Deborah Kiesey*
2.Northeastern: Zedna Haverstock
3.South Central: *Kirbyjohn Caldwell*
4.Southeastern: *Rachel James*
5.Western: William Cook
6.Central Conferences: Veronica C. Teano

Committee on Credentials

1.North Central: Joe Winston
2.Northeastern: *Alfred Johnson*
3.South Central: Tal Oden
4.Southeastern: *Charlene Kammerer*
5.Western: *Patricia Farris*
6.Central Conferences: *Edward Puslecki*

Committee on Journal

1.Anita Archer SE
2.*Charles Crutchfield* SC
3.William S. Reasner NE

Committee on Presiding Officers

1.North Central clergy: *Duane Sarazin*
2.North Central lay: Don Mendenhall
3.Northeastern clergy: *Richard Wright*
4.Northeastern lay: Sandra J. Ferguson
5.South Central clergy: *Rex Bevins*
6.South Central lay: Darlene Montgomery
7.Southeastern clergy: *Herschel Sheets*
8.Southeastern lay: Martha Twick Morrison
9.Western clergy: *Mark Trotter*
10.Western lay: Peggy Sewell
11.Central Conferences clergy: *Armin Besserer*
12.Central Conferences lay: J. Lemer Cox (Liberia); Leon Palaganas, alt.

Committee on Reference Legislative Committee

1.North Central clergy: *Earl Renshaw* 1
2.North Central lay: Cecile Adams10
3.Northeastern clergy: *Dolores H. Henderson* 8
4.Northeastern lay: Genie S. Bank 3
5.South Central clergy: *Jon Jones* 5
6.South Central lay: William Auvenschine 3
7.Southeastern clergy: *Ray Chamberlain* 3
8.Southeastern lay: Betty Alexander 7
9.Western clergy: *Linda Wiberg* 3
10.Western lay: Jennie Yeoh 6
11.Central Conferences clergy: *Helmut Nausner* 10
12.Central Conferences lay: Umembudi Akasa 7

13.At-large: Paul Extrum-Fernandez (W) 2
14.At-large: *Lewis Parks* (NE) 9
15.At-large: Shan Yohan (SE) 6
16.At-large: *Eugene Frazer* (NC) 4
(Each legislative committee, 1-10, is represented)

COMMITTEE ON PLAN OF ORGANIZATION AND RULES OF ORDER

1.North Central: *Emery Percell*
2.Northeastern: *Jerome del Pino*
3.South Central: Bette Trumble
4.Southeastern: Darlene Amon
5.Western: Robert Stevens
6.Central Conferences: Momo Kpaan (Liberia); Dujunda Lunge, alt.
7.*David Tinoco*W
8.*Michael Coyner* NC
9.*Charles Brockwell* SE
10.*Marcus Matthews* NE

COMMISSION ON THE GENERAL CONFERENCE

1.North Central clergy: *Kenneth Chalker*
2.North Central lay: Aileen Williams
3. Northeastern clergy: *James Perry*
[4.Northeastern lay: Robert Brandt]
[5.South Central clergy: *Carole Cotton-Winn*]
6.South Central lay: Nancy Foster
7.Southeastern clergy: *Charles White, Jr.*
[8.Southeastern lay: Mollie Stewart]
9.Western clergy: *Anita Iceman*
[10. Western lay: Kimball Salmon]
[11. Central Conferences: Maximo Dizon]
[12. At-large: *Harry Shaner* (W)]
13.At-large: *Roberto Gomez*SC
14.At-large: *Phylemon Titus*NC

SECRETARY-DESIGNATE OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE

Carolyn Marshall

COMMISSION ON CENTRAL CONFERENCE AFFAIRS

To be nominated by the Council of Bishops from elected delegates.

1.Africa
1.*Bishop Ndoricimpa*
2.*Lodi Pungumbu*
3.Regina Marques

2.Central and Southern Europe
1.*Bishop Bolleter*
2.*Patrick Streiff*
3.Eva Csernak

3.Germany
1.*Bishop Klaiber*
2.*Christel Grunecke (Armin Besserer, alt).*
3.Hans Ade

4.North Central
1.*Bishop Rader*
2.*Russ McReynolds*
3.Dixie Arter

5.Northeastern
1.*Bishop May*
2.*Ernest Lyght*
3.Christine Keels

6.Northern Europe
1.*Bishop Växby*
2.*Christian Alsted*
3.Anders Isnes

7.Philippines
1.*Bishop Nacpil*
2.*Roberto Ladia*
3.Olive Beltran

8.South Central
1.Bishop Hearn
2.*Minerva Carcaño*
3.Cheryl Phillips

9.Southeastern
1.Bishop Morgan
2.*Charles Lippse*
3.Barbara Garcia

10.West Africa
1.*Bishop Humper*
2.*Nathan Junius*
3.Anthony Danburam; Eke Halloway, alt.

11.Western
1.*Bishop Talbert*
2.*Jim Standiford*
3.Judy Davis

12.World Division, General Board of Global Ministries
1.Bishop Solomon SC
2.Marion Edwards SE
3.Betty Suzuki W

EPISCOPAL MEMBERS OF GENERAL AGENCIES

General Council on Ministries (¶1007.1a[2])
1.North Central: Bill Lewis
2.Northeastern: newly elected bishop
3.South Central: J. Woodrow Hearn
4.Southeastern: newly elected bishop
5.Western: newly elected bishop
6.Central Conferences: Fama Onema

General Board of Pensions (¶1602.1a)
1. Bruce Blake
2.Newly elected bishop, Southeast

General Board of Publication (¶1702)
1.Judith Craig
2.George W. Bashore

General Commission on Archives and History (¶1894.2)
1.Newly elected bishop Southeast
2.Emilio J.M. de Carvalho

General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns (¶2006.1)
1.Roy I. Sano
2.Hans Växby
3.Fritz Mutti
4.Ecumenical Officer of the Council of Bishops

General Commission on Communication (¶1907.1)
1.Joe Wilson
2.Sharon Z. Rader
3.Newly elected bishop, Northeast
Committee to nominate additional members (¶1907.11): Sharon Rader

General Commission on Religion and Race (¶2103)
1.S. Clifton Ives
2.Elias Galvan

General Commission on the Status and Role of Women (¶2204.4)
1.Newly elected bishop, South Central
2.Newly elected bishop, North Central

National Youth Ministry Organization Steering Committee (¶1307.1)
1.Fritz Mutti

General Board of Church and Society (¶805.2b)
1.Joel Martinez
2.Melvin G. Talbert
3.Charles W. Jordan
4.Newly elected bishop, Northeast
5.Newly elected bishop, Southeast
6.Newly elected bishop, Northeast
7.J. Alfred Ndoricimpa
8.Emerito Nacpil
9.Kainda Katembo

General Board of Discipleship (¶8005.2b)
1.Ann Sherer
2.Sharon Brown Christopher
3.Mary Ann Swenson
4.Newly elected bishop, Southest
5.Hae-Jong Kim
6.Kenneth Carder
7.Walter Klaiber
8.Newly elected bishop, North Central
9.Daniel Arichea
10.Newly elected bishop, Southeast
¶1204.1
Done Peter Dabale

General Board of Global Ministries (¶805.2b)
1.Susan Morrison
2.Robert Morgan
3.Dan Solomon
4.Elias Galvan
5.Felton E. May
6.Jack Meadors
7.Newly elected bishop, North Central
8.Arthur F. Kulah
9.Newly elected bishop, North Shaba (Zaire)
10.Ruediger Minor
¶1412.6
1.Heinrich Bolleter
2.Moises Fernandes
3.Benjamin Gutierrez

General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (¶805.2b)
1.Robert Fannin
2.Ray Owen
3.Neil Irons
4.William Dew
5.William Morris
6.William Oden
7.Woodie White
8.Joseph Humper
9.Christopher Jokomo
10.Joao Somane Machado

General Council on Finance and Administration (¶905.1)
1.Richard Looney
2.Donald Ott
3.Alfred Norris
Committee on Official Forms and Records (¶905.4c): Donald Ott

National Council of Churches (¶2402.2b)
1.Kenneth Carder
2.William Oden
3.Sharon Brown Christopher
4.Felton May
5.Ecumenical Officer of the COB

## BISHOPS TO CONVENE ORGANIZATION OF GENERAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

Courtesies and Privileges (Tues. Apr. 16, 1996, 9:30 a.m.): Bishop Morris SE

Presiding Officers (Tues. Apr. 16, 1996, 9:30 a.m.): Bishop Hae-Jong Kim NE

Credentials (Tues. Apr. 16, 1996, 9:45 a.m.): Bishop Jordan NC

Journal (Tues. Apr. 16, 1996, 9:45 a.m.): Bishop Kulah CC

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES: ALL ON TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 1996, 4:30 P.M.

1.Church and Society: Bishop Morrison, NE
2.Conferences: Bishop Martinez , SC
3.Discipleship: Bishop Ott , NC
4.Financial Administration: Bishop Swenson, W
5.General Administration/Judicial Administration: Bishop Bolleter, CC
6.Global Ministries: Bishop Ives, NE

7.Higher Education and Chaplaincy: Bishop Meadors, SE
8.Independent Commissions: Bishop McConnell, W
9.Local Church: Bishop Carder, SE
10.Ordained and Diaconal Ministry: Bishop Duecker, SC

OTHER COMMITTEES:
Committee on Plan of Organization and Rules of Order: Bishop Norris, SC
Commission on the General Conference: Bishop de Carvalho, CC
Commission on Central Conference Affairs (Tues. April 16, 10:30 a.m.): Bishop Lawson, NC

**BISHOPS TO CONVENE ADDITIONAL MEMBERS NOMINATING COMMITTEES**

July 25-26, General Board of Discipleship, Nashville, Bishop Carder
July 29-30,General Board of Church & Society, Washington, DC, Bishop Yeakel
August 1-2,General Council on Ministries, TBA, Biship Colaw
August 1-2,General Commission on Christian Unity, TBA, Bishop Grove
August 2-3,General Board of Higher Education & Min., Nashville, Bishop Lee
August 2-3,General Commission on the Status & Role of Women, TBA, Bishop Duecker
August 6-8,General Board of Global Ministries, TBA, Bishop Ault
August 9-10,General Commission on Religion and Race, TBA, Bishop Stockton
August 23,General Commission on Communication, Nashville, Bishop Morgan

**BISHOPS TO CONVENE GENERAL AGENCY ORGANIZATIONAL MEETINGS**

April 27, General Council on Finance and Admin. Denver , Bishop Swenson
Aug. 27-29, General Board of Pension and Health Benefits TBA , Bishop Rader
Sept. 8, Womens Division, GBGMNashville, Bishop Clark
Sept. 18-22, General Board of Discipleship, Nashville, Bishop Dew
Sept. 19-22,General Commission on Archives and History Madison, NJ,Bishop Bashore
Sept. 25-28,General Commission on Rel. and Race, Washington, DC,Bishop May
Sept. 26-29,General Commission on Status and Role of Women,TBA,Bishop Mutti
Oct. 3-6,General Board of Church and Society, TBA,Bishop Morgan
Oct. 9-12,General Board of Higher Education,Nashville,Bishop Carder
Oct. 9-14,General Comm. on Christian Unity ,TBA, Bishop Morrison
Oct. 9-18,General Board of Global Ministries, TBA, Bishop Craig
Oct. 17-19, General Commission on Communication, Nashville ,Bishop Owen
Oct. 23-29, General Council on Ministries ,TBA,Bishop Ott


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# Plan of Organization

I. Opening Session and Organization

The General Conference shall assemble on the day fixed at the place designated in accordance with the action taken by the preceding General Conference or the Commission on the General Conference. The Holy Communion and Memorial Service shall be celebrated by the Conference, the Council of Bishops being in charge. During the Memorial Service, there shall be called the names of the bishops who have died since the adjournment of the preceding General Conference, and likewise the names of the delegates-elect who have died. The opening business session of the Conference shall be on the day and at the hour fixed by the Commission on the General Conference and shall be called to order by the bishop designated, as provided in the Discipline 15.11.

The following order of business shall be observed:

A. Roll Call. The record of attendance shall be made in writing to the Secretary of the General Conference by:

(1) The Secretary of the Council of Bishops for the bishops,

(2) The Secretary of the Judicial Council for that body,

(3) The General Secretary of the General Council on Ministries for all general secretaries,

(4) The chairperson of each delegation for its membership. The chairperson shall be provided with a form on which to report daily the attendance of its members. Any reserve seated in the place of a regular delegate shall have been duly elected as a reserve delegate by the Annual Conference and shall meet the requirements set forth in the Discipline 37-39. Delegates, including reserves when the latter are substituted for a delegate or delegates, shall be seated in the order of their election, except when a reserve is seated temporarily, in which case the reserve shall occupy the seat of the delegate for whom the substitution is made. All delegates arriving after the opening roll call shall be reported by the chairperson of the delegation to the Committee on Credentials. (See Section VIII.A.4. and Rule 5. See also Discipline 607 defining a Quorum.) and

(5) The chairperson of the delegation for affiliated Autonomous Methodist and United Churches delegations.

B. Establish the bar of the conference.

C. Report of The Commission on The General Conference.

D. Report of The Plan of Organization and Rules of Order.

E. Elections

(1) Coordinator of Calendar. (See IV-C)

(2) Committee on The Plan of Organization and Rules of Order.

F. Report Of Committee On Agenda.

G. Miscellaneous Business.

H. Adjournment.

II. Episcopal and Laity Addresses

The Quadrennial Address of the Council of Bishops shall be delivered early in the Conference, at such hour as determined by the Commission on the General Conference.

The Quadrennial Address of the Laity shall be delivered early in the Conference, at such hour as determined by the Commission on the General Conference. The National Association of Annual Conference Lay Leaders shall be responsible for the preparation and presentation of the Quadrennial Lay Address, taking care to consult with lay leadership of the Central Conferences. The National Association of Annual Conference Lay Leaders shall enlist participation of men, women, youth, young adults, racial and ethnic minorities, and persons with handicapping conditions in the preparation and presentation of the address.

III. Presiding Officers

The presiding officers for the several sessions of the Conference, the opening session excepted (See Section I, above), shall be chosen from among the effective bishops by the Committee on Presiding Officers. (See Section VIII.A.6.)

IV. Secretarial Staff

A. The Secretary of the General Conference shall be responsible for all functions of the office in preparation for the session of the General Conference. The secretary shall select persons from the clergy and lay membership of The United Methodist Church to serve on the secretarial support staff.

C. The Conference shall elect, upon nomination by the Secretary, a Coordinator of Calendar, who shall assist the Committee on Agenda and Calendar in presenting reports in such order as to expedite the business of the Conference, as well as in other responsibilities of the committee. (See I.E.1 and VIII.A.1).

D. After ascertaining that petitions, resolutions, and similar communications in hand and dealing with the regular business of the Conference meet the requirement of 608 of The Book of Discipline, the Secretary shall be responsible for preparing the same for reference to the appropriate legislative committee, subject to review by the Committee on Reference. (See Section VIII.A.7.) In the case of a single petition signed by a number of people, the Committee need print only the name of the first signer with an indication of the total number of signers.

E. The work of the Secretary shall be supervised by the Executive Committee of the Commission on the General Conference. A budget for the work of the Secretary shall be presented by the Commission on the General Conference to the General Council on Finance and Administration. Such budget shall be paid out of the General Administration Fund.

F. If in the interim of the quadrennial sessions of the General Conference the office of Secretary shall for any reason be vacated, the Council of Bishops shall elect a successor to serve until the next session.

V. Nominations and Elections.

The Secretary of the General Conference shall develop a timeline for the submission of nominations and elec-

tions/appointments by the Council of Bishops. In making these nominations and elections/appointments, attention shall be given to ensuring continuity of membership from the previous quadrennium.

It shall be the responsibility of the Council of Bishops to present nominations for The Commission on the General Conference, Committee on Plan of Organization and Rules of Order, Commission on Central Conference Affairs, General Conference standing committees, and secretary- designate of The General Conference. These nominations shall be presented to the General Conference for election.

Disciplinary provisions shall govern the nomination and election procedures for:

General Council on Finance and Administration (¶ 905)

General Board of Pension and Health Benefits (¶ 1602.1a)

General Commission on Archives and History (¶ 1804.2)

The University Senate (¶ 1517.2)

The Judicial Council (¶¶ 2602, 2603)

Episcopal membership on:

General Board of Church and Society (¶ 805.2b)

General Board of Discipleship (¶ 805.2b)

General Board of Global Ministries (¶ 805.2b, ¶ 1412.6)

General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (¶ 805.2b)

VI. Commission on The General Conference.

A. There shall be a Commission on the General Conference composed of one clergy and one layperson from each Jurisdiction and four members-at-large, at least one of whom shall be from an Annual Conference outside the United States, who shall be nominated by the Council of Bishops at its Fall meeting next preceding the General Conference and elected by the General Conference for a term of eight years, half of whom shall be elected by the General Conference each quadrennium. If vacancies occur, the Council of Bishops shall elect successors to serve until the next session of the General Conference and then nominate for election by the General Conference persons to serve any remainder of the term. The Secretary of the General Conference, the Treasurer of the General Council on Finance and Administration, and the Business Manager of the General Conference shall also be members ex-officio but without vote. The Commission may elect two additional members-at-large for each quadrennium.

The Council of Bishops shall designate one of its members to convene and organize the Commission before the adjournment of the General Conference.

B. This Commission shall determine the place and time (within such limits as may be set up by the General Conference) of the next General Conference and shall send an official notice to all elected delegates announcing specifically the opening day and hour of the General Conference and anticipated time of adjournment. It shall further advise the General Conference delegates in advance of all such special events and orders of the day, the dates and times of which have been determined prior to the opening of the General Conference, in order that the delegates may have an overview of the General Conference program. The Commission shall make all necessary arrangements in connection therewith, including arrangements for the publication of the Daily Christian Advocate and quadrennial reports of the general agencies of the church, the same to be published by the United Methodist Publishing House. The Daily Christian Advocate shall print the list of nominees for election to the Judicial Council, with biographical sketches not to exceed 100 words in length for each nominee.

C. The Commission shall take the necessary measure to assure full participation of all General Conference Delegates, including providing accommodation for language and physical challenges.

D. The Commission shall plan the schedule for the opening day of the Conference.

E. The Commission shall recommend to the General Conference the per diem allowance to be paid to the elected delegates. (See Section X.)

F. The Secretary, on behalf of the Commission on the General Conference, shall issue invitations to ecumenical representatives after consultation with the Council of Bishops and The General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns. The Commission shall arrange for local hospitality and presentation of ecumenical representatives to the General Conference.

G. The Commission is authorized, if it deems it advisable, to select the site of the General Conference two quadrennia in advance.

VII. Plan of Organization and Rules of Order.

A. There shall be a Committee on Plan of Organization and Rules of Order of ten members, including membership from each of the Jurisdictions and from Annual Conferences outside the United States, nominated from the elected delegates to the General Conference by the Council of Bishops at its Fall meeting preceding the General Conference and elected by the General Conference for a term of four years. Members may be elected for additional terms of four years, provided no more than four members of the new committee are returning members. The Secretary and Business Manager of the Conference shall be ex-officio members without vote. The Council of Bishops shall designate one of its members to convene and organize this committee after it is elected.

Outgoing members of the committee present at General Conference may meet with the newly elected committee during the current sessions of General Conference. These outgoing members will have voice but no vote.

B. To this committee shall be referred any proposed amendments to the Plan of Organization and Rules of Order (See Rule 39). To it may be referred any other matters relating to parliamentary order or procedure in the business of the General Conference.

C. This committee shall serve as an Interim Committee between sessions of the General Conference. The committee shall restudy the Plan of Organization and Rules of Order and make needed changes and adaptations and, after printing in the Advance DCA, shall present them to the General Conference for consideration and final action, same to be published in the Daily Christian Advocate which serves as the Journal of the General Conference.

D. The Plan of Organization and Rules of Order of the General Conference shall be the Plan of Organization and Rules of Order as published in the Journal of the preceding

General Conference until they have been altered or modified by action of the General Conference (Discipline, 606.)

VIII. Committees

The General Conference shall have the standing committees hereinafter indicated, with such functions, responsibilities, and limitations respectively as are hereinafter prescribed, and such special committees as it may order.

A. Standing Administrative Committees

The members of the following committees shall be appointed by the Council of Bishops at its Fall meeting preceding the General Conference. All except the Committee on Correlation and Editorial Revision shall be from the elected delegates to the General Conference. (See Section V.) Members of standing administrative committees which meet prior to the day on which the General Conference convenes, shall receive the delegate per diem for each additional day on which their attendance is required. Delegates who are nominated for such committees less than 60 days prior to the opening session of General Conference shall be entitled to reimbursement for any additional transportation costs.

(1) Agenda and Calendar

(a) There shall be a Committee on Agenda and Calendar of eight members, at least four of whom shall be laypersons, to be constituted as follows: one from each Jurisdiction, one from Annual Conferences outside the United States, the Coordinator of the Calendar, and the chairperson or substitute for the Chairperson of the Program Committee of the Commission on the General Conference. No member of the committee shall be chairperson of a Standing Legislative Committee or staff person of any general agency. The Committee shall be convened, for the purpose of organization, by the Secretary of the General Conference at least the day before the opening of the General Conference.

Following the presentation and adoption of the report of the Commission on the General Conference at the opening session of the General Conference, the Committee on Agenda and Calendar shall immediately become responsible for guiding the order of business of the Conference.

(b) The Committee on Agenda and Calendar shall:

(1) Present calendar reports in such an order as to expedite the business of the Conference,

(2) Inform the bishop presiding as soon as possible of the agenda items, including order of priority, to be considered,

(3) Keep an overview of calendar progress;

(4) Report to each session of the General Conference recommendations concerning business agenda, including time allocation and order in which legislative committee reports shall be printed;

(5) Give priority to calendar items as soon as they are available;

(6) Give priority to calendar items involving minority reports;

(7) Announce, at the last plenary session of each day, a tentative agenda for the next day;

(8) Consult daily with the legislative committee chairpersons to expedite the business of the General Conference; and

(9) Receive all requests for special orders of the day, except those requested in the report of the Commission on the General Conference on the first day of the Conference.

(c)Proposals, questions, communications, resolutions, and other matters not included in the regular business of the General Conference shall be referred to the Committee on Agenda and Calendar without motion or debate. This committee shall determine whether or not the matter presented shall be considered by the General Conference. Appeal from the decision of this committee may be presented to the Conference upon the written signature of twenty delegates, and the item shall be presented to the Conference if the appeal is supported by a one-third vote.

(2) Correlation and Editorial Revision.

There shall be a Committee on Correlation and Editorial revision of four persons not members of the General Conference and the Book Editor, who shall be an ex-officio member. They shall be entitled to reimbursement of expenses for attendance at meetings of the committee. Two alternates shall be appointed by the Council of Bishops. The Book Editor shall convene the committee for the purpose of organization. The function of this committee shall be:

(a) To review all proposed legislation reported in the Daily Christian Advocate and that presented in special reports to the General Conference. The Committee shall report to the standing committees concerned, or to the General Conference as the situation may warrant, all contradictions, duplications, and inconsistencies discovered.

(b) To assure that, when a calendar item approved on the Consent Calendar or under an omnibus vote is found to be in conflict with parts of another calendar item discussed and voted upon at a plenary session, the item discussed and voted shall prevail.

(c) To edit the Discipline in accordance with Section XI.B.

(3) Courtesies and Privileges.

There shall be a Committee on Courtesies and Privileges of six members composed of one representative from each Jurisdiction and one representative from Annual Conferences outside the United States. The committee shall be convened by a Bishop for the purpose of organization.

The committee has the following duties and responsibilities:

(a) To consider, as presented to it by members of the Conference, what said members regard as questions or matters of privilege, to decide whether they are such or not, and if they are regarded as being such, to recommend to the Conference that they be heard.

(b) To consider resolutions of commendation, courtesy, appreciation, etc., submitted in writing by delegates. The committee may initiate similar resolutions and edit and amend those submitted to it. Resolutions approved by the committee shall be printed in the Daily Christian Advocate and brought to the floor if the committee considers them of unusual importance or urgency.

(c) To arrange for extending courtesies of the Conference to any to whom they may be due, ecumenical representatives and official visitors excepted.

(d) To limit its report, including the statement of the chairperson and the hearing of such persons as may be presented, to a maximum of ten minutes in any one business day. No person or persons shall be presented whose request has been denied by the Commission on the General Conference, nor after the sixth day unless approved by a two-thirds vote of the Conference. (See Rule 26.3.)

(4) Credentials.

There shall be a Committee on Credentials of six members, composed of one delegate from each Jurisdiction and one delegate from Annual Conferences outside the United States. The committee shall be convened by a Bishop for the purpose of organization.

To this Committee, the chairpersons of the respective annual conference delegations shall report on a form provided for that purpose any change in seating of delegates, indicating the length of time for which the change shall be effective. (See Section I.A.4.) The chairperson of this committee shall make a daily written report to the Secretary of the General Conference, listing all changes of seating approved by the Committee. In the event of questions which may arise regarding the eligibility of seating any delegates, this Committee shall report directly to the General Conference with its recommendations. (See Rule 5.)

(5) Journal.

There shall be a Committee on the Journal of three members to approve daily the record of Proceedings of the General Conference prepared by the Secretary and assistant(s). The committee shall be convened by a Bishop for the purpose of organization.

(6) Presiding Officers.

There shall be a committee on Presiding Officers of twelve members, composed of one clergy and one layperson from each Jurisdiction and one clergy and one layperson from among the delegates representing the Annual Conferences outside the United States. The committee shall be convened by a Bishop for the purpose of organization.

The Committee shall select and notify the presiding officer(s) of each session at least 24 hours in advance, insofar as possible. The Committee shall be free to select a bishop for more than one session and to change the presiding officer during the session, whenever it seems advisable. (See Section III.)

(7) Reference.

There shall be a Committee on Reference of sixteen members, composed of one clergy and one lay delegate from each Jurisdiction, one clergy and one lay delegate from Annual Conferences outside the United States, and four members-at-large. The membership of this committee shall include at least one member from each legislative committee. This committee shall be convened, for the purpose of organization, by the Secretary of the General Conference the day prior to the opening of the General Conference.

(a) After reviewing the proposed assignments by the Secretary to standing committees of the petitions, resolutions, and similar communications dealing with the regular business of the Conference, this committee shall refer the same to the appropriate legislative committees. (See Section IV.D.) One member of each legislative committee serving on this committee shall be designated to coordinate petitions assigned to his/her respective legislative committee. This committee shall also be responsible for reviewing the assignment, by the Secretary, of all reports, recommendations, and resolutions from general agencies, standing or special commissions and committees, and all other communications which shall come into the Secretary's hands after the convening of the General Conference, all of which shall be referred directly to appropriate legislative committees without presentation to a plenary session of the General Conference.

(b) The Committee on Reference may withdraw a paper that has been assigned to a committee, either upon a request or upon its own motion. It may also withhold from reference or publication any document it shall deem improper.

(c) Where the Committee finds two or more substantially identical petitions, it may group them under one title and number, indicating the total number of petitions.

(d) No petitions shall be assigned by the Committee on Reference to any General Conference Committee unless they meet the requirements of the Book of Discipline

B. Commission on Central Conference Affairs.

(For membership, see Discipline, 2301.)

To this Commission shall be referred all petitions, resolutions, etc., relating to the Central Conferences, Autonomous Churches, Affiliated Churches, Affiliated United Churches and Concordant relationships (Discipline, 26-34, 528, 636-654, 2301.)

The Commission on Central Conference Affairs shall submit its report and any legislative proposals related to the paragraphs assigned to it directly to the General Conference.

If the Commission on Central Conference Affairs has a concern for any paragraphs assigned to one of the legislative committees, the commission shall offer its recommendation to the appropriate legislative committee for consideration and recommendation to the General Conference.

C. Standing Legislative Committees.

The General Conference shall have the following standing legislative committees, which shall consider all proposals looking toward new legislation or changes in the present legislation of the church, including all reports and recommendations from general agencies, and standing or special commissions or committees, and report recommendations relating thereto the Conference.

Any legislative committee considering legislation affecting the concerns of the Commission on Central Conference Affairs shall consult with the Commission before submitting its proposed legislation to the General Conference.

(1) Church and Society.

To this committee shall be referred all petitions, resolutions, etc., relating to the statement of Social Principles, social issues, and the work and concerns of the Board of Church and Society.

Discipline paragraphs
70-76Social Principles
728AC: Board of Church and Society
753District Director
1101-1115General Board of Church and Society

(2) Conferences.

To this committee shall be referred all petitions, resolutions, etc., relating to the composition and activities of the General, Jurisdictional, Annual, Provisional, Missionary, and District Conferences, and Missions, including the Jurisdictional, Annual and District Conference Councils on Ministries.

Discipline paragraphs
7-11Constitution: Conferences
12-15Constitution: General Conference
21-25Constitution: Jurisdictional Conferences
35-39Constitution: Annual Conferences
40-44Constitution: Boundaries
45Constitution: District Conferences
505-507Election, Assignment of Bishops
601-611General Conference (including opening statement)
612-627Jurisdictional Conference
628, 630Jurisdictional Agencies
629Jurisdictional Council on Ministries
655-658Provisional Annual Conferences
659-662Missionary Conference
663-664Mission
701-707Annual Conference
726AC: Council on Ministries
747AC: Ministry to Persons with Handicapping Conditions
749-750District Conference
• 752District Council on Ministries
• ReportGlobal Nature of the Church
• (3) Discipleship.

To this committee shall be referred all petitions, resolutions, etc., relating to the work and concerns of the Boards of Discipleship, and the report of the Study on Baptism.

Discipline paragraphs

65-69Doctrine
278-281LC: Lay Speaking
282LC: Lay Preacher
632JYMO Convocation
635JC: Committee of UMM
729AC: Board of Discipleship
730AC: Board of Laity
743AC: CYM
744AC: United Methodist Men
745AC: CYM
751District Lay Leader
757District Board of Laity
758District Committee on Lay Speaking
761DC: United Methodist Men
762District CYM
1201-1206General Board of Discipleship
1207-1210GBOD: Education
1211-1215 GBOD: Evangelism, Worship and Stewardship
1216-1222GBOD: Ministry of the Laity
1223GBOD: UMM
1224-1229GOD: Curriculum Resources Committee
1301-1311NYMO
ReportStudy on Baptism

(4) Financial Administration.

To this committee shall be referred all petitions, resolutions, etc., relating to the work and concerns of the Council on Finance and Administration, the Board of Pension and Health Benefits, and the Board of Publication. The budget and recommendations prepared by the General Council on Finance and Administration shall be submitted to this committee for study and review. Thereafter, when the General Council on Finance and Administration presents its report to the General Conference for action, the committee shall present its recommendations and may propose amendments.

Discipline paragraphs
6Constitution: Title to Properties
20Constitution: Restrictive Rule
708-716AC: Council on Finance and Administration
717-725AC: Clergy Support
736Episcopal Residence
737AC: Board of Pensions
746AC: Joint Committee on Disability
901-909General Council on Finance and Administration
910-913GCFA: General Funds
916GCFA: Special Days Offerings
917-922GCFA: General Funds
923-932GCFA: Episcopal Fund
1601-1605General Board of Pension and Health Benefits
1606-1609Annual Conference Pension Administration
1701-1743General Board of Publications
2501-2524Church Property
2554Trustees of Church Institutions

(5) General Administration/Judicial Administration.

To this committee shall be referred all petitions, resolutions, etc., relating to the work and concerns of the General Council on Ministries, including the Advance, Judicial Administration, and the report of the Site Selection Task Force.

The report of the General Council on Ministries shall be submitted to this committee for study and review. Thereafter, when the General Council on Ministries presents its report to the General Conference for action, the committee shall present its recommendations and may propose amendments.

Discipline paragraphs
1-4 Constitution: General (including Preamble)
16-17, 19Constitution: Restrictive Rules
58-61The Judiciary
62-64Constitution: Amendments
274-277Local Church Special Sundays
727AC: Advance Program

748AC: Committee on Native American Ministry
801-825Administrative Order: General Provisions
914-915The Advance
1001-1007General Council on Ministries
2601-2621Judicial Council
2622-2628Investigation, Trials and Appeals

ReportConnectional Issues
ReportSite Selection Task Force
(6) Global Ministries.

To this committee shall be referred all petitions, resolutions, etc., relating to the work and concerns of the Boards of Global Ministries, and the report on Hispanic and Native American Ministries.

Discipline paragraphs
634JC: United Methodist Women
731AC: Board of Global Ministries
743AC: United Methodist Women
760DC: United Methodist Women
1401-1412General Board of Global Ministries
1413-1417GBGM: National Division
1418-1421 GBGM: Office of Deaconess
1422-1430GBGM: Women's Division
1431-1439GBGM: World Division
1440-1448GBGM: Health and Welfare Ministries
1449-1453GBGM: Mission Education and Cultivation
1454-1458GBGM: Mission Personnel Resources
1459-1468GBGM: UM Committee on Relief
ReportHispanic Ministires
ReportNative American Ministries
(7) Higher Education and Chaplaincy.

To this committee shall be referred all petitions, resolutions, etc., relating to the work and concerns of Higher Education, Schools of Theology, and the Division of Chaplaincy and Related Ministries.

Discipline paragraphs
732AC: Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry
1501-1509General Board of Higher Education and Ministry
1510-1512GBHEM: Division of Chaplains and Related Ministries
1513-1523GBHEM: Division of Higher Education
1530-1532GBHEM: Schools of Theology
(8) Independent Commissions

To this committee shall be referred all petitions, resolutions, etc., relating to commissions, and ecumenical concerns. This shall include Archives and History, Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns, Communications, Religion and Race, Status and Role of Women, and membership or relationship to the World Methodist Council, Councils and Consultations of Churches, the American Bible Society, and the report on the Consultation on Church Union.

Discipline paragraphs
5Constitution: Ecumenical Relations
631JC: Commission on Archives and History
738AC: Commission on Archives and History
739AC: Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns
740AC: Commission on Religion and Race
741AC: Commission on Status and Role of Women
742AC: Commission on Small Membership Church
754DC: Director Ethnic Local Church Concerns
755DC: Director Religion and Race
1801-1812General Commission on Archives and History
1901-1909General Commission on Communications
2001-2006General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns
2101-2108General Commission on Religion and Race
2201-2209General Commission on Status and Role of Women
2401-2406 Interdenominational Agencies
ReportConsultation on Church Union
(9) Local Church.

To this committee shall be referred all petitions, resolutions, etc., relating to the organization of the local church and its membership, programs, boards, councils, commissions, committees, etc., or relating to local church property.

Discipline paragraphs.
46-47Constitution: Charge Conferences
101-107Mission and Ministry of the Church
111-114
201-207Local Church
208-243LC: Church Membership
244-270LC: Organization and Administration
271-273LC: General
2525-2553LC: Property
(10) Ordained and Diaconal Ministry.

To this committee shall be referred all petitions, resolutions, etc., relating to the work of the ordained ministry, diaconal ministry, superintendency, and the report of the Study of Ministry.

Discipline paragraphs
18Constitution: Restrictive Rule
48-57Constitution: Episcopal Supervision
108-110Representative Ministry
301-317Diaconal Ministry
401-459Ordained Ministry
501-504Superintendency
508-516Superintendency: Bishops
517-525Superintendency: District Superintendents
526-527,529Expressions of Superintendency
530-534Appointment-Making
633JC: Committee on Ordained and Diaconal Ministries
733AC: Board of Ordained Ministry
734AC: Board of Diaconal Ministry
735AC: Committee on Episcopacy
756DC: Committee on Ordained Ministry
759DC: Committee on Episcopacy
1524-1526GBHEM: Division of Diaconal Ministry
1527-1529GBHEM: Division of Ordained Ministry
ReportStudy of Ministry

Report and recommendations of the Study of Ministry include amendments to ¶¶ 38, 101-1532.

D. Membership of Standing Legislative Committees.

(1) Each delegate shall serve as a member of one of the standing legislative committees numbered 1 to 10. Within the annual conference delegation each member shall choose from the legislative committees 1 to 10 the committee on which to serve, the choice being made in order of election. Beginning with 1988, the clergy first elected, shall be entitled to the first choice, the lay delegate first elected, the second choice, and thus the right of choice shall continue to alternate between clergy and lay delegates in the order of their election. For subsequent General Conferences, first choice shall alternate between the

lay and clergy delegates, provided that two members of a delegation may not serve on any one of the above-designated standing legislative committees 1 to 10 unless the said delegation is represented on each of them. All delegations composed of eleven or more members shall assign all members in excess of ten according to this same principle of distribution. (For example, a conference with sixteen delegates shall have two members on each of any six of these ten committees and one on each of the remaining four. Similarly, a conference with 35 delegates shall have four members on each of five committees and three on each of the remaining five. Each delegate may, in the order herein indicated, select any one of these ten committees, provided that the foregoing division of the delegates among the committees is maintained.) Whenever a delegation has more than one member on a legislative committee, its members shall be divided as equally as possible between lay and clergy. Thus, if there are three members on a committee, they shall be two clergy and one lay or vice versa.

(2) If a matter is under consideration in any standing legislative committee which in the judgment of any annual conference delegation vitally affects the interests of its constituency, and if the said annual conference is not represented in the membership of said committee, then the said delegation may choose one of its members to represent its annual conference in the committee when the matter judged to be vital to the interests of this constituency is under consideration. Such a person shall be entitled to sit with the committee while this particular matter is being considered and shall be entitled to the floor, subject to such limitations as are imposed on the regular members of said committee, but shall not be entitled to vote. (See Section VIII.E.4.)

(3) Each person seated in the General Conference with the right to speak but not vote may submit to the Secretary of the General Conference a choice of a legislative committee and shall have the same right in that committee to speak but not to vote.

E. Meeting of Committees.

(1) For Organization. All standing legislative and administrative committees shall meet for organization at such time as the Commission on the General Conference shall determine. A bishop appointed by the Council of Bishops and an assistant secretary appointed by the Secretary of the General Conference shall serve, respectively, as chairperson and secretary to effect an organization in each of the several standing committees, except where other provision is specified. The first meeting of the legislative committees shall be held as soon as possible following the first plenary session of the General Conference. The orientation of the committee, followed by the election of officers, shall be the order of business of the first meeting of the committee.

(a) The election of chairperson, vice-chairperson, and Secretary of each standing committee, both administrative and legislative, shall be by ballot.

(b) The Secretary of the General Conference shall be responsible for arranging for a training session for all chairpersons, vice-chairpersons, and secretaries of legislative committees as soon as possible after their elections. The training shall include instruction in their duties, all procedures in the handling of petitions, the times of the daily deadline for publishing reports, and other information to expedite the work of the committees. The Commission on the General Conference is requested to arrange for a time and place for such a training session.

(2) Regular Meetings. The standing legislative committees 1 to 10 inclusive shall meet for business as scheduled by the Agenda Committee unless otherwise ordered by the Conference, until their work is completed, and at such other times as the committees may themselves determine.

(3) Quorum for Committee Meetings. A majority of the members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business in all committees.

(4) Each legislative committee shall establish an area in which only voting committee members will be seated. Staff, resource persons, and visitors may speak only when authorized, in each instance by specific committee action. (See Section VIII.D.2.)

(5) Legislative committees are urged to give priority to significant and controversial legislation so that their reports on such matters may be printed as soon as possible in the Daily Christian Advocate and considered by the General Conference.

(6) Minority reports should be encouraged so that differing views held by a significant portion of the committee may be carefully prepared and expressed and the issues clearly defined for decision by the General Conference. Adequate time should be given for the minority to prepare its report and every effort made to have the majority and minority reports printed together in the Daily Christian Advocate (See Rules 16, 32, 33 and 35).

F. Function and Authority Of Committees

(1) The standing administrative committees, without specific instruction or direction from the Conference, shall assume responsibility for considering and reporting to the Conference upon all matters which would logically fall within their respective purviews, if it seems wise to do so.

(2) The standing legislative committees may not originate business, but shall consider and report only upon that which is referred to them by the Committee on Reference, or which has been referred to them directly by the Conference and processed by the Committee on Reference. (See Rule 30.)

IX. Proposal Involving Expenditure of Unbudgeted Funds

A. Any proposal submitted to the General Conference to establish an interim or continuing board, commission, committee or task force shall be referred to the General Council on Finance and Administration or its executive committee for a report and recommendation before final action is taken.

The General Council on Finance and Administration or its executive committee shall provide the General Conference with the following before action is taken:

(1) an estimated budget for the proposed board, commission, committee or task force for the next quadrennium; and

(2) a statement explaining how the creation of the proposed board, commission, committee, or task force will affect the budget or budgets for existing boards,

commissions, committees and task forces already presented by the General Council on Finance and Administration.

B. Any proposal submitted to the General Conference which involves the expenditure of funds not included in the established budget shall be referred to the General Council on Finance and Administration for advice and recommendation before final action is taken.

X. Delegates' Expense Accounts

A. The report of the chairperson of the respective annual conference delegations shall be the basis for settlement with principal and reserve delegates for their per diem allowances. The total traveling expense including per diem shall be payable to the principal delegate if present and seated. If during the Conference a reserve delegate is seated for a principal delegate for one or more full days, the principal delegate shall adjust the per diem with such reserve on the basis of the time served by each.

B. Full travel expenses and per diem shall be paid for the number of allotted delgates from each conference whether those delegates are principal or reserve.

C. Air travel expense shall be on the basis of the most economical roundtrip tourist/coach air fare directly to and from the seat of the General Conference. Special excursion and promotional fares shall be utilized whenever possible. Additional expenses may be allowed delegates from Conferences outside the United States for arrival and departure not to exceed two days before or after General Conference. The per diem expense allowance for all such days before and after General Conference shall be at the same rate as granted delegates during General Conference. Exceptions to these limitations must be approved by the Business Manager of the General Conference.

D. When one or more delegates come in the same automobile, the owner will be allowed the established rate per mile plus the cost of room and meals en route up to the established General Conference per diem rate. Guest passengers who are the principal delegates to the General Conference shall submit only the cost of room and meals en route up to the established General Conference per diem rate. Maximum use of automobiles for travel may not exceed 1,000 miles roundtrip, for reimbursement purposes. If automobile travel exceeds 1000 miles roundtrip, reimbursement will be based upon the most economical roundtrip tourist/coach air fare, or the mileage reimbursement, whichever is less. In all cases delegates shall report only the actual cost of travel.

E. For the dates General Conference is in session, no General Conference delegate shall receive expense money from the general church or any of its boards and agencies other than approved per diem and travel expenses available to all delegates. This provision is not to restrict financial assistance to delegates from their own annual conferences. This shall become effective with the General Conference of 2000.

XI. Material to be Included in The Discipline

A. No non-legislative material shall be ordered printed in the Discipline without first referring it to the committee on Correlation and Editorial Revision for consideration and report to the General Conference for further consideration and final action.

B. The Book Editor, the Secretary of the General Conference, the Publisher of The United Methodist Church, and the Committee on Correlation and Editorial Revision shall be charged with editing the Discipline. These editors, in the exercise of their judgment, shall have the authority to make changes in phraseology as may be necessary to harmonize legislation without changing its substance. The editors, in consultation with the Judicial Council, shall also have authority to delete provisions of the Discipline which have been ruled unconstitutional by the Judicial Council. Any challenge of a decision made by the Committee on Correlation and Editorial Revision shall be in writing. If the matter should go to the Judicial Council, the appealing party shall give notice thereof to the Committee. Any established errata in the Discipline shall be forwarded by the United Methodist Publishing House to the Council of Bishops.

XII. Distribution to the Desks of Delegates

After the first day, only the Daily Christian Advocate shall be placed on the desks of the delegates, with additional copies for the first clergy and first lay reserve delegate from each delegation.

XIII. Distribution of Unofficial Material

Daily, periodic, or regular newsletters, or any special interest material published at General Conference by United Methodist boards, agencies, and related United Methodist groups may be distributed under the following conditions:

A. Two copies of each publication shall be deposited in the office of the Commission on the General Conference in advance of the time of distribution.

B. Material distributed should be used for information relative to matters that have been before or are coming before the General Conference and not for soliciting membership in an organization.

C. Distribution shall be at least 30 feet outside any entrance door to the plenary or committee meeting rooms.

D. Distribution shall be done by representatives of the publishing groups. Distributors shall be in the smallest number capable of effecting adequate distribution to those entering. During distribution it is the responsibility of the distributors not to impede or interfere with the entrance or exit of persons or to hamper the general flow of pedestrian traffic.

E. Distributors are responsible for the disposal of unused or unclaimed materials.

F. Distributors violating these regulations will be prohibited from future distributions.

XIV. Reports to be Mailed Before General Conference

The reports, recommendations, and resolutions, requiring action by the General Conference, as well as petitions submitted in accordance with Discipline 608.7, shall first be assigned a Petition Number by the Secretary of the General Conference or the one designated as Petitions Secretary and then shall be printed in an Advance Edition of the Daily Christian Advocate and distributed to all delegates and to the first clergy and first lay reserve delegates at least sixty days prior to the opening of the General Conference. If necessary to meet this deadline, material to delegates from outside the United States shall be sent by air mail. Such reports shall be printed in the

same size and style as the Daily Christian Advocate and be punched for binding.

In order to accomplish this, the finished copy of all such reports and recommendations shall be submitted to the editor of the Daily Christian Advocate at least 120 days prior to the opening of the General Conference. Any such reports and recommendations not so submitted and not printed in an Advance Edition of the Daily Christian Advocate shall be received by the General Conference only upon three-fourths vote of the General Conference. The General Council on Finance and Administration shall be exempt from this requirement to the extent necessary to allow inclusion of general funds receipts information for the first three years of the quadrennium. The General Council on Finance and Administration will provide data including the third year of the quadrennium and other appropriate information to delegates prior to the convening of the General Conference.

Rules of Order

I. Daily Schedule

Rule 1. Hours of Meetings

The following shall be the daily order for the General Conference, Sundays excepted:

(1) 8:15 a.m. Choral music

(2) 8:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Devotional service under direction of the Council of Bishops

(3) 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Conference business committee meetings

(4) 2:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Conference business or committee meetings

(5) 7:30 p.m. Evening programs as planned by the Commission on the General Conference, Conference business or committee meetings

(6) Recess may be called during any plenary session at a time deemed appropriate by the bishop presiding.

Rule 2. Order of Business

After the devotional service, the daily sessions of the Conference shall be conducted as follows:

(1) Reports of standing administrative and special committees

(2) Agenda and calendar items

(3) Consent calendar (See Rule 28.5.)

(4) Miscellaneous business

II. Presiding Officers

Rule 3. Authority of the Chairperson

(1) The bishop presiding shall be the chairperson of the General Conference session.

(2) The bishop presiding shall decide points of order raised by the delegates and shall rule on points of order not raised by delegates, as the chair deems necessary to conform to these rules of order, subject in both cases to an appeal to the Conference by any delegate without debate, except that the chairperson and the appellant, in the order here named, shall each have three minutes for a statement in support of their respective positions. A tie vote in the case of appeal shall sustain the chair. (See Rule 26.2) Any delegate who raises a point of order shall cite the rule by number believed to have been violated.

(3) The bishop presiding shall have the right to recess a session of the General Conference at any time at the chair's discretion and to reconvene at such time as the chair shall announce. The bishop presiding shall also have the right to stipulate that the session shall reconvene with only delegates, authorized personnel, and authorized guests permitted to attend such a session following recess.

Rule 4. Calling the Conference to Order

When the bishop presiding calls the Conference to order, no member shall speak, address the chair, or stand.

III. Rights and Duties Of Members

Rule 5. Attendance and Seating Reserves

No delegate, unless hindered by sickness or other emergency situation shall be absent from the sessions of the Conference without permission of the Conference. All absences shall be reported by the chairpersons of the several Annual Conference delegations to the Committee on Credentials on a form provided for this purpose. A reserve delegate may be seated upon authority of the chairperson of the delegation who shall report the substitution in writing to the Committee on Credentials on a form provided for this purpose. Reserves are chosen to be seated:

1. by reason of being of the same order as the absent member;

2. in order of their election as reserve delegates.

If the Committee disapproves the substitution, after consultation with the chairperson of the delegation, it may report to the General Conference with its recommendation. The chairperson of the Committee on Credentials shall make a daily written report to the Secretary of the General Conference, listing all changes of seating. (See Plan of Organization I.A.4 and VIII.A.4.)

Rule 6. Voting When On The Platform

Electronic voting devices shall be available on the platform for delegates making a presentation to the Conference. Reserves shall not be seated for such delegates.

Rule 7. Directions for Securing the Floor

A delegate desiring to speak to the Conference shall hold up the appropriate placard provided for that purpose. A delegate shall not move to the microphone until recognized by the bishop presiding. Unless raising a point of order or parliamentary inquiry, the delegate shall not speak until given the floor. The bishop presiding is requested to consider the various sections of the auditorium in rotation. The delegate recognized shall proceed to the nearest microphone and shall first announce her or his name and the name of the Conference represented; which in turn, the bishop presiding shall then announce to the Conference.

Rule 8. Interrupting the Speaker

No delegate who has the floor may be interrupted except for a point of order, a misrepresentation, a parliamentary inquiry, a point of information, or to call attention that the time has arrived for a special order.

Rule 9. Speaking More Than Once; Length of Speech

A. No delegate shall speak a second time on the same question if any delegate who has not previously spoken on the question desires the floor.

B. No delegate shall speak more than twice on the same subject under the same motion, except as provided in Rule 36.3.

C. No delegate shall speak longer than three minutes unless that time is extended by the Conference. (See Rule 36.3)

D. The three-minute limit on delegate speeches may be amended by a majority vote of the Conference at any time and for any period of duration.

Rule 10. Point of Order

A delegate wishing to raise a point of order shall address the bishop presiding and say, "I rise to a point of order." The bishop presiding shall interrupt the proceeding; if a delegate is speaking, that one shall immediately yield the floor. The bishop presiding shall then direct the delegate raising the point of order to state the point as briefly and concisely as possible, citing the rule invoked in the point of order but the delegate shall not presume to decide the question or argue the point.

A point of order is decided by the bishop presiding without debate unless in doubtful cases the chair submits the question to the body for advice or decision. When the bishop presiding rules on a point, debate is closed, but the decision may be appealed.

Rule 11. Bar of the Conference

The bar of the conference shall provide for the integrity of the General Conference. It is for delegates, pages, and others who have been granted access to the area for General Conference business. Delegates are not to distract others near them by engaging in unrelated business activity.

Rule 12. Voting Procedure

(1) Voting shall be by electronic means unless otherwise ordered by the Conference, provided, however, that in elections, voting may be by written ballot.

(2) When electronic voting is not in use, a standing count vote or vote by secret ballot may be ordered on call of any delegate, supported by one-third of the delegates present and voting.

(3) If the event the electronic voting system is inoperable, the chairpersons of the delegations shall poll their respective delegations.

(4) Only delegates within the bar of the Conference when the vote is taken shall be entitled to vote. No delegate shall cast a vote in place of any other delegate.

(5) No other business shall be in order when a vote is being taken or when the previous question has been called until the process is completed, except such as relates to the vote itself or such business as the chair may deem appropriate.

Rule 13. Division of Question

Before a vote is taken, any delegate shall have the right to call for a division of any question, if it is subject to such division as the delegate indicates. If no delegate objects, the division shall be made; but if there is objection, the chair shall put the question of division to vote, not waiting for a second.

IV. Business Procedure

Rule 14. Motion for Adoption of Reports

Whenever a report of a committee signed by the chairperson and secretary thereof shall be presented to the Conference for its action, it shall be deemed in proper order for consideration by the Conference without the formality of a second.

Rule 15. Required Forms for Reports, Resolution, Motions, Amendments

All resolutions and committee reports shall be prepared in triplicate; and motions, including amendments, shall be presented in writing. (See Rules 28.2, 31.2, 33.)

Rule 16. Alterations of Motions, Etc.

When a motion is made and seconded or a resolution is introduced and seconded or a committee report is read or is published in the Daily Christian Advocate, it shall be deemed to be in the possession of the Conference and may not be altered except by action of the Conference. (See Rule 32.)

Rule 17. Undebatable Motions

The following motions shall be acted upon without debate:

(1) To adjourn, when unqualified, except to adjourn the Conference finally

(2) To suspend the rules

(3) To lay on the table, except as provided in Rule 36

(4) To take from the table

(5) To call for the previous questions (See Rule 22)

(6) To reconsider a non-debatable motion (See Rule 27)

(7) To limit or extend the limits of debate

Rule 18. Rights of the Main Question

The main question may be opened to debate under the following motions: to adopt, to commit or refer, to substitute, to postpone, and to reconsider. No new motion, resolutions, or subject shall be entertained until the one under consideration shall have been disposed of, except as provided in Rule 12.5. The foregoing does not apply to secondary motions if otherwise allowable.

Rule 19. Precedence of Secondary Motions

If any one or more of the following motions shall be made when one or more other motions are pending, the order of their precedence in relation to one another shall be the same as the order of their listing below:

(1) To fix the time to which the conference shall adjourn. (This motion is subject to amendment, or it may be laid to the table.)

(2) To adjourn

(3) To take a recess

(4) To lay on the table

(5) To order the previous question (See Rules 22, 24.)

(6) To limit or extend the limits of debate

(7) To postpone to a given time

(8) To commit or refer

(9) To amend or to amend by substitution (one amendment being allowed to an amendment)

(10) To postpone indefinitely

Rule 20. Motion to Adjourn in Order Except:

The motion to adjourn, when unqualified, shall be taken without debate and shall always be in order, except:

(1) When a delegate has the floor

(2) When a question is actually put or a vote is being taken and before it is finally decided

(3) When the previous question has been ordered and action thereunder is pending

(4) When a motion to adjourn has been lost and no business or debate has intervened

(5) When the motion to fix the time to which the conference shall adjourn is pending

The foregoing does not apply to a motion for final adjournment of the Conference.

Rule 21. Tabling Related Motions

No motion which adheres to another motion or has another motion adhering to it can be laid on the table by itself. Such motions, if laid on the table, carry with them the motions to which they adhere or which adhere to them.

Rule 22. Previous Question

Any member who moves the previous question (that is, that the vote be now taken on the motion or motions pending) shall also indicate to what it is intended to apply, if any secondary motion or motions are also pending. If said member does not so indicate, it shall be regarded as applying only to the immediately pending question. This motion shall be taken without debate and shall require a two-thirds vote of those present and voting for its adoption; if it is adopted, the vote shall be taken on the motion or motions to which it applies without further debate except as provided in Rule 36. (See also Rules 17, 24e, 25.)

Rule 23. Referring Reports, Etc.

It shall be in order for the Conference to refer to a committee a section or part of a report or resolution which is before the Conference for consideration of any amendment offered thereto.

Rule 24. Procedure for Amending by Substitution

(A) When a resolution or committee report is properly before the Conference for consideration and action, even if amendments are pending, a substitute may be offered by any member moving that the same be substituted for the report, resolution, or amendment under consideration. The substitute shall be an alternative to what is before the house and not simply a negation of the main motion.

(B) The Conference shall proceed first to perfect the original report or resolution, including consideration and action upon any amendments which may be offered to it.

(C) The same perfecting process shall be followed with respect to the substitute.

(D) The questions shall be put first on the motion to substitute, followed by the motion to adopt the report or resolution.

(E) The motion for the previous questions shall not be in order on the adoption of the report or recommendation or on making the proposed substitution until opportunity has been given for at least two members to speak on each side of the question of substitution or adoption. (Also see 35.2 for handling minority reports.)

Rule 25. Unlawful Motion After Speech

It shall not be in order for a delegate immediately after discussing a pending question and before relinquishing the floor to make a motion which, if adopted, would limit or stop debate.

Rule 26. Exceptions to Majority Vote.

A majority of those voting, quorum being present (Discipline 607), shall decide all questions, with the following exceptions:

(1) One-third of those present and voting shall suffice to sustain a call for a recorded vote in case the decision of the chair is doubted. (See Rule 12.2.)

(2) A tie vote sustains the chair. (Rule 3.2.)

(3) A two-thirds vote shall be required to sustain a motion to suspend (Rule 38) or amend (Rule 39) the rules; to set aside a special order (Rule 28.1); to consider a special order before the time set therefore; to sustain the request of the Committee on Courtesies and Privileges for the presentation of any person after the sixth day of the General Conference. (Plan of Organization VIII.A.3.)

(4) A call for the previous question is a motion to suspend the rules and therefore requires a two-thirds vote.

(5) A two-thirds vote shall be required to approve a proposal for a constitutional amendment. (Discipline, 62-64.)

Rule 27. Reconsideration

A motion to reconsider an action of the Conference shall be in order at any time if offered by a delegate who voted with the prevailing side. If the motion it is proposed to reconsider is non-debatable, the motion to reconsider may not be debated. (See Rule 16.)

Rule 28. Regular Calendar and Consent Calendar

(1) The Secretary shall keep the Calendar which includes the orders of the day and the reports of committees (See Rule 31). Business placed on the calendar shall be considered in the order recommended by the Committee on Agenda and Calendar, unless by two-thirds vote of the Conference, an item is taken up out of its order. (See Rule 26.3.)

(2) When a committee presents a report, it shall also list the numbers of all petitions relating to the report on which the committee voted non-concurrence so that all related matters may be considered together. (See Rules 30.3, 31, 33.)

(3) Action from a legislative committee shall be placed on the Consent Calendar if:

(a) No more than five votes were cast against the prevailing position in the Committtee;

(b) The item has been previously printed in The Daily Christian Advocate;

(c) The item has been in the hands of delegates for at least 24 hours; and

(d) The item is neither a constitutional amendment nor one having financial implications.

(4) The Daily Christian Advocate shall clearly identify the Consent Calendar which will list items in three sections sub-headed as follows:

(a) Discipline Changes Concurrence

(b) Non-Discipline Items Concurrence

(c) Discipline and Non-Discipline Items Nonconcurrence

(5) The Consent Calendar shall be called up daily pursuant to Rule 2. Adoption of the Consent Calendar by vote of the Conference shall be deemed action on all calendar items on the Consent Calendar.

(6) Any five delegates may have a Consent Calendar item removed by having such a request on file with the Secretary by 3:00 p.m. of the day the calendar item first appears in The Daily Christian Advocate. Such items shall be called up in the regular order of business.

Rule 29. Rules of Order of Legislative Committees

The rules of order of the General Conference, except for Rule 36, shall be observed in meetings of standing legislative committees insofar as they apply.

Rule 30. Duties and Prerogatives of Legislative Committees

(1) Following election and orientation of officers, as its first order of business, each committee shall utilize the resources of its legislative coordinator. Each committee shall evaluate the petitions assigned to the committee, establish priorities, and outline the committee's work on the basis of those priorities unless it is given special instructions by the General Conference. (See Plan of Organization VIII.A.(7)(a).)

(2) When a petition or resolution or any similar item is referred to one of the several standing legislative committees, it shall be understood that the whole question with which the paper has to do is referred to that committee for such action as it may deem wise. In addition to concurrence and non-concurrence, a committee may recommend action or referral to the next General Conference or to a board, council, commission, or committee either for action or for report to the next General Conference

(3) Committees shall report to the Conference upon all matters referred to them by the Conference, directly or through the Committee on Reference. Committee reports on resolutions, petitions, etc., shall cite the same, identifying them by numbers they bear respectively in the published reports of the Committee on Reference or in some other suitable manner.

(4) When a committee ascertains that another committee is, or in its judgment should be, considering a subject which the former is considering, it shall report the matter to the Committee on Reference for such adjustment as the situation may require.

Rule 31. Legislative Committee Report to the Daily Christian Advocate

(1) As quickly as material can be prepared, each secretary of a standing legislative committee shall present each of the committee's reports to a recorder assigned to the committee. The recorder will prepare the report and send it to the Daily Christian Advocate. A copy of the report as it will appear in the Daily Christian Advocate will be sent to the chair and vice chair for their approval and signature. After copy has been approved, it will be returned to the Daily Christian Advocate. A calendar number will be assigned and it will be printed as approved.

(2) Committee and minority reports which propose changes in the Discipline shall give chapter, section, and paragraph to be affected and shall be prepared in the following manner.

Existing words used as reference points shall be in quotation marks; words to be deleted shall be single-underscored; words to be added shall be double-underscored. In the publication of these reports, the Daily Christian Advocate shall substitute italics for single underscoring and boldface for double underscoring. (See Rule 33.)

Rule 32. Published Reports in Possession of Conference

Reports submitted by the committee according to the deadline, as announced by the Secretary of the Conference, shall appear in the next day's Daily Christian Advocate. The report as printed in the Daily Christian Advocate becomes the official copy, subject only to grammatical or other obvious editorial changes and shall be regarded as in the possession of the Conference. On the day following its first appearance in the Daily Christian Advocate or any time thereafter, a report is in order for consideration at the pleasure of the conference. The same rule shall apply to a report of a minority of any committee. (See Rules 16, 35.)

Rule 33. Preparation and Printing of Reports

(1) All committee reports shall be presented to the Daily Christian Advocate on a form provided therefore and using a process approved by the Secretary of the Conference. The form shall bear at the top the name of the committee, its total membership, the number present at the time the report was adopted, the number voting for and against the report, respectively, and the number not voting. (See Rule 15, 28.2, 30.3, 31.)

(2) Consent Calendar items (see Rule 28.3, 4) shall be clearly marked with an identifying symbol on the report cover and in the Daily Christian Advocate printing, this symbol to be supplied by the General Conference Secretary.

(3) Reports of the standing legislative committees shall be printed in the Daily Christian Advocate at least one day before being presented for consideration by the Conference. Committee reports to which minority reports are appended shall be printed in sequence, and so numbered.

(4) Every effort should be made by the secretary of the Legislative Committee to report consecutively all petitions which address the same issue.

Rule 3. Committee Chairperson Not in Harmony with Report

When the chairperson of a committee is not in harmony with a report adopted by the committee, it shall be the chairperson's duty to state the fact to the committee. The committee shall elect one of its members to present it in the presentation and discussion of the report in the Conference. If, in such a case, the committee shall fail to select a representative, the chairperson shall designate a member to represent the committee, and said representative shall have all the rights and privileges of the chairperson in relation to such report.

Rule 35. Minority Report

(1) Minority reports represented as substitutes for a committee report shall conform to Rule 24 and Rule 31 respectively and indicate the specific report number with which it relates. The names of the members of the committee signing the report shall be indicated. A minority report shall be signed by one-tenth or by ten members of the committee, whichever is the lesser.

(2) A minority report shall be processed as a substitution for the report of the committee pursuant to Rule 24 as would any other substitute.

(3) A member selected by the signers of the report of a minority of a committee to present the same shall have the same rights and privileges in relation thereto which belong to the chairperson in the presentation of the committee report. In closing debate on the minority report, the member presenting the minority report shall speak first and the chairperson last.

Rule 36. Speakers For and Against

(1) When the report of a committee is under consideration, it shall be the duty of the presiding bishop to ascertain, when recognizing a member of the Conference, on which side the member proposes to speak; the chair shall not assign the floor to any member proposing to speak on the same side of the pending question as the speaker immediately preceding if any member desires to speak on the other side thereof.

(2) Except for undebatable motions (Rule 17), no report shall be adopted or question relating to the same decided without opportunity having been given for at least two speeches for and two against the said proposal. After three speeches for and three against and provided no secondary motions come before the floor, the questions shall be put automatically. However, the chairperson and/or duly authorized member or members presenting the committee's report (and the minority report chairperson or representative if there be one) shall be entitled to speak before the vote is taken. (See Rule 35.)

(3) The right of the chairperson and/or other member or members to close the debate shall prevail in like manner to a limit of three minutes when a vote is about to be taken on a motion to amend, to substitute, to postpone, to refer, or to lay on the table or any other motion whose adoption would vitally affect the report under consideration. (See Rules 9, 35.)

Rule 37. Effective Date

All legislation of the General Conference of the United Methodist Church shall become effective January 1 following the session of the General Conference at which it is enacted, unless otherwise specified. (See Discipline ¶ 609.)

VI. Suspending, Amending, and Supplementing

Rule 38. Suspension of the Rules

The operation of any of the provisionz of the Plan of Organization or of these Rules of Order may be suspended at any time by two-thirds vote of the Conference. (See Rule 26.3.)

Rule 39. Amending Rules

The plan of Organization and these Rules of Order may be amended or changed by a two-thirds vote of the Conference; provided the proposed change or amendment has originated in the Committee on Plan of Organization and Rules of Order or has been presented to the Conference in writing and referred to this committee, which committee shall report thereon not later than the following day. (See Rule 26.3 and Plan of Organization VII.B.)

The Plan of Organization and Rules of Order as adopted at the opening session shall be printed in the next Daily Christian Advocate.

Rule 40. Robert's Rules of Order, Supplemental Authority

In any parliamentary situation not covered by the Plan of Organization or these Rules of Order, the General Conference shall be governed in its action by the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order.

Rule 41. Persons Without Right to Make or Second Motion

A person seated in the conference with the right to speak, but without vote, does not have the right to make a motion or second motions.

Recommendation Number Two

We propose that the Study on Ministry come before the General Conference using the following process:

1. The Council of Bishops will present its Study on Ministry to the General Conference in plenary on Wednesday morning, April 17, as an order of the day.

2. Following this presentation, the body of the General Conference will be divided into 25 randomly selected non-legislative groups for reflection and dialogue on the study.

3. Each group will meet for 90 minutes guided by a convenor Bishop selected by the Council of Bishops.

4. Each group will be provided a recorder who is a non-delegate and who has been trained by UMCom.

5. On Wednesday evening, April 17, the convenors and recorders will meet to compare experiences and to identify areas of consensus among the groups as well as issues or questions related to the study which were not addressed in the Wednesday morning presentation.

6. The convenor and recorder will provide the General Conference on Thursday morning, April 18, with a written report-for-information of their observations. The General Secretary of UMCom will present a brief oral summary of the report. The Bishop presenting the Study on Ministry report will have opportunity for additional comments.

7. The study will then move to the legislative committee to which it has been assigned and follow the legislative process in accordance with the Plan of Organization and Rules of Order adopted by the General Conference.

## Announcements

Receipts are not required for travel expense after General Conference concludes. Please estimate these expenses based on your experience travelling to General Conference and list them on the expense form distributed Tuesday, April 16. Receipts are also not required if you stayed overnight in Denver on April 15 and you are paying the total bill upon check-out.

The trustees and the president of Garrett-Evangelical will host a dinner in recognition and celebration of theological education for a new century of service — "Bold Leaders for a New World" on Saturday, April 20, at Executive Tower Inn, 1405 Curtis St., 5:30 p.m. A limited number of reservations will be available at the door. Tickets are $12.50 per person.

Northern Illinois Conference dinner will be Tuesday, April 23, 5:30 p.m. at the Holiday Inn, 1450 Glenarm St $22 per person. For reservations, contact Emery Percell.

Last call! Reservations for the Baltimore-Washington Conference Delegation and co-workers dinner to be held Saturday, April 20 at the Marriott from 5:15-7:15 p.m is 3 p.m. today. Contact Patsy Barton at the Holiday Inn, Room 1419, 573-1450.

The Committee on Hispanic Ministries invites you to our Hospitality Center, Hyatt Regency, suite 1701, Welton and 17th. Information on the National Hispanic Plan, Hispanic Ministries,and other related Hispanic initiatives is available. Every delegate that stops by will receive a special gift. Open Monday-Fri 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Saturday noon - 5 p.m.

Bible study using the methodology of othe National Hispanic Plan will be held Thursday - Saturday 7 a.m. - 8 a.m. in A102 of the Convention Center.

Save the soap and shampoo! Bring you unused soap bars and shampoo bottles to the UM Rural Fellowship Hospitality Suite, room 2120 for inclusion in one of the UMRF's mission shipments to Africa.

Have you signed up for a Sunday tour? If so, please pick up your ticket at the information booth, (Lobby A) and let us know yuor local address. If not, there is still room for tours to Cheyenne, the High Plains, Colorado Springs, or Denver. Also, consider "mini-tours" during the week of various local sites.

Buses taking participants to the luncheon Encounter with Christ in Latin America and the Caribbean on Thursday will depart at 12 noon and 12:35 p.m. from the front of the Convention Center. (12:30 p.m. for bishops in front of the Mariott Hotel.)

Black Methodists for Church Renewal invites you to a dinner honoring our EBONY bishops on Sunday, April 21 at 5 p.m. at Scott UMC. Tickets $10. Reservations must be paid by Thursday noon, April 18. See Ethel Johnson or any BMCR observer for a reservation.

Methodist Theological School in Ohio (METHESCO) with Presdient Ned Dewire will hold a breakfast for alumni, students, faculty, and friends on Thursday, April 18, from 7-9 a.m. in Grand Ballroom D and E, lobby level, at Adams' Mark Hotel. The buffet breakfast is $10 (except for students). Space is available for eight more.

## Daily Choir Concerts

## 2 p.m, Hall A

April 17: McCurdy School Choir, Española, New Mexico, Paula Nichols, director

April 18: The Maranatha Choir, University UMC, Gainesville, Fla., Robert W. Jackson, director

April 19: Choir of the First UMC, Peoria, Ill., Timothy M. Coday, director

April 20: Mass Choir St. Luke Community UMC, Dallas Tex., Monya Logan, director

April 22: Coral Metodista Unida de Nueva York, New York, N.Y., Jorge Lockward, director

April 23: Indonesia Choir of the Methodist Church of Indonesia, Eunice Sitompul, director (c/o Fred Ingold, Estes Park, Colo.)

April 24: Lover's Lane Jazz Band, Lover's Lane UMC, Dallas, Tex.

April 25: Christ UMC Deaf and Sign Choir, Baltimore, M.D., Peggy Johnson, director

April 26: Iluzija Choir, UMC, Liepaja, Latvia, Guntra Pluce, director, c/o Russell T. Montfort, Charlotte, N.C.

**Choir presented in plenary session by Board of Higher Education & Ministry**

April 23: Africa University Choir, Mutare, Zimbabwe, Patrick Matsikenyiri, director

**Choir for presentation of UM Hispanic Hymnal**

April 20: Coral Metodista Unida de Nueva York, New York, N.Y., Jorge Lockward, director

**Organists for General Conference**

Austin Lovelace, Denver, Colo.

Kathleen Forsberg, Littleton UMC, Littleton, Colo.

**Pianists for General Conference**

Richard Forsberg, Littleton, Colo.

Johnetta Johnson Page

## Petitions Referred to a new Legislative Committee

| Petition No. | From | To |
|---|---|---|
| 21718 | CO | GJ |
| 21719 | CO | GJ |
| 23026 | CO | GJ |
| 20157 | CS | GJ |
| 20904 | CS | GJ |
| 21647 | CS | GJ |
| 22544 | CS | GJ |
| 21648 | DI | GJ |
| 21399 | DI | GJ |
| 20593 | FA | GJ |
| 20603 | FA | GJ |
| 20605 | FA | GJ |
| 20774 | FA | GJ |
| 21482 | FA | GJ |
| 21569 | FA | GJ |
| 21630 | FA | GJ |
| 23071 | FA | GJ |
| 20887 | GJ | CS |
| 21423 | GJ | DI |
| 20625 | GM | GJ |
| 21325 | GM | GJ |
| 21326 | GM | GJ |
| 21328 | GM | GJ |
| 21329 | GM | GJ |
| 21330 | GM | GJ |
| 21336 | GM | GJ |
| 21661 | GM | GJ |
| 21663 | HE | GJ |
| 20636 | IC | GJ |
| 20640 | IC | GJ |
| 20644 | IC | GJ |
| 20646 | IC | GJ |
| 20647 | IC | GJ |
| 20766 | IC | GJ |
| 21070 | IC | GJ |
| 21377 | IC | GJ |
| 21668 | IC | GJ |
| 21669 | IC | GJ |
| 21670 | IC | GJ |
| 21671 | IC | GJ |
| 22793 | IC | GJ |
| 21425 | LC | DI |
| 21426 | LC | DI |
| 21427 | LC | DI |
| 21428 | LC | DI |
| 21429 | LC | DI |
| 21430 | LC | DI |
| 21431 | LC | DI |
| 21432 | LC | DI |
| 21433 | LC | DI |
| 21434 | LC | DI |
| 21435 | LC | DI |
| 21436 | LC | DI |
| 21437 | LC | DI |
| 21438 | LC | DI |
| 21439 | LC | DI |
| 21440 | LC | DI |
| 21441 | LC | DI |
| 21443 | LC | DI |
| 21444 | LC | DI |
| 21445 | LC | DI |
| 21446 | LC | DI |
| 21451 | LC | DI |
| 21517 | LC | DI |
| 22108 | LC | DI |
| 22365 | LC | DI |
| 22718 | LC | DI |
| 20799 | MN | LC |
| 20824 | MN | GJ |
| 21264 | MN | GJ |
| 21263 | MN | GJ |
| 21373 | MN | CS |
| 21424 | MN | DI |
| 21456 | MN | DI |
| 21457 | MN | DI |
| 21546 | MN | GJ |
| 21550 | MN | GJ |
| 21551 | MN | GJ |
| 21552 | MN | GJ |
| 21553 | MN | GJ |
| 21725 | MN | CO |
| 22101 | MN | HE |
| 22390 | MN | GJ |
| 22392 | MN | GJ |
| 22393 | MN | GJ |
| 22394 | MN | GJ |
| 22395 | MN | GJ |
| 22605 | MN | GJ |
| 22859 | MN | IC |
| 22946 | MN | HE |

# Additional Petitions

## ¶905.

Petition Number: 23071-GJ-905.1-D; GCOM.

Organization

Delete ¶ 905.1 and replace with new text:

*Organization.*—1. *Membership—a)* The voting members of the Council shall be elected quadrennially by the General Conference and shall consist of forty (40) persons nominated as follows:

(1) three bishops nominated by the Council of Bishops;

(2) six persons from each jurisdiction nominated by the bishops of that jurisdiction;

(3) one person from an annual conference in the central conferences nominated bythe Council of Bishops; and

(4) six members at large, at least one of whom shall be a youth under the age ofeighteen and at least one of whom shall not be over thirty years of age at the time of election, and most of whom shall be elected for special skills. The members at large shall be nominated by the Council of Bishops without reference to jurisdictions.

*b)* It is recommended that attention be given to ensuring adequaterepresentation of racial and ethnic groups, with at least two of the at-large members to be racial and ethnic persons. It is further recommended that in the membership from each of the jurisdictions and the at-large members, one-third be laywomen.

*c)* The general secretaries who serve as the chief executive officersof the general agencies and the publisher of The United Methodist Church shall be members of the council but without vote.

d) The voting members, including bishops, shall not be eligible for membership on,or employment by, any other general agency of The United Methodist Church (¶ 801.2), except where the Book of Discipline specifically provides for such interagency representation. Members shall also be guided by such conflict of interest policies and provisions as may from time to time be adopted by the General Conference or by the council itself.

*e)* Members shall serve until their successors are elected andqualified.

*f)* Vacancies occurring between sessions of the General Conferenceshall be filled by the council on nomination of the College of Bishops of the jurisdiction concerned (see ¶ 812), if the vacancy is among members chosen to represent a jurisdiction or, in the event of a vacancy among the episcopal, central conference or at-large members, on nomination of the Council of Bishops.

## ¶101.

Petition Number: 23072-LC-101-D;RKM.

The Mission and Ministry of the Church

Action: It is requested that the General Conference delete paragraphs 102 and 103 from *The Book of Discipline* and replace paragraph 101 with the following:

TITLE: Mission and Ministry of the Church Statement

Mission:

The mission of the Church is to make disciples of Christ Jesus who will claim their ministry as agents of God's kingdom.

Rationale of Our Mission:

Jesus' words in Mark 1:14 ("The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news"), announced to the world his Gospel mission and ours. Jesus' entire ministry and disciple recruitment was directed to announcing and demonstrating God's kingdom as a present and coming reality; i.e., the reign and realm wherein God's loving will is done on earth as it is in heaven. Mark's account of Jesus' closing great commission, "Go into all the world and proclaim the good news (of the kingdom) to the whole creation",(Mark 14:15), coupled with Matthew's account of that commission (Matt. 28:19:20), "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you," provide the impulse and direction of our mission.

This kingdom mission is an expression of God's larger work in creation. God seeks to restore human beings and all creation to the righteousness ("right relations") which God intends. God's grace is active everywhere, at all times, carrying out this purpose as revealed in the Bible. It is expressed in God's covenant with Abraham and Sarah, in the Exodus of Israel from Egypt, and in interpreted following the Babylonian Captivity, that graceful purpose is fully embodied in the life, death, and resurrection of Christ Jesus. It is experienced in the ongoing creation of a new people by Christ's Holy Spirit, or, as Jesus called himself, "the Spirit of truth," (John 14:17). As the Apostle Paul put it: "The Lord is the Spirit." (2 Cor. 3:17)

Whenever Christian disciples have had a clear sense of God's kingdom mission, God has used the Church as the agent of salvation (soteria, i.e., wholeness) to save persons, heal relationships, and change social structures; thereby transforming the world. In order to be fully alive (what Jesus called "eternal life,"] we embrace Jesus' mandate to proclaim the good news of the kingdom and make disciples of all peoples.

The Process for Carrying Out Our Mission:

We make disciples and kingdom agents as we:

- proclaim the good news of the kingdom, seeking, welcoming, and gathering persons into the Body of Christ, the community of faith;

- lead persons to commit their lives to the God we meet in Christ Jesus and help equip them to claim their own ministry as agents of God's kingdom;

-nurture and equip persons in Christian living through teaching and understanding the means of grace: worship, baptism, communion, Bible study and prayer.

- continue the ministry of the kingdom begun by Jesus when he said: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." (Luke 4:18-19)

- send persons into the world equipped to live lovingly and justly as disciples by healing the sick, feeding the hungry, caring for the stranger, and freeing the oppressed, as signs of Christ's presence in that kingdom where God's will is done.

Faithfulness and effectiveness demand that all ministries of the Church, whether by ordained or baptized ministers, be

shaped by Christ Jesus' own mission, joining him in making disciples who will proclaim in word and deed the good news of the kingdom.

Rationale:

The United Methodist Church needs to refocus its life and mission upon that which unites us: Christ Jesus and his kingdom mission. Tragically, many groups and individuals within Methodism have focused on lesser issues (John Wesley called them "non-essentials") which divide us. We are a people passionate about many "things:" the race thing, the war thing, the sexuality thing, the poverty thing, the justice thing, etc. We need to rediscover the word of Jesus, that if we "seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness," the answers to these other "things" will be provided as well. By clearly reaffirming in The Book of Discipline that our mission is consonant with the mission of our Lord, we can recover not only the vision but the power to use our great gifts and diversity to "serve the present age, our calling to fulfill."

## ¶452.

**Petition Number: 23073-MN-452.1-D; Rev. Joe L. Sparks, Jr., Little Rock.**

**Mandatory Retirement**

Delete ¶ 452.1 and substitute new text:

***Retirement.*—No clergy member of an annual conference shall be forcedto retire because of his or her age.**

## ¶253.

**Petition Number: 23074-LC-253.2-D;Nebraska.**

**Retired Diaconal Ministers**

Amend ¶ 247.2:

2. ...together with retired ordained ministers **and retired diaconalministers** who elect to hold...

**Petition Number: 23075-DI-NonDis-O; GBOD.**

**UM Emphasis on Youth and Young Adults**

Basis: In a survey conducted by Search Institute (Minneapolis, Minnesota) it was found that only a small minority of youth in Protestant congregations experience a life-transforming faith that is characterized by a strong relationship with God. Two-thirds of youth said they have a dormant or under-developed faith.

In the same Search Institute survey, a small percentage of youth indicate that they actively engage their faith through prayer, Bible reading, service to others, or other spiritual growth activities.

Fewer than half of the youth in the Search Institute survey say their church challenges them to think and few have meaningful relationships with adults in their congregations.

Young adults experience similar problems with faith formation issues to connect with the church.

One of the ways for the church to turn these dismal statistics around and make the church a place where youth and young adults want to be, is to put a high priority on youth ministries and young adult ministries.

In a survey conducted by Group Publishing, it states that 80% of families with children say youth ministry is a major factor in choosing a church.

In the same survey, 57% of families stated the reason they joined their present church is the strong youth ministry program.

Conclusion: The 1995 National Youth Ministry Organization Legislative Assembly calls for a youth and young adult emphasis for The United Methodist Church during the 1997-2000 quadrennium.

**Petition Number: 23076-CS-NonDis-O!; Lydick, Howard, First United Methodist Church, Richardson, TX.**

**Standing Commission on Alcohol and Drugs**

In order to make more effectual the efforts of The United Methodist Church in creating a Christian public sentiment and in crystallizing opposition to all public violations of the moral law, and especially to oppose the many evils existing in society caused by the consumption of alcoholic beverages and other drugs, there shall be a Standing General Commission on Alcohol and Drugs, hereinafter known as the commission.

Its headquarters shall be in Washington, DC.

Purpose:

The object and duty of the commission shall be to promote by an intensive educational program voluntary total abstinence from all intoxicants and narcotics; the educational program to include the use of radio, television, publication and distribution of literature; to promote observance and enforcement of constitutional provisions and statutory enactments that suppress the traffic in alcoholic beverages and in narcotic drugs; and to promote the speedy enactment of such legislation throughout the world.

Incorporation:

The commission shall be incorporated in the District of Columbia. The commission shall be the legal successor and successor in trust of the corporations, boards, departments or entities known as the Department of Human Welfare of the General board of Church and Society of The United Methodist Church; the Division of General Welfare of the General Board of Church and Society of The Untied Methodist Church; the Division of General Welfare of the General Board of Christian Social Concerns of The United Methodist Church; the Department of Christian Social Action of the Evangelical United Brethren Church; the Division of Alcohol Problems and General Welfare of the General Board of Christian Social Concerns of the Methodist Church; the Division of Temperance and General Welfare of the General Board of Christian Social Concerns of the Methodist Church; the Board of Temperance of the Methodist Church; and the Board of Temperance, Prohibition and Public Morals of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Membership:

The commission shall consist of thirty persons elected by the jurisdictional conferences and three bishops elected by the Council of Bishops. Those elected to the commission shall be chosen solely for their demonstrated concern about the problems caused in our society by the presence and use of alcoholic beverages and other drugs. Each jurisdiction shall elect six persons from the list of persons proposed for general agency membership by the annual conferences. A jurisdiction may elect a maximum of four clergy members or four lay members. At the first meeting of each quadrennium and each annual meeting thereafter, the commission may elect an additional person or persons based on special expertise that will be of assistance to the commission, provided that a maximum of five such persons may be elected each quadrennium.

Vacancies in the commission membership shall be filled by the procedure defined in ¶ 812 of the General Provisions.

Officers:

The officers of the commission shall be a president, a vice president, a secretary, and a treasurer.

Executive Committee:

The commission shall have an executive committee composed of the elected

officers and two additional persons selected by the commission from among its other members. The general secretary shall be a member of the executive committee, with a voice but not the right to vote. The committee shall have the power ad interim to fill any vacancies occurring in the elected staff and to transact such business and adopt such resolutions and statements as are authorized between the meetings of the commission. It shall report all of its actions to the commission promptly after each of its meetings and again for confirmation at the next meeting of the commission.

Meetings:

The commission shall hold an annual meeting at a time and place to be determined by its executive committee and such other meetings as its work may require, and shall enact suitable bylaws governing the activities of the commission and its employees. A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum.

Staff:

The commission shall have a general secretary and one or more associate general secretaries as its work may show to be necessary. The commission shall be otherwise organized and operate according to the general provisions of the Administrative Order of the *Discipline*, except where they may be in conflict with the provisions herein adopted specifically for the commission.

Funding:

The standing commission shall be funded like other general agencies of the church (¶ 906). During its first quadrennium (1997-2000) it shall receive from the funds otherwise authorized for the use of the General Board of Church and Society that percentage that corresponds to the amount authorized for the use of the Board of Temperance during the last quadrennium (1956-60) that the former Boards of Temperance, World Peace, and Social and Economic Relations received in individual appropriations. It shall receive all property owned or controlled by the former Board of Temperance at the time of its merger in 1960 with the former Boards of World Peace and Social and Economic Relations.

The commission shall be authorized to solicit and create special funds; to receive gifts and bequests; to hold properties and securities in trust; and to administer all these financial affairs in accordance with its own rules and the provisions of the *Discipline*.

Annual Conference:

Each annual conference shall establish a Commission on Alcohol and Drugs. The total membership of this commission shall be determined by each annual conference according to its own rules. Each member of the Standing General Commission on Alcohol and Drugs shall be an ex officio member, with vote, of the annual conference where that member resides or has his or her annual conference membership. Clergy appointed beyond the local church may, if he or she chooses, be a member of the commission of the annual conference where he or she resides.

Local Church:

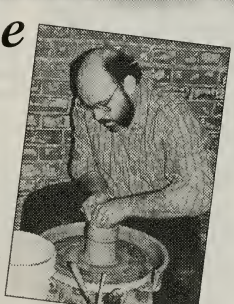
Each local church shall have a work area for alcohol and drugs.

Effective Date:

This legislation shall become effective 90 days after General Conference has adjourned.


# *Special Appearance*

**Randy Holbrook,**
**master artisan in clay and porcelain,**
**will be at the Cokesbury display**
**Thursday and Friday, April 18 and 19**



You are invited to see Randy Holbrook as he creates original pieces on his potter's wheel. He will be happy to answer questions and talk with you about his work.

Randy Holbrook is the owner of *I Love You Gifts*. He made the special General Conference chalices and bread plates used in the opening Communion service. He lives in Red Bluff, California.

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DCA-339-6

# Proceedings of the 1996 General Conference of The United Methodist Church

## Tuesday Afternoon, April 16, 1996

BISHOP RICHARD B.WILKE: Delegates are asked to be in their seats at a quarter past three. Go forth in peace. The grace of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. The compassionate love of God, the communion and fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you now and forever. Amen.

BISHOP ROY I. SANO: By the grace of God, we are gathered here, and the 1996 General Conference of The United Methodist Church will come to order.

The first item on the agenda is roll call. And there are a few items that we need to call to your attention. The agenda as we have it before any changes are made in our Rules of Order or Plan of Organization is found on page 88 of your *Advance Edition*. There is one item of business we wish to call to your attention on the roll call for the Council of Bishops. And I'm going to turn to the secretary of the council, Bishop Talbert, to note those items. Let us give Bishop Talbert your attention, please.

BISHOP MELVIN G. TALBERT: Bishop Sano and members of the General Conference, we note the presence of the absence of all bishops, but there are two of our colleagues who are not here that I think is noteworthy for the record. The first is our brother bishop from Liberia, Bishop Arthur Kulah. There is a lot of trouble in Liberia, fighting between factions, and he has decided that he needs to be there with his people in the midst of these struggles. And so he is in his own house. As far as we know he's safe. His choice is not to leave and to be there. And I think this General Conference would want to note that as we are here doing our business, one of our bishops is at home doing the work of peacemaking in behalf of us all.

The second is Bishop Alfred Ndoricimpa. He has been in Nairobi in exile from his homeland of Burundi for quite a time now. But getting to the United States has become a serious problem. Our State Department will not give him or grant him a visa. We have been writing to all of the departments, appealing our case, but they simply have not been willing to grant him a visa to be here with us. You need to know we are deeply disturbed by that. We plan to make a formal protest, but we wanted you to know that that's why our brother Alfred Ndoricimpa is not here. He was planning to come, but he could not get a visa. Thank you.

BISHOP SANO: Let us pause briefly for prayer.

*(prayer)*

We have a word of greetings from our marvelous host, so I turn to Bishop Swenson to bring greetings for us in this area. Bishop Swenson, please.

*Bishop Swenson Welcome*

BISHOP MARY ANN SWENSON: Welcome world to our neighborhood. Our neighborhood is vast and diverse. It is peaks and plains, mountains and metropolitan, sunshine and snow, desert, and continental divide. It is home to dinosaurs and aspen and petroglyphs of persons in canyonlands who lived there and travelled this way and glorified their creator a long, long time ago.

Our neighborhood is 460,000 square miles of Montana, Utah, Wyoming, Colorado, and a little bit of Idaho. In Utah we have a vision that the desert shall bloom with grace. In Wyoming we have more antelope than people and more wind than you can imagine. In Montana it's big sky country; the last best place. And you're going to see a lot of Colorado this week and next.

Our vast and diverse neighborhood is Tongan, Somoan, Korean, Japanese, Urdu, Blackfeet, Cheyenne, Arapaho, Crow, Ute, Hispanic, African-American, and cowboy and cowgirl. We are skiers, ranchers, farmers, teachers, and urban technocrats. And we are all learning. We are learning that we are all one family. We have been praying for you and with you in preparation for these days together.

Welcome world to our neighborhood. And we've come to learn something. In our preparation to welcome you as the world to our neighborhood, we have come to learn in fact that our neighborhood is the world. And as we have worked to create spaces of hospitality for stranger to become friend, we have come to know more and more we are one family, one people, related to one God, one holy apostolic catholic church, one world.

Now we hope you'll take advantage of some of the mission opportunities while you are here. You know people are coming from around the world to build a Habitat house during these two weeks. I got to be a part of the groundbreaking ceremony a little while ago, and see a big hole in the ground, and meet the family who will live there. Volunteers in mission are coming from all around the world. And it's going to be really interesting with all of the translators and see how many languages we can all learn how to say "hammer and nails." We will dedicate the house on Saturday after General Conference closes on Friday.

I hope that while you're here you will visit some of the mission adventures of the local area. I hope you'll take a visit to Warren Village. This is one of the general church Advance Specials that is a close-knit community of low-income, single-parent

families where they are working to grow and develop and become self sufficient. There are families with up to four children who live in the apartments at Warren Village while they are working and going to school and growing and learning.

We will have a number of minitours available for you, a lot of special events next weekend, a lot of mission service opportunities. I hope you'll take time to see the Women's Bean Project and attend the play *Caught in the Middle*.

As we gather for these two weeks to do the church's work, I hope that you will not forget to take time to look to the mountains. Let us be God's people celebrating God's creation. Let us celebrate God's creation with a dream that we will know ourselves, participating in God's mission to redeem and restore all of creation to God's intended design.

Welcome world; welcome to our neighborhood.

BISHOP SANO: We'll turn next to the report from the General Conference Committee.

*Commission on General Conference Introduced*

JOHN J. THOMAS: Bishop Sano, members of the Council of Bishops, delegates, officials, and visitors. On behalf of the Commission on General Conference, we extend greetings and welcome to each of you. We welcome you to the conference which completes the 20th Century and makes plans for the 21st. We especially welcome those who are attending General Conference for the first time as elected and reserve delegates.

The commission is given responsibility for the determining of the time and place of the meeting of General Conference and making all arrangements for the sessions of General Conference. The names of the commission members are found on page five of the *Advance DCA*. I have them here before you and I at this time wish to introduce to you the members that have been working so hard for the past four years along with the Denver area representatives to make this a successful General Conference.

First of all I'd like to introduce, from Sierra Madre, Calif., the vice chair for facilities of the commission, The Rev. Don Locher. You will withhold your applause until I have introduced them all, please. The vice chairperson for program from Detroit, Mich., The Rev. William Quick; the secretary of our commission, all the way from Valhermoso Springs, Ala., Mollie M. Stewart; from River Edge, NJ., Robert Brandt; from Memphis, Tenn., Dr. Jerry Brewster; from New Orleans, La., The Rev. Carol Cotton-Winn; from Rockford, Ill., The Rev. Sandra Hoke; from Dallas, Texas, Thalia Matherson; from Walnut Creek, Calif., Harry Shaner; from Campbellsville, Ky., The Rev. Wallace Thomas.

MR JOHN J. THOMAS (chairperson of the Commission on General Conference) And from Rochester, Pennsylvania, the Rev. J. Howard Wright. In addition to which we have three ex-officio members. First of all, and I understand seated someplace out in front and not up here, is Sandra Kelly Lakore, the general secretary of the General Council on Finance and Administration. Would you, Sandra, please stand? She is way in the back. Also, Carolyn Marshall who is the secretary of General Conference, and she is from Petersburg, Indiana. Carolyn. And our executive director and business manager from Evanston, Illinois, as is Sandra Kelly Lakore, Roger F. Kruse. These are your commission members and my name is John Thomas and I come from Brazil, Indiana.

*Local Committee Introduced*

The names of the Denver area local committee are found on page six of the *Advance DCA*. You have already met the host area bishop, Bishop Mary Ann Swenson, the cowgirl who was out here a few moments ago, and I also wish to especially recognize, and these folks will be recognized later but especially recognize the fine work of Paula Johnson, who is the chairperson for the local committee for this conference. These persons have worked prayerfully and diligently to prepare for your arrival. We're very appreciative of the hospitality that they have shown and are showing as our local hosts and hostesses.

This session of the General Conference has been planned in accordance with the Plan of Organization of General Conference. To facilitate the work of the conference, the commission recommends the following schedule of special activities for your approval: the episcopal address at 8:15 this evening. This service will be preceded by a hymn sing at 7:45 this evening in this room. The laity address at 9 o'clock tomorrow morning. The Denver area program that was referred to by Bishop Swenson a few moments ago for Sunday evening, April 21, at 7 p.m. The presentation of the ecumenical representatives at 9 a.m. on next Tuesday, a week from today, April 23. Bishop, I move these recommendations for approval.

BISHOP ROY SANO: Okay, thank you. You have heard the motion. Those in favor will lift the hand. Thank you. Those opposed the same sign. It is adopted. Thank you very much.

BISHOP SANO: The commission is also responsible for the seating assignments which are determined by law.

THOMAS: We recommend approval of the plan that is printed on pages seven through nine of the *Advance DCA*. We further recommend the commission be authorized to make any necessary adjustments in the seating assignments. I move the approval of the seating assignments.

BISHOP SANO: Right. Those who will approval lift the hand. Thank you. Those opposed same sign. It's approved.

THOMAS: Sections of the hall have been designated for persons with handicapping conditions. Marshals and pages will be pleased to direct

persons to these areas during sessions of the conference. It is requested that there be no smoking in the center during the conference. Breakfast and lunch food services will be provided in the cafeteria in the halls on the main level of the conference. No electronic communication devices are to be used in the plenary hall or in the legislative committee meeting places except by the General Conference or the convention center staff.

Morning worship service is scheduled in this hall at 8:30 a.m. daily except Sunday, and the choir will present a brief concert at 8:15 a.m. each of those days. We express our appreciation to the co-directors of music, Cynthia Wilson-Felder, from Atlanta, Georgia, and S.G. Kimbrough Jr. from New York. We thank them for their endeavors on these and other worship services. It was their responsibility to select the singing groups to participate in General Conference and in the worship services. It has not been an easy responsibility for them because they have had many selection audition tapes to be considered. I remind you that announcements are to be made in the *DCA* or magnification image projected notices are to be limited to the official operation of the conference, its administrative and legislative committees. The commission recommends that the journal be the official record of the General Conference. Bound copies will be available for purchase as a package at a later date. I move approval of these recommendations.

BISHOP SANO: Recommendations before you, those who approve say "aye." Opposed "no." It is approved.

*Two Offerings Announced*

THOMAS: The commission recommends two offerings be received during the conference. The one just received will be designated by the Council of Bishops. Second, an offering for marshals and pages will be received on Wednesday, April 24. I remind you that these persons are volunteers who provide their own travel expense and other expenses while here. They provide an invaluable service to the conference delegates. In addition to these two offerings, you are reminded that this coming Sunday, April 21, is Native American Awareness Sunday throughout our denomination. If you were back home in your local church, you would be invited to make a contribution in the offering that will be taken. Since some of you have probably not made arrangements before you came for that offering, we will announce, I believe on Saturday, how that may be accommodated here, so that an offering can be taken, not across the plenary session, but by any of you that wish to make a contribution and be credited back in your local church for Native American Awareness Sunday. I move the recommendation that we have made concerning these offerings.

BISHOP SANO: All right, I think that this vote needs to be a little more sacramental, and rather than a voice vote, I'll call for a lifting of the hand. Those who will support this will lift the hand. Thank you. Any opposed? It's adopted.

THOMAS: The executive director and business manager of our conference is serving us anew this time. He's learning fast, by necessity. I'm speaking, of course, of Roger F. Kruse and I would request now permission from Roger Kruse to make some announcements concerning matters which pertain to the operation of this conference. If with your permission, I'll turn the floor temporarily over to him.

BISHOP SANO: Yes. Welcome, Roger.

*Voting Procedure Explained*

ROGER F. KRUSE (executive secretary of the General Conference): Bishop and members of General Conference, I can't tell you how intimidating it is to stand before you. It looks considerably different from up here than it does out there. Participants in the General Conference in 1988 of The United Methodist Church led the religious world in utilizing electronic voting at its General Conference in St. Louis. During that event a number of ecumenical leaders were present just as they will be next week, and noting the effectiveness of our voting system they too are now utilizing electronic voting during their major assemblies. Among these are such groups as The Presbyterian Church of the USA, The Church of the Nazarene, and The Evangelical Lutheran Church. Each has found this innovative method provides both a speedier and more accurate tally of votes cast, and thereby enhances the movement of conference business. In front of each of you, who are voting delegates, is the result of the latest research in the field of electronic voting. Utilizing the key pad in front of you, you will be able to record your votes instantly. When the presiding bishop states, "Please vote when the light appears," the green light on your key pad will light up. Also a message directing you to vote will appear in a small window on your key pad and on the large screen in the center of the stage. Next, press the button which corresponds to your choice. Press button one for yes, press button two for no, and if you choose to abstain, press button three.

When you do this, your choice will appear in the window on your individual key pad to confirm your selection. You may change your vote as long as the green light on your voting instrument is on by first pressing the star button in the lower left hand corner and then entering your new choice. When the green light on your key pad starts flashing, you will have three seconds left to vote. And when the light goes off, all voting will be closed. You will note that three seconds will come sooner and sooner and sooner as we move throughout the General Conference because you will become more and more familiar with voting and will be able to do it faster. The computer will then tally all votes cast and the results will be shown on the

large video screen. Please remember that only one response will be taken from each key pad, so pushing the button ten times will not get you ten votes.

Now we would like you to be able to become familiar with the system so we are going to present a few questions for you to answer at this time. The first question may be the most difficult: Are you present? If yes, please press button one. If you are not here, press button two. And if you're not sure and you wish to abstain, simply press button number three. The question is now before you. Please vote when the light appears.

*(laughter)*

Apparently a majority of us are here, but some percentage aren't here, and there really are some of us who are not too sure.

Let's look at question two. How did you get here? Respond by pressing your button: one, if you came by plane; two, if you came by pogo stick; three, if you came by car; four, if you came by bus; five, if you came by walking; and number six, if you really don't remember getting here. The question is before you; please vote when the light appears.

*(laughter)*

I worry a little bit, but clearly the majority of us came by plane. When it comes and we experience the wonders of Denver International Airport.

When it comes time to take an electronic ballot of those who are nominated for certain offices, the procedures that we use will be the same. Assume for a moment that there is a contest for a new denominational mascot. As with the elections which will eventually be before us, we will use numbers for all candidates. So the numbers for our mascot in today's election are: number one for Bugs Bunny; number two for Kermit the Frog; number three for Mickey Mouse; number four for Bart Simpson; number five for Pluto; and number six for Big Bird. The question is before you. Please vote when the light appears.

*(laughter)*

And so, to Judy Weidman and my colleagues at UMCom, it looks like you'll be working with Big Bird. And so ends the brief demonstration of our voting process.

The Commission on the General Conference and the Committee on the Plan of Organization and Rules of Order remind you that each delegate has only one vote, and this vote is to be reported only on the key pad in front of the delegate. Absentee delegates may not have their votes recorded by others except when a reserve delegate has been duly authorized to be seated in the place of a delegate.

Since the beginning of the Communion service earlier this afternoon, you have had the opportunity to benefit from another marvel of the electronic age. The IDA-Four Image Magnification System. The enhancement of visual images enables each of us to feel more closely involved in the presentations, the discussions, and the debates of the issues facing the church.

In keeping with the changing times, the central focus of this plenary hall will be ever-changing. In some previous general conferences, a static, unchanging backdrop or stage setting has served as the focus for our plenary sessions. In this session of General Conference, the video screen will be the center of attention. On the screen, a variety of images will greet you each time you enter the hall.

In the morning, for instance, the portrayal may specifically relate to the sermon topic being presented during worship. As people enter in the afternoon or evening sessions, a portrait of the church at work in the world will be projected on the screen. And during the business session, the image magnification system will help all of us keep abreast of the discussion. When a specific item in the *Daily Christian Advocate* is under consideration, the page number will appear, as you can see illustrated at this time. You therefore will not only have the oral announcement of the topic being discussed, you will also have the visual announcement, so that all will know the subject we are focusing our attention on at a particular moment.

It was 16 years ago that a new system was utilized which helped ensure equal application of time limits imposed upon individual debate as well as committee reports. The timing device has been proved so successful, it too is now used across other denominations. The system we use is composed of green, yellow, and red lights which are set for the time allowed. Beginning with the morning plenary session, the timing device will be installed in front of the table at which the presiding bishop is seated. The green light will come on when the speaker has two minutes remaining. The yellow light will be illuminated when one minute remains to close. When the red light comes on, your time is up, and the officer presiding will rap the gavel.

*Language Interpretation*

For the fourth time in the long history of general conferences, we are providing simultaneous interpretation by electronic means for those delegates and others requiring such services. Using wireless equipment, plenary sessions and worship services, as well as many legislative committees, are being translated into eight languages other than English and broadcast to special receivers designed for use by individual delegates. Translations of the proceedings this year are in French, German, Portuguese, Korean, Chinese, Russian and Swahili. This is the first time we are translating into Russian and Swahili, and we celebrate that reality. (applause)

ROGER F. KRUSE: Any delegate requiring translation equipment may check out a headset at the interpretation booths, which are off to my right

in the front of plenary hall. Please do not hesitate to use this service. For reserve delegates and visitors who need translation equipment, we have projected the sounds so that it will be more effective if you were seated off to my left in the seating on the floor during plenary sessions. For persons requiring sign language, a section in the hall off to my left, immediately outside the bar of the conference has been set aside for this purpose.

To help delegates handle the voluminous number of petitions, the commission has established and published a volume of the *Daily Christian Advocate*, which contains all the petitions from individuals, churches, and other United Methodist bodies. I know you will want to join me in saying thanks to Rich Peck and his staff for a job well done. (Applause).

In addition, when you go to your individual legislative committee, awaiting you in the room will be a computer with all the petitions under consideration. Through this system you will be able to perfect each item right there, without any repetitive typing as has been required in past General Conferences.

And, for the first time, we have a delegate computer center in room C101 of the hall, where any delegate may go and check on the status of any individual piece of legislation that is before the body. Special thanks to John Brawn and his staff for their diligence in refining this system.

Now I have one announcement that is of a very serious nature, because there are a large number of people in this hall. The commission is extremely concerned that if for any reason there should be a necessity that we evacuate this building, that everyone understand clearly what the plan and the procedure is. There are emergency exits on all four sides of this hall. The evacuation plan recommended to us by hall officials is that those persons on the stage divide equally at the center aisle and proceed immediately to the exits on the far sides where they are seated. We recommend that those persons in the floor sitting in this area proceed out the first set of doors marked exit; that all the persons on this side proceed out from the emergency exit here; that the persons seated in the rear of the hall in the bleachers proceed to the far corner to exit; that those persons seated in the risers in the back proceed off to their right, and that delegates either go immediately down the center aisle and out the sides if you're in sections A or D. There is a handicapped refuge area at each of the emergency exits. It is clearly marked on the two side exits; at the rear of the hall; it is along the glassed area of the lobby.

It is our sincere hope that through the use of image magnification, electronic loading, the automatic timing device, wireless interpretation, signers, and the additional volume of the *Daily Christian Advocate*, that the efficiency of this General Conference will be enhanced, and that it will be more meaningful to all participants.

BISHOP SANO: All right. Thank you very much. Yes, John?

JOHN J. THOMAS: The commission wishes to thank the hard work that Roger Kruse, as our executive director/business manager, has done in fulfilling his responsibilities for this conference. Likewise, our commission thanks the continuing hard work of our secretary, Carolyn Marshall. And I think that you would like to express your appreciation early on for all that they've been doing for the past four years.

BISHOP SANO: Will the secretarial team stand?

THOMAS: This morning members of the commission had the privilege of meeting with the overseas delegates, and to explain to them some of the parliamentary procedures and some of the issues that will be coming up before this session. We responded to questions, and we very much appreciate the response that we received from that meeting this morning.

*Reimbursement Expenses Explained*

Questions arise as to reimbursement of expenses in attending this conference by the delegates to the conference. The commission has established the per-diem amount of $88. That's based in part upon our ability to pay as well as what we contemplate the average cost of a two-per-room motel stay and a reasonable cost for meals per day. That will not cover the cost, I am sure, for some of you. It may be ample for some others.

The delegates will receive two expense reimbursement checks while you're here. The first one you will receive this Friday morning, and it will cover your travel expenses to and from General Conference. The second check will be for the $88-per-diem for the days you are here in Denver, attending this conference.

The chairperson of each delegation should have discovered at his or her desk, as you have arrived, an envelope containing travel expense vouchers for all members of your particular delegation. If a reserve has been seated and is entitled to travel expense reimbursement, give it to that person. We ask each of you to do some simple things. First, read the instructions as you fill out your expense voucher. Second, I remind you that the instructions are on the back of the form. And then fill out the form the way the instructions tell you to do it. Give it to your chairperson. The chairperson will approve it and submit the full delegation's expense claims together to the treasurer's office, not one by one, but together as a group. We're prepared to process almost 1,000 checks by the delegation, and it's very helpful if we get them all together.

As to the travel expense, if you travel by car, it's 31 cents a mile for every mile you've travelled to and from, up to 1,000 miles. If it's over 1,000 miles that you will have travelled, then you get either the lower of the cost of the miles above 1,000 or the cost of the least expensive air travel fare that you would have paid

had you come here by air. You may claim actual expenses for meals and lodging en route to and from this conference. Again, at $88 per-diem.

If the chairpersons will hand in all expense claims forms to the treasurer's office before business begins, and tomorrow evening, that's Wednesday evening session, we will get the checks to you on Friday. If we don't get them by Wednesday evening, we don't know if you'll get them by that time or just for sure when. Now, presumably on Friday, you will all get expense checks.

Let me now, tell you how to get the money for them if you need it before you leave. It's very simple. We made arrangements with the First Interstate Bank located at the intersection of 17th and California Streets, about three blocks northwest on California Street from the front entrance to this convention center. We have established an account there. The checks will be drawn on that account. They should be cashed with no problems at all.

If, in addition to the expense reimbursement checks you receive, you want to cash personal checks, you may do so for up to $100 per check, provided you first go to the treasurer's office which is located on the main floor, and I believe it's about A204 [A202] thereabouts. And have one of us there authorize at the bank to initial it for you. In effect, we are guaranteeing your check so that the bank does not have to get nervous with checks coming in from a variety of places around the world. Bishop, I ask for the approval of these recommendations concerning expense claims and method of claiming.

BISHOP SANO: All right, any questions? Those who will approve will lift the hand. Thank you. Those opposed, same sign. It's approved.

THOMAS: Thank you. I've just been handed a note urgent for four people, saying that four cars are parked illegally around the convention center. If not moved immediately, they will be towed in. I'm not sure what illegal, what's illegal about it, but if you have some question about where your car is parked, you better check it, or you'll have a tow bill.

All right. The commission wishes to express its thanks and appreciation to Robert Lear and his staff at the United Methodist Communications for their coverage of General Conference, to this Denver, and to the Denver local committee, for their work prior to and during this conference, and to Richard Peck at the Publishing House for the production and distribution of the *Daily Christian Advocate*.

*2000 General Conference in Cleveland, Ohio*

I also report to you that the commission has responded to an invitation from the Ohio East Conference, and has selected Cleveland, Ohio, as the site of the next General Conference. [applause]

I wonder where they're from. And that will be held on May second through the twelfth in the year 2000. I wish to thank you for the privilege of having served here on this commission. The membership of this commission serves for a period of eight years, and we're on staggered terms. Approximately half of us are going off this time, and four, and eight new ones will be coming on. We thank you very much for your understanding and your questions that you have coming up, come to the business office on the main floor at A206 or to the General Commission office at A210, should you have questions. One of the questions that came up a little while ago, and I believe it's been answered, some of the delegates on the first rows here couldn't see because of the lights. Are they better now that they've been dimmed? I understand they're not perfect yet, so we may have to do something else, put blinders on them or something. We tried to respond by dimming them, but at least we're aware of your concern. So again, we thank you. And Bishop, that now completes our report.

BISHOP ROY SANO: Fine, thank you very much. I think you hear gratitude expressed by the delegates for a quadrennial work. Thank you. It is clear we will not be finishing our order of business, the agenda, for this session, so let the chair test with the body if the body is ready to go until five o'clock rather than the scheduled closing time. Will you approve the extension of the time to five o'clock? Lift the hand please. Thank you. Those opposed same sign. We will extend our session until five.

We turn now to a report from the Committee on Plan of Organization and Rules of Order. And, Bob Stevens, welcome. Good to see you here.

*Report from Committee on Plan of Organization*

BOB STEVENS: Thank you Bishop Sano, delegates, and friends of this General Conference. I'm here today presenting the report of the Committee on Plan of Organization and Rules of Order which is found in the *Advance DCA* on pages 87-106. I'm one of those persons that didn't chair the committee. I didn't vice chair the committee, I got elected as secretary and now both the chair and the vice chair are unable to be at this General Conference. I am sort of filling in at the last minute and may not have quite as much detail as some of you would like, but we'll do our best. The Plan of Organization and Rules of Order of this conference are our working guidelines and processes. And though they sometimes seem rigid and regimented, the purpose of them is to facilitate our work together. We are going to try some new things this year that may be a new experience for some of you, and we hope that this will be a way of doing things in the future and there will be more attempts to do things a bit differently.

One word about the committee itself, all the members of the committee, nine of the ten members for this quadrennium were new on the committee, never having served on this particular committee. However, Judge Jerry Bray from Virginia has

served on this committee previous times and many of you know that he has been a delegate to this General Conference for many years. And he is not able to be with us this year due to his health condition and we surely will miss Judge Bray, his words of wisdom, and history. This year's report has two recommendations for action which I will be bringing shortly to you. But first let me highlight the changes we're recommending to the Plan of Organization and Rules of Order document itself and by the *Discipline* and the previous rules of the General Conference. These rules are adopted by the previous General Conference and are in place until these revised rules are adopted by this General Conference, at which time they become operative until the next General Conference.

A few highlights of some of the changes we've made, and otherwise I'm assuming that you have had the privilege of reading our report and recommendations and we will certainly entertain questions that may occur. First, we've reduced the number of legislative committees, and you've already experienced that from 11 to ten. We had 11 for two quadrennia, with a Faith and Order Committee, and felt that this quadrennium that was not necessary. We have divided the special reports among the several appropriate legislative committees.

*Committees on Agenda and Calendar Merged*

We are recommending a change that many of us have talked about for several years, several general conferences, to combine the historic Standing Committee on Agenda and the historic Standing Committee on Calendar into one new committee on Agenda and Calendar.

Now for some of you that are new and may wonder what the difference is, the Committee on Agenda has had the responsibility for planning the overall work day schedule and the Committee on Calendar would work with individual calendar items that were to come before the General Conference to be sure that we covered everything in an expeditious fashion. We've discovered that the two committees needed to work together so much that the efficiency was to combine them.

When we assigned the functions of the two committees to the new one, we also continued that the membership restriction from the previous Committee on Calendar would be included in these rules. And that membership restriction is in order to avoid an appearance of conflict of interest, that no member of a general agency, nor any general agency staff who happens to be a delegate should serve on the Committee on Agenda and Calendar. The matter of combining these committees has been discussed previously and, based on reports and recommendations from both of the 1992 committees, the need to combine seems appropriate. The two-committee structure created duplicate efforts, and the work loads can well be accommodated.

Another important stated change for the Commission on General Conference, and you heard some discussion about it from John Thomas, is we've included a directive provision now that all necessary measures be taken to assure full participation of delegates, including providing accommodations for language and physical challenges. We have provided for the deletion of *Discipline* provisions which have been declared unconstitutional by the Judicial Council. Currently it takes a specific General Conference action to delete such provisions, which seems unnecessary to the committee, and often frankly is not being done. It will help assure the accuracy of the current *Discipline*. Just as an example, for some of you that are interested in such technical details, there was paragraph 701.1e in the '88 *Discipline* that has to do with the right of an annual conference to determine some of its clergy membership. The Judicial Council declared it unconstitutional in 1989, but if you look in your 1992 *Discipline*, it's still there as paragraph 702.1e. Well, it seems to us that that ought to be a matter of editing, but in order to make it clear to the secretary and the editor of the *Discipline*, we're providing this in our plan of organization.

And finally, we've amended the rules and attempted to bring them in harmony with current practice and make it more clear. One of the issues that we dealt with, with the electronic voting, is how do we deal with not disenfranchising persons who are making presentations on the platform from having a right to vote. And in times prior, often there would be a reserve seated, and the persons on the platform would not vote. Well, with the electronic voting, we've tried to address that now and we've created a new rule six which indicates that persons who are making presentations on the platform will be able to vote from key pads on the platform. Roger tells me they're not here yet, but once you approve these rules, that they will be here at the necessary time.

*Minority Reports Procedure Clarified*

The use of the minority report or substitute motion which is the opposite of a main motion, has continued to be troublesome for delegates. We've added a clarification to rule 24a on page 103 that makes it clear that a substitute motion may not be a negation of the main motion. In other words, you can't, if a main motion says to vote "yes", you can't make a substitute motion to vote "no". You have to, your substitute motion has to cover a different approach or a different issue. And we've added that to 24a and rule 35 on page 105, which deals with a minority report, has also been amended to clarify that a minority report must conform to rule 24. So in the past we've had cases where a legislative committee would vote "yes" on an issue and a group of people would get together and create a minority report that simply said "no" on the same issue. We're making it clear that

that's not Robert's Rules of Order and that's not the rules of our General Conference.

BOB STEVENS: The Consent Calendar is an important part of our process but is often difficult for delegates to follow legislative actions. Too often, important *Discipline* changes have been obscured by the many non-concurrence actions reported on the Consent Calendar. We've written the Consent Calendar provisions of Rule 28 to make it easier to follow, and more importantly, that the Consent Calendar as printed in the *Advocate* will be divided into three separate sections: *Discipline*-concurrence, non-Discipline concurrence, and all the non-concurrence items. Hopefully this improvement will help the delegates identify changes more easily.

And finally, Rule 39 has been amended in order that the Plan of Organization and Rules of Order as adopted today will be printed in full in the revised format in tomorrow's *Daily Advocate*. We hope that a clean copy will be useful to the delegates.

I'm going to stop at this point, Bishop, and bring a motion to approve the Plan of Organization and Rules of Order, as amended, that are printed in the *DCA*. And just to let you know where I'm going, following that, Bishop, I will bring a separate motion and some discussion regarding our recommendation number two. Bishop, I move the adoption of our report as printed on pages 88-106.

BISHOP SANO: All right. Over here please. Microphone. What's the closest microphone to you there? Seven. All right. Give us your name and conference, please.

PHIL GRANGER (North Indiana): Bishop, is this the appropriate time to move an amendment to the rules?

BISHOP SANO: Yes, it is. The proposals are before us.

GRANGER: I move that the end of 7D, found on page 94, column one, under the Committee on Reference, to add the following:

BISHOP SANO: Locate that again, please.

GRANGER: 7D, page 94. It's in column one. It's just before the beginning of the next section, B.

BISHOP SANO: Oh yes, B. All right, thank you.

GRANGER: And the amendment is: In accordance with paragraph 608 of the *Book of Discipline*, all petitions submitted by unofficial organizations such as Affirmation, Good News, Methodist Federation for Social Action, and the Mission Society for United Methodists, be declared invalid, and that they be withdrawn by the Committee on Reference and not be considered by any legislative committee or plenary session, notwithstanding the fact that they may be printed in the *Advance DCA* Volume 1 or 2. If I receive a second, I would like to speak to that.

BISHOP SANO: Is there a second? There is.

GRANGER: Bishop, paragraph 608 states that any organization, ordained minister, or lay member of The United Methodist Church may petition the General Conference. This has been historically interpreted to include any official organization of The United Methodist Church. I believe that that is the correct interpretation, and therefore petitions submitted by unofficial or unrecognized organizations should be declared invalid and not considered.

BISHOP SANO: All right. Is there any further discussion on the matter? Do you have the motion? Good.

Any speeches against? Yes. Over here, microphone seven.

PHILIP WOGAMAN (Baltimore-Washington): The list of illustrations offered is sufficiently diverse that what I have to say cannot be construed in any particular direction. It does seem to me that if it is historic practice to recognize groups of United Methodists, each of those named organizations is made up of United Methodists. That to turn our backs now on the petitions that these groups have worked on, in some cases at great labor, would be a slap in their face and an insult to them as United Methodists. I hope we'll turn this down.

BISHOP SANO: All right. Is there a speech for the amendment? Chair will call for a vote. Could we have the motion read again, please? Do we have the motion up here now at the secretary's desk? Could we have the mover read the motion again, please? Oh, we do have it here? All right. We'll have the secretary read the motion to amend.

CAROLYN MARSHALL: I move that at the end of 7D, page 94, column one, under the Committee on Reference, to add the following: In accordance with paragraph 608 of the *Book of Discipline*, all petitions submitted by unofficial organizations such as Affirmation, Good News, Methodist Federation for Social Action, and Mission Society for United Methodists be declared invalid and that they be withdrawn by the Committee on Reference and not be considered by any legislative committee or plenary session, notwithstanding the fact that they may printed in the *Advance Daily Christian Advocate* Volumes 1 or 2.

BISHOP SANO: All right. The chair has called for the question. Is this a point of order? Clarification? All right. Could you state your question, please? Microphone eight. Name and conference, and this is only a question, not a speech. Yes, microphone eight, please.

SAM WYNN (North Carolina): Would you explain what "unofficial" means?

BISHOP SANO: All right. Is there a response to that? Should we say - not in the *Discipline*? (laughter) Is that going to be adequate?

STEVENS: Well, we haven't created a very good list of unofficial groups. Maybe we have a better list of official groups, but I don't know how extensive that list might become.

BISHOP SANO: All right. Chair will call for a vote now. This is a motion of amendment, of amendment by addition. And you've heard the motion. Those in favor of the amendment will lift the hand. Oop. I'm sorry. Is the machine working now? All right, let's

test it. Let's see. One for yes, two for no, three for abstention. All right. You can vote when the light turns on.

Thank you. It does not prevail. You have the recommendations from the committee before you. [The vote was: Yes, 268; No, 621; Abstained, 22. The motion was defeated.] Any further discussion? Yes, back there, microphone nine.

GRAYSON ATHA (West-Ohio):

BISHOP SANO: Atha from West-Ohio.

ATHA: I do not have a motion. I do not have an amendment, but would like to make a motion for the committee to take under advisement for the next General Conference. May I make that motion?

BISHOP SANO: Let's have you wait until after we have acted on this recommendation. Yes, down here, microphone nine. Seven. Microphone seven, please.

*Discerning the Will of God*

SUSAN W. HASSINGER (Eastern Pennsylvania) I would like to offer an amendment to rule number 36 with the new numbering page 106 column one. I move that the following be added as item four under rule 36. Upon request by the presiding officer or a member of the body and upon vote by two-thirds of the voting members, a method of discernment may be used in order to facilitate listening to each other.

This method would require that following a speech or a motion or petition and before the next speech against the motion, the speaker against the motion would paraphrase the content and feeling of the previous speech, when the request by the presiding officer to the initial speaker to test that the original intent was heard. This pattern would then be followed for each of the two or three speeches for and against. Those who paraphrase should attempt to do so in one minute or less. And that time will not be included in the three-minute time limit. If there's a second I'd like to speak to it.

BISHOP SANO: Is there a second? There is.

HASSINGER: In terrible anticipation of General Conference, I've been reflecting on some of the decision-making process that we use. While much of it has stood the church in good stead, I'm uncomfortable at times with the win-lose atmosphere that emerges in relation to critical subjects through the usual pro-con debate format. It seems to me that at times the church needs to step aside from secular modes of decision making and engage in careful listening to each other and to the Spirit in our midst. At its best, the General Conference is a body seeking to discern the will of God for the present and future of the United Methodist Church. Discernment involves listening to the voice of God and seeking to hear the voice of God in the voices of each other. Often the conflict in our midst is a sign of the movement of God's spirit. It's not a win-lose matter.

However, the pattern under which we operate by the nature of speeches for and against and win-lose voting, makes that discernment process difficult. It comes more from a political legislative model than it does from the church and the church's practice of spiritual discernment. While the size of the General Conference and the quantity of items for discussion does not allow for the kind of discussion I propose on every item, there are certain matters for which the body may wish to operate in a more discerning mode.

My proposal allows for more than a majority, two-thirds, to make that designation for those matters that are of such a nature that a different procedure would be useful in seeking to understand where God's spirit is moving us. The model for my proposal has two sources. First and foremost is the biblical model of listening to each other carefully in the process of discernment. In Acts 15, for example, dare we call that gathering in Jerusalem the first General Conference? The disciples gathered to discern how the Spirit was guiding the fledgling church in the matter of circumcision of Gentile converts to Christianity. That issue had the potential of splitting the church at an early stage. Where if closing doors to the expansion of the church into Gentile territory, I suspect that the atmosphere was tense as they gathered and the speech may even have been somewhat heated. The NRSV uses the phrase "much debate" to describe the interaction. However, in verse 12 we read the whole assembly kept silent and listened to Barnabas and Paul. The listening I sense here is not just a . . .

BISHOP SANO: All right. If you could bring your point to the close, please.

HASSINGER: Okay. I was using the biblical model. The other model that we might point to is the model of mediation and negotiation where each side tries to listen carefully to the other story, and out of that sense the endless of the other and what either compromise or collaboration might come from that.

BISHOP SANO: Thank you, thank you. We're going to need to move on. All right. Is there discussion on the matter? It's before us, the amendment. Did I see a hand over here? Microphone seven. All right, any further discussion?

ROBERT W. STEVENS: Bishop Sano.

BISHOP SANO: Yes, please.

STEVENS: The Committee on Plan of Organization Rule of Order has not had an opportunity to review this and this is a rather significant process that I think merits our careful consideration. Rule 39 provides for amending our rules upon reference to the committee and provides for the committee to report back to the next session of this General Conference. I don't know whether they can do that tonight, but I would like to encourage you to refer this to the new Committee on Plan of Organization and Rule of Order and ask them to make a report back to you at their earliest convenience.

*BISHOP SANO: All right, the chair is going to rule that's a tantamount to a vote, a speech against. Is there a speech for the amendment? Yes, please, right down here. Microphone eight, I guess, yes.*

LIZ ST. CLAIR (Peninsula Delaware): I speak in favor of this because when I hear the speech just ahead of me it sounds like you're postponing this four years. I think this kind of change in special circumstances we need right now in this particular conference. So, I urge that we consider this.

BISHOP SANO: All right, is there, there is a call for the question? We need, yes, we need another speech opposed to the, yes, down here microphone three. Microphone two please, microphone two.

BISHOP CARL SCHENCK (Missouri East): I would move the referral of the motion to the Committee on Organization and Rules of Order.

BISHOP SANO: Is there a second? Any discussion on the matter. Those in favor, let's vote on the key pad. "Yes" for one, two for "No" and three to abstain. Vote when the light turns on. The motion is referred. [643 yes, 263 no, 20 abstaining] Did I hear that you thought the report, the response could come back tomorrow?

STEVENS: Bishop I don't know what the plan of meeting for that new committee is, but I think that they will organize and meet this evening. And it's possible that they could bring a report back at the next session.

BISHOP SANO: All right, the report is before you, any further discussion? Yes down here on microphone, did you want to come forward, two or microphone seven, microphone seven please.

CAROLYN JOHNSON (North Indiana): I'd like a point of clarification again on the section eight committees a standing administrative committees the proposal for the merge agenda and calendar committee. Specifically on column one page 92. The addition, "no member of the committee shall be a chairperson of a standing legislative committee or a director or staff person of any general agency." In the commission report there was mention of conflict of interest. If you could clarify that, then I may be prepared to make a motion. Thinking behind the conflict of interest.

BISHOP SANO: Bob please.

STEVENS: Yes. In the committee's review of this, and I don't think the committee spent a lot of time on it, it's been the long-standing provision in the calendar committee, because that committee specifically controls calendar items that are coming to the floor. And if nothing else, the appearance didn't look right. And so I think the committee felt that it was important to maintain this appearance of independent and non-partiality that it didn't look like a person that happened to have a particular interest in a board or agency, would have an inside track as to what was going to come before the General Conference and when. I realize, evidently, that some persons were nominated to this new committee structure without that consideration having been made and for which I can only apologize. It was not the intention of the committee to not have this be considered.

JOHNSON: Bishop I would like to amend by deletion. My motion is to delete the word a "director" or a "director." And if there's a second, I'd like to speak to it.

BISHOP SANO: All right there is a second.

JOHNSON: Yes I think the issue of the appearance is well and good, but the real issue is substance. And that becomes to the point that one is elected to the General Conference by one's annual conference. So therefore one is not elected by a general board or agency to forward the work of that general board or agency. The directors are non-paid persons so therefore there would not be a direct conflict of interest. Every delegate has the right to submit petitions. So under the train of thinking of the commission, any of the persons who would currently be on the agenda or calendar committee would therefore be trying to forward only the work of their annual conference. We know that people rise to a higher occasion than that. So I don't believe that the conflict of interest piece that has been brought forward is indeed accurate. And what it will do is to disenfranchise annual conferences for the degree of leadership to which they provide the general church.

BISHOP SANO: All right, is there a speech against the motion of deletion of the phrase "or a director." There is none. Does the... call for the question, Bob, if the chair is prepared to call for the question. Did you wish to speak to the motion? Okay, clarification, microphone two, please. Name and conference.

DONALD AVERY (Louisiana): I'm unclear. Was the motion just to delete "director" or was it to also include "director or staff person" of any general agency?

BISHOP SANO: Just "director." "Or a director" is the phrase that's to be deleted if this motion is adopted.

AVERY: I would like to offer a friendly amendment.

BISHOP SANO: Let's hear it.

AVERY: To delete everything and to just make it an in a standing legislative committee, period. And then delete from there on, because the persons who are staff persons, they are also representing annual conferences. And, if the maker of the motion would accept that, that's a friendly amendment.

*(Continued with the April 18th issue)*

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*Daily Report*

# Daily Christian Advocate

THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**Denver, Colorado** **Thursday, April 18, 1996** **Vol. 3 No. 3**

## Day Two Features Laity Address, Ministry Report

In keeping with the Episcopal Address admonition to "wrap our conferencing in the mantle of prayer," the 1996 General Conference opened day two with worship, enriched by the clear, young voices of the McCurdy School choir of Espanola, N.M., and the preaching of Northwest Texas-New Mexico Area Bishop Alfred L. Norris.

"God is in the creating, building and sustaining business," he said. "We are not without hope. In prayer we are convinced of the reality of hope." He called participants to a more disciplined prayer life, humility and openness to God's answers.

The morning featured two major presentations. James W. "Jim" Lane, lay leader of the North Arkansas Conference, drew from his 30 years' experience as a certified lay speaker and Christian educator for the Laity Address.

On the threshold of the 21st century, he said, laity and clergy urgently need to become partners in ministry: to chart new possibilities, "to convince the world of the reality of the gospel or leave it unconvinced."

Like the Episcopal Address the night before, the Laity Address challenged the church to "thrust open the doors . . . quit sitting around in meetings talking about what we ought to do, and get out and about, and be in ministry."

Clergy-laity partnership "means a place for service and ministry for everyone! A place where everyone is worthy and valued and has equal voice . . . sharing in ministry and leadership between the pastor and local church laity."

Mr. Lane called for local churches to become "full service mission stations . . . where everyone standing in the need of prayer will find love, forgiveness, acceptance and haven."

He also urged churches to become "saving stations," "empowering stations," "equipping and sending stations" and "community outreach stations."

"We are God's station keepers!" the address concluded. "Together, let us claim the vision and lift high the cross!"

The second order of the day was the presentation of the bishops' "Study of the Ministry," a 3,000-word report filling 136 pages of the *DCA*, including 280 petitions proposing changes to *The Book of Discipline*.

Bishop Sharon Brown Christopher and Bishop David J. Lawson reminded delegates that the 1992 General Conference referred the study to the Council of Bishops, with a heritage of studies going back to the 1960s. Calling the report a "vision for ordained ministry," Bishop Lawson said it was adopted unanimously by the 67 active bishops in the United States, Africa, Europe and the Philippines. Bishop Christopher said the proposal was offered in the hope that delegates "will join us in the prayerful, open search for God's leadership in this critical matter."

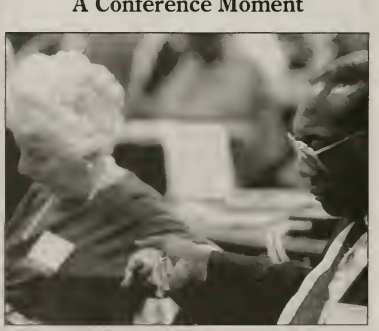
**(continued on page 58)**

### Agenda

**Thursday, April 18**

| | |
|---|---|
| **8:15 a.m.** | **Choral music** |
| **8:30 a.m.** | **Worship** |
| **9:00 a.m.** | **Call to Witness and Prayer** |
| | **Presiding Officers Committee Report** |
| | **Agenda Report** |
| **10:45 a.m.** | **Break** |
| **11:00 a.m.** | **Legislative Committees** |
| **12:30 p.m.** | **Lunch Recess** |
| **2:30 p.m.** | **Legislative Committees** |
| **5:00 p.m.** | **Dinner Recess** |
| **7:30 p.m.** | **Legislative Committees** |

### A Conference Moment



Two conference participants respond to the bishops' call to "intercessory prayer with confidence God will break in with energy, wisdom and enthusiasm." *photo John Goodwin*




**Providing music for Wednesday's General Conference sessions was the choir from McCurdy School, a United Methodist college-preparatory institution in Espanola, N.M.** *photo Mike Dubose*


## Daily Christian Advocate

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(continued from front page)

Delegates then gathered in randomly selected groups of 25 to consider the report and its legislative proposals. A follow-up process combined reports from the groups into one document which was sent to the Legislative Committee on Ordained Ministry. The next steps will come when that committee reports its actions on the legislative proposals on the conference floor, probably next week.

In other actions Wednesday morning, delegates elected trustees to the board of John Street Church, New York City; approved nominations to the Interjurisdictional Committee on the Episcopacy (pp. 80-81, *DCA*); and referred to the Judicial Council a request for a declaratory decision.

Following the noon break, delegates hurried to their assigned legislative committees to consider more than 3,000 petitions during the afternoon and long into the evening. The 15-hour days had begun!

*—Roger L. Burgess*

### Make Your Mark in Time

The Disciple Bible Study has involved more than 400,000 persons. For participants, Disciple has left a mark and guided them in their journey as disciples of Jesus Christ. During General Conference, Disciple graduates are invited to make their "mark" on the time line, located in the Cokesbury Bookstore, indicating when they began their journey. Persons are asked to indicate when they completed Disciple 1 or Disciple 2.




photo John Goodwin

### Can You Top This?

Herman Will, who attended the 1939 Uniting Conference as a youth delegate, is back for his 16th general church conference session. His first experience as a General Conference delegate was in 1948. In all, he has attended 14 General Conferences and the 1939 and 1970 Uniting Conferences.

### Take Now, Read Later!!!

A little-known treasure, hidden in the convention center, is the literature room (C102-C104). Filled with resources from colleges, universities, boards, agencies, caucuses, mission groups and more, it is a great place to visit. Fill your tote bag with resources you can use when you return home. Choose from a wide variety of informational brochures, buttons, position papers and media resources that reveal the diversity of The United Methodist Church.

## Process Used for the Ministry Study Report

The Study of Ministry came before the General Conference using the following process:

1. The Council of Bishops presented the Study of Ministry to the General Conference in plenary Wednesday morning, April 17, as an order of the day.

2. Following this presentation, the body of the General Conference was divided into 25 randomly selected nonlegislative groups for reflection and dialogue on the study.

3. Each reflection group met for 90 minutes, guided by a moderator bishop selected by the Council of Bishops.

4. Resource persons were available near the reflection group meeting room to be called upon to answer questions and to provide information.

5. Immediately upon adjournment of the reflection groups from 12:15 to 12:45 p.m., the recorder from each reflection group met with the compilers of the report to share the thinking of each group.

6. From 12:45 to 1:45 p.m. an inclusive group of six compilers, one General Conference delegate from each jurisdiction and one from the Central Conference chosen by each College of Bishops, met to compile the thinking of the reflection groups and write a short report. This group of compilers was staffed by a person designated by the general secretary of United Methodist Communications.

7. Copies of the report were sent immediately upon the completion of its writing to the legislative committee to which it was assigned as it convened in its first session.

8. The body then followed the legislative process in accordance with the Plan of Organization and Rules of Order adopted by the General Conference.

*This schedule replaces Recommendation No. 2, p. 106.*

## Directions and Tickets and First Aid, Oh My!

"Everything is going better every day."

That's the good news from Paula Johnston, Local Host Committee chair. "We're answering every type of question, from how do you get to the ballroom to how do you get tickets for the special events tours on Sunday." (Tickets are still available for the tours this Sunday, and reservations are requested. Tickets are also available for Sunday night's Montana Logging and Ballet Co. concert.)

Based in Room A-113, the Local Host Committee is also in charge of first aid (in the B section), name tags (of which there is a shortage) and myriad other items.

Delegates and visitors who experienced a two-hour delay waiting for ground transportation at the airport received Ms. Johnston's sympathy. "We had never been able to find when people were coming in," she said. "Our transportation person called the hotels and figured out that we had 500 people in on Tuesday. Actually, over 700 came in on Tuesday, with 500 coming in a 90-minute period."

"We apologize," she added, "but we're humans like everyone else."

Ms. Johnston was pleased with the display of memorial quilts honoring child victims of the Oklahoma City Federal Building bombing a year ago.

A resident of Longmont, Colo., about 45 minutes north of Denver, Ms. Johnston has a cadre of 500 volunteers to assist the committee. Each volunteer underwent a four-hour training session prior to serving in the convention center area.

*—Erik Alsgaard*

## Delegates Approve Changes

In the late afternoon of Day One, General Conference delegates received and debated several procedural changes recommended by the Committee on Plan of Organization and Rules of Order (page 87ff) in the *Advance DCA*.

Among the changes:

- combining the committees on Agenda and Calendar.
- adding a new "method of discernment" to the traditional methods for consideration of selected key issues. (A proposal from the floor was referred to the new Committee on Plan of Organization and Rules of Order.)
- removing wording that would prevent delegates who are directors of general agencies from serving on the new Agenda and Calendar Committee. (A provision exempting general agency staff was unchanged.)
- applying new rules regarding delegate expenses to the General Conference of 2000 rather than 1992.

In addition, the body approved (with changes) a small-group discussion process to follow the Council of Bishops' report on ministry. (The full procedure appears elsewhere in this edition of the *DCA*.)

♀♀ *Blessed Be the Women: Be Counted!* ♀♀

### Reflections on Reflection Groups

With 17 of 25 reflection groups reporting:

| | Female | Male |
|---|---|---|
| Sub-group facilitators | 32 | 33 |

Example of Intentional Inclusion:

- Leadership setting the tone for a welcoming environment resulted in more equitable participation by both gender and race.

Examples of Subtle Exclusion:

- Not regulating the length of one's own speeches
- Stepping on the end of another's sentence
- Completing another's sentence
- Discounting another's idea verbally and non-verbally
- Women waiting for permission to speak; men assuming permission to speak

Observation: Dividing and sub-dividing into 25 or more groups resulted in insufficient translation services.

Information provided by the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women

## Corrections

Add Bishop Richard C. Looney to the active bishops' list.

Add Bishop W.T. Handy Jr. to the retired bishops' list.

Victor Bonilla is a member of the Council of Bishops with voice but not vote.

Petition 21025, p. 1484, Para 1024 change to Para 509.1.
Petition 21549, p. 1492, Para 2625.1 change to Para 2626.1.
In Petition 21549 change Coronada, CA, to Coronado, CA.

## Legislative Committee Recorders: the Unsung Behind the Scenes

Essential to the flow of General Conference is the work of 20 legislative committee recorders. The action on each petition in all 11 committees is entered into the DCA computer system and prepared for next-day publication. Without these 20 volunteers, the process would be vulnerable to unwelcomed errors and time delays.

Prior to the 1992 General Conference, committee officers signed off on handwritten calendar items, and the DCA staff typeset petitions for the next day. The late hours and heavy workload increased the possibility of errors, and the time-consuming process often caused printing delays. With the 1992 introduction of the Petition Electronic Tracking System (PETS), legislative committee officers began to sign off on the actual petition as the recorder typed it.

This is the second General Conference using PETS, and some of the recorders who worked in 1992 are back for a repeat performance. One of those persons is Mary Ann Haney who said, "Part of the reason these folks are willing to volunteer is the excitement of being involved in the legislative process in a church that has global dimensions." She added, "Few of us are likely to be delegates, but we can add our skills in the effort to build a better church."

The recorders don't just volunteer their time and computer skills. Many travel long distances, paying their own expenses. Eight of the 20 hail from the Denver area.

In addition to Ms. Haney of Nashville, Tenn., these rarely seen and generally unnoticed workers include: Carol Ball, Mesa, Ariz.; Betty Coleman, Atlanta; Nancy Drake, Silver Springs, Md.; Lynda Evans, Cheyenne, Wyo.; Joyce Gorman, Hatfield, Pa.; Laura Hughes, Montgomery, Ala.; Bob McClean, Mattoon, Ill.; Linda Barnes Patzke, Wheatland, Wyo.; David Persons, Texas; Sandy Scaggs, Macon, Ga.; and Susan Usher, Shallote, N.C.

Colorado-based recorders are Linda Downey, Lakewood; Brian Faust, Denver; Kurt Gwartney, Denver; Ted Johnson, Arvada; Lora Payne, Pueblo; Clark Rose, Denver; Barbara Thorne, Lafayette; and Marvin Vose, Greeley.

*—Keith Pohl*

## Agenda and Calendar Nominees

The decision to combine the Agenda Committee with the Calendar Committee has changed the nominees from the Council of Bishops. Those nominees are as follows.

Committee on Agenda and Calendar

1. North Central: Mary Good
2. Northeastern: *Sarah S. Miller*
3. South Central: W.E. Arnold
4. Southeastern: *John Horton*
5. Western: Phyllis Ferguson
6. Central Conferences: Eke Halloway
7. Coordinator of Calendar: Fitzgerald Reist
8. Chair, Program Committee: *William Quick*

Also, please correct the GCOM nominees from the bishops. That agency should include "newly elected bishop" — not Bill Lewis.

## *Now Signing in Autograph Area*

*Brian Bauknight*
*12:30 - 1:30 p.m.*
*Body Building: Creating A Ministry Team Through Spiritual Gifts*

*James Moore*
*12:45 - 1:15 p.m.*
*Standing on the Promises, Sitting on the Premises*

*Dennis Campbell*
*1:45 - 2:30 p.m.*
*Who Will Go for Us?*

*Neal Fisher*
*1:45 - 2:30 p.m.*
*Truth & Tradition*

*Will Willimon and Andy Langford*
*1 - 2:30 p.m.*
*A New Connection*

Autograph copies of *The Jesus Prescription for a Healthy Life* by Leonard Sweet are available at the Cokesbury display.

# Announcements

The General Board of Church and Society will sponsor a brown-bag-luncheon briefing Thursday, April 18, 1-2 p.m., Ballroom IV on "Enough is Enough: Churches and Communities Working Together to Stop Gambling." Presenter: Tom Grey. Learn how you can join this effort. Lunches are available for purchase in the convention center. Please bring you lunch prior to coming to the briefing.

Buses for the "Encounter with Christ in Latin America and Caribbean Luncheon" will depart (4/18) at 12 and 12:40 p.m. from the front of the Convention Center (12:30 p.m. for bishops, in front of the Marriott).

"Open the Doors" press conference will be held by the Reconciling Congregation Program at 12:30 p.m. today (4/18) at the entrance of the Convention Center. Testimonies by persons who have been excluded from The United Methodist Church because of their sexual orientation and an unveiling of 9,600 Reconciling United Methodists will be held.

The North American Section of the World Methodist Council will host a luncheon on Friday, April 19, 12:40 p..m. - 2 p.m., Executive Tower Inn — Symphony Ballroom, (3rd floor, 1405 Curtis St). Bishop L. Bevel Jones, president, presiding. A brief program will provide invited representatives from United Methodist, autonomous and affiliated, Concordat-related churches opportunity to meet. "Seat of Honor" recognition's will be presented.

The General Boards of Global Ministries and Church and Society will sponsor an Africa Reconstruction and Development brown-bag-luncheon briefing Friday, April 19, 1-2 p.m., room A-201. Lunches are available for purchase in the convention center. Please bring your lunch prior to coming to the briefing.

The Missouri East and Missouri West conferences luncheon will be held Friday, April 19, 12:15 p.m. at the Holiday Inn. Cost, $15. Reservations must be made by 8 p.m. Thursday. Contact Rhymes Moncure, Cody Collier, or Diana Loomis at the Holiday Inn, 573-1450.

Special Events Day Tours, Tour. The chuckwagon dinner at the Flying W Ranch has been canceled from the tour. This is the dinner only. Nothing else changes with Tour D. Those who paid additional for the dinner will receive a refund. Please check at the ticket booth, or on the tour itself, to make sure your home address is on file for the refund. We apologize for this inconvenience. All tour participants will return to Denver by 6 p.m.

Sunday Tours. Tickets are still available to worship, eat lunch, and tour Colorado Springs, Iliff School of Theology, Cheyenne, or the Eastern Plains. Please purchase tickets at the Information Booth in Lobby A by noon today (4/18). If you have prepaid, please be sure to pick up tickets at the same booth. If you are visiting a Denver church, please give us you local address so you may be picked up at your hotel. "Mini tours" of local attractions are also available on weekdays.

The Committee on Hispanic Ministries invites you to our Hospitality Center located in suite 1701 at the Hyatt Regency, Welton and 17th. Information on the National Hispanic Plan, Hispanic Ministries, and other related Hispanic initiatives is available. Every delegate who stops by will receive a special gift. Open Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., and Saturday, 7 a.m. - 8 a.m. in A-201 of the Convention Center.

Tyrone Gordon from the Kansas West Conference is scheduled to be released from the hospital in Wichita today (4/18). Prayers of this conference are requested.

If you are disabled and need transportation to and from your hotel/convention center, please contact the Local Committee Room at 446-4217 or Room 113.

# PARTNERS IN MINISTRY
# A VISION FOR THE YEAR 2000
## 1996 United Methodist General Conference Laity Address

God spoke, through the Old Testament prophet Joel, these words: "I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters will prophesy, and your young shall see visions, and your old shall dream dreams."

On Jan. 1, 1996, we were exactly four years from the beginning of the year 2000. Much has already been written, and much more will be published about this grand event in the history of humankind. Those of us who are destined to live through that occurrence will always remember it as a major milestone of our lives.

It occurs to me that in the final moment of truth on the night of Dec. 31, 1999, that the year 2000 will begin as every new year has: with just another tick of the clock of time. Everything will be different, and yet everything will be the same. There is nothing magical or mystical about one year ending and another beginning. When we awake on the morning of Jan. 1, 2000, what will be different? What is there about that morning that will be different from all other mornings?

We are being drawn like a magnet toward this new century. Our imagination has been captured by all kinds of "what if" questions about "what might be" in the year 2000. One thing is sure: if we have not planned well for that event and put systems in place to engage the world in which we live, that day will be like all other days, just another beautiful dawning of another new day. People will live and die, people will laugh and cry, people will hurt, people will love and lift up, people will be full and they will be empty. Many of God's people will be forgotten and ignored by us and continue to exist on the margins of life.

As United Methodist Christians, today it is our time to see the visions, to dream the dreams, and to prophesy, as God's Holy Spirit is now poured out upon us. As the story of Esther informs us in the Old Testament, God has surely brought us to this place for just such a time as this!

What is God's vision for The United Methodist Church in the year 2000? Since our past, present and future are in God's hands, we are destined, as God's people, to move toward and enter the 21st century. Onward we go, alive with confidence and excitement, people full of hope and open to the winds of God's Holy Spirit, as we are confronted with the changes and challenges of loving and caring for God's people.

As that part of the body of Christ called United Methodists, our calling and task is always to be open to discovering new and effective ways of fulfilling our ministry under the guidance of God's Holy Spirit.

Our focus must be Jesus Christ! John Wesley said "Offer them Christ!" Our ministry is to people. Our commitment is to make a difference in our neighborhood, in our community and in our world. We are God's ambassadors and ministers. The people of God are the church in the world. It is we who must convince the world of the reality of the gospel or leave it unconvinced.

We must thrust open the doors of our churches, as we go out in ministry and service. We need to quit sitting around in meetings talking about what we ought to do, and get out and about, and be in ministry. If every church would declare a moratorium on meetings next year and send the people out, equipped and prepared to offer Christ to their world, what do you think would happen? United Methodists who are dispersed for mission and ministry onto the highways and byways of our global community, just think about it! Folks, it should be obvious by now to everyone that we can't, as Wesley said, "Offer them Christ" by sitting in the churches waiting for something to happen.

Vision 2000 and similar programs have proven to be an effective way for local churches to vision their future and then live out that future in new and exciting ways. I have seen it at work in my own church, a church that was getting older and older, now attracting many young families with outstanding and exciting children's programs, and now with a state-licensed, after-school care program for latchkey children. At one time, our children's time during the morning worship service might have five children; now we have as many as 25 come forward for their special time in the worship service. I have seen Vision 2000's vibrant witness in scores of other churches across my conference. If your area has not yet begun a Vision 2000 program, let me strongly encourage you to be the one to stand up and tell your bishop and conference leadership that you want to be a leader in bringing Vision 2000 to your area.

We, the church, must be energized and set on fire by the Holy Spirit of God. You see, we Christians are in the fire business. The gospel song says, "It only takes a spark to get a fire going," but it takes all of us to keep the fire going! We gather as communities of the faithful in our churches for empowering, equipping and sending. We continue to kindle the fire. As one warms and is re-energized by the fire, others bring new coals. Together we keep the flame aglow.

God's people are bound in love and covenant by a golden strand that reaches back to God's people from the very beginning of time.

Do we all look alike, think alike, understand and express God's love the same, hold the same, turn loose the same? Heavens no! Does that make any one of us any less, or any more, worthy of membership in this covenant community of fire keepers? Certainly not! We all need each other. Each one of us needs his or her own place to stand in this great congregation, but we also need each other. As one warms by the fire, another brings fresh coals to keep the fire burning.

Dr. Donald English, president of the World Methodist Council, closed the 1991 World Methodist Conference in

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Singapore with this image: All of us are players in the symphony with which we praise God. We need each other to provide all the different visions and sounds that make the symphony beautiful, both to hear and to see. If we want to belong to a group that is only violins, we can only make one sound. If we want to only play our own violin, we don't need to be with anybody, and we will always be right. If we want to play the symphony in the orchestra of God, we all need each other.

Imagine for just a moment that this great United Methodist Church of ours is one of the fine "tall sailing ships" with all of its sails billowing in the wind. We have turned and trimmed those sails so that the wind—the wind of God's Holy Spirit—is blowing at our backs and we are speeding across the water. Wait! There's troublesome times ahead; the water is getting choppy; the wind is beginning to shift; the sails need retrimming, and there is a rocky shoal ahead. All of us, who are called United Methodists, have our hands on the wheel. Will it be shipwrecked or sailing on to ports of ministry? If you push and I pull, we are going to run our ship onto the rocks and just look longingly for the missed ports of ministry where God's people are? We must, all in one spirit, very quickly decide which way to turn this ship we call The United Methodist Church, to keep in on course.

We desperately need to become partners in ministry. What does it mean to be "partners in ministry" in the 21st-century church? It means a place for service and ministry for everyone! A place where everyone is worthy and valued and has equal voice. It is a partnership that places far more value on your ability to see through "kingdom eyes" than it does your certificates, diplomas and credentials. Being partners in ministry values the "warm heart" and the "passion for souls" that not only is our heritage as people called United Methodist, but gives us vision for our future. Partners in ministry is not just another program for us to consider. It is in fact a new way for folks in ministry to work together in our great church. It is an attitude, an ethos, something that permeates how we "do church." Out of the understanding of Partners in Ministry, a new model for leadership in the church is emerging. This new model calls for sharing in ministry and leadership between the pastor and local church laity.

It is crucial for pastors and lay leadership to work in tandem as partners in ministry. This requires a deep level of trust, commitment and communication on both sides. How can this trust be developed and deepened? How can we foster more effective teams in ministry? Our vision is that each congregation within United Methodism will be equipped with the resources and skills to engage in a shared ministry for Christ both within the church and throughout the world. This shared ministry is focused on the primary task of the church and yoked with that church's own unique shared vision. A new millennium is dawning, and many of us in The United Methodist Church are ready! God's word through Isaiah to us today is "I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" The clarion call to be "partners in ministry" is valid and urgent.

The call is urgent. The time is now! We can't wait on studies to be completed. We don't have time to schedule committee meetings. We can't have consultants come in. Folks, we don't even have enough time to have a caucus meeting or take a vote. The Spirit of the Lord is poured out upon us right now! It is our time! God has brought us to this place and time with purpose and intent!

The calendar sheets come off, one by one. The clock ticks methodically, slowly, surely. The year 2000 looms before us on the horizon. God's people are given this time and this opportunity for imagination and vision. What shall we do?

Let me list just a few of the possibilities for mission and ministry as we stand on the threshold of the 21st century.

First, our churches must become "full-service mission stations." Centers for spiritual renewal and personal commitment. Stations where the sweet, Holy Spirit of God has permeated and engaged a whole community of believers. Stations that are community centers of wholeness and healing. Stations that serve as a welcoming

*We desperately need to become partners in ministry*

beacon to all God's children who are seekers of the Way. Stations where everyone "standing in the need of prayer" will find love, forgiveness, acceptance and haven.

Second, we must become United Methodist "saving stations" where love abides, and all God's children can find salvation, healing, wholeness and safety. We shall offer Christ as Savior to God's people, to the community and to God's world. We shall be centers of fellowship where all people feel included, loved and valued: a place where everybody knows your name! We must create a myriad of programs of ministry and healing for young, old, men, women, boys, girls, married, single, senior citizens, persons with disabling conditions, all persons who are hurting—ALL God's children.

Third, we need United Methodist Church "empowering stations" to offer vital and exciting opportunities for worship and learning. We are people of the Book. It is absolutely essential that we know and understand our Book. "Disciple: Becoming Disciples Through Bible Study" should be a part of the yearly program in every parish. This is a United Methodist Bible study designed and written especially for United Methodist Christians. It is now 10 years old and growing each year. Let's use it!

Let's take a really honest look at how we conduct our worship services. Do they communicate the good news gospel? Do they lift up the excitement and call of the Pentecostal fires of a church in mission and ministry? Do they offer Christ? Do we lead persons to conversion and commitment? Do we have an opportunity for conversion and commitment at every service? Today worship must be exciting and vital. Worship must address our heartfelt and "gutfelt" needs with the integrity of Holy Scripture.

(continued on page 65)

(continued from page 64)

We must feed others with God's manna and lead them to the well with the water that will quench their thirst forever. We must meet the spiritual needs of our people! Let us challenge each other to ministry and service as disciples of Jesus Christ. Let us "lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim!"

Fourth, we must become "equipping and sending stations" where we equip persons for ministry and send them out into the community and world for mission and ministry. Equipping the saints for ministry is one of our most challenging tasks. Hands-on training for ministry and skill-building events are what we need for the 21st century. Every church should have a part-time or full-time director of volunteers. This person must be a dedicated church worker who has caught the vision and is willing to be equipped and sent and to equip and send others into mission and ministry in the church and in the community and world

We must learn to listen to all our people. Our best ideas for ministry come from those who live out their lives in the everyday world, who have seen the struggles and injustices. People who see ways out for those who are in need and who are hurting. We need to help these with vision, sometimes far beyond our own, to translate their ideas, hopes and dreams into ministry.

And finally, our churches must become "community outreach stations." Stations that offer programs for youth groups, scouting groups, community agencies, recovery groups and assistance for those with immediate survival needs.

Committed to being peacemakers among individuals, families, communities and nations, we must serve as agents of change.

As we bind up the wounds of God's people, we are compelled to help find ways to stop the causes of those wounds.

Mission stations, saving stations, empowering stations, equipping and sending stations, community outreach stations.

The Spirit of the Lord is upon us now! Jesus reminds us, in the Holy Scripture, that God has anointed each of us to bring good news to the poor.

God has sent all of us to proclaim release to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim the year of God's favor.

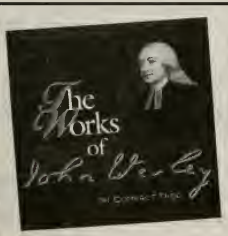
We are God's station keepers! We are partners in ministry.

God's prophet, Habakkuk, stood at his watchpost; he stationed himself at the rampart and looked out, watching and listening for God's word in his day. Here was God's word for Habakkuk: Write the vision. Make it plain on tablets, so that a runner may read it, for there is still a vision for the appointed time! What kind of a new day will it be on Jan. 1, 2000? What will the dawning of a new millennium bring?

We are given this time and this vision. Let us write it in big, bold letters and lift it high for all the world to see!

Together let us claim the vision and lift high the cross!

*—James W. "Jim" Lane*


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# Reports of the Legislative Committees

**Church and Society** — (4/17/96)

The committee organized into four subcommittees, each handling approximately 80 petitions:

Human Sexuality A [homosexuality], Dale Weatherspoon, chair; Jeremy Vetter, sec.);

Human Sexuality B [abortion], (Beth Capen, chair; Chuck Hefley, sec.);

Human Community, (William Scott III, chair; Mary Virginia Taylor, sec.);

Global/Peace Issues, (Claudia Bloem, chair; Rufus Campbell, sec.).

*— Lee Ranck and Shanta M. Bryant*

**Financial Administration** — (4/17/96, 4:12 p.m.)

The committee created the following subcommittees:

Pensions, (Grady Knowles, chair; Mary Miller, vice chair; Mona Mae Waymire, sec.);

Budget/GCFA, (Lee Sheaffer, chair; Phyllis Rodriguez, sec.);

Conference/Other, (Jeannie Trevino-Teddlie, chair; Helen Potter, sec.);

Asked for referral of petitions 20593, 20603, 20605, 20774, 21482, 21569, 21630, 23071, back to the General Council on Finance and Administration (*DCA* 4/17. p.42).

*—Erik Alsgaard*

**General and Judicial Administration** — (4/17/96)

The committee organized into four subcommittees:

Constitution Questions and Site Selection Process, (Harriett J. Olson, chair);

Missional Study Proposals, Special Days, and Advance, (Sam Wynn, chair);

General Administration and GCOM Legislation, Connectional Issues Study and Global Nature of the Church, C. Rex Bevins, chair);

Judicial Matters, (Alfred Johnson, chair).

*—Charlene Bailey and Tom Slack*

**Global Ministries** — (4/17/96)

The committee organized into five subcommittees:

Structure and Structural Related Resolutions, (Twick Morrison and Paul Dirdak, chairs);

Rural and Urban Ministries Issues, (Marilyn Outslay, chair);

Ethnic Ministries, (Mary Silva, chair);

Health Related Issues, (Bill Hines, chair);

International Resolutions, (Skip Keels, chair).

*—Cheryl Edwards and Linda Bloom*

**Independent Commissions** — (4/17/96, 4:40 p.m.)

The committee divided its work into five subcommittees:

Religion and Race, (Grant J. Hagiya, chair);

Archives and History, (Phyllis Butler, chair);

COSROW, (Becky Haase, chair);

Communications, (Kimberly Pace, chair);

Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns and COCU, (Patricia Toschak, chair).

*—Ann Whiting and Kristin Knudson Harris*

**Local Church** — (4/17/96, 3:45 p.m.)

The committee organized itself into subcommittees by disciplinary paragraphs:

Paragraph 100s dealing with the Local Church and Paragraph 201 - Paragraph 207, (Jean Dowell, chair);

Paragraph 208 - Paragraph 243, (Mary Brown Oliver, chair);

Paragraph 244 - Paragraph 259, (James A. Harnish, chair);

Paragraph 260 - Paragraph 270, (Terry Clark, chair);

Paragraph 2525 - 2554, (Robert Rosas, chair).

**Note:** The names of the committee's chair and the secretary were not italicized in the *DCA* for April 17. Both are clergy: Janice Riggle Huie, Southwest Texas, chair; Herchel S. Sheets, North Georgia, secretary.

*—Rayford Woodrick and Kathy Kruger Noble*

**Ordained and Diaconal Ministry** — (4/16/96)

The committee adopted a motion to use the Ministry Study as the basis of its work. They also decided to break into 10 subcommittees (5-10 people) as follows:

Foundations and General Ministry, (Renae Extrum-Fernandez, chair);

Candidacy and Probationary Period, (Sharon Rhodes-Wickett, chair);

Full Connection—Deacon and Elder, (Larry Goodpastor, chair);

Local Pastors, (Deborah Pritts, chair);

Formation and Transition, (Lee-Wi Tan, chair);

Oversight—Division of Ordained Ministry and Higher Education, Superintendency, Equitable Salary, (Bill Crouch, chair);

Lay Ministry Steward, (Gerald Richardson, chair);

Bishops, Superintendency, General Boards and Conference Boards [petitions related to paragraphs 500s, 700s and 1500s, but not related to Ministry Study], (Ruth Daugherty, chair);

Grievances, (Lawrence McCleskey, chair);

Sexuality, Interim Pastors, GCCUIC, (Cecile Adams, chair).

During the session, Bishops David Lawson and William Oden gave the committee a historical review and a synopsis of the study and responded to some of the issues raised in the reflection groups from the morning plenary. Those issues included: concerns about the proposed office of Lay Ministry Steward which the respondents felt would undermine other lay offices and have the potential for divisiveness and inconsistency with the ministry of all Christians; relationship between deacons and elders; and legal issues raised by the structure proposed in the study.

*—Judy Smith and Linda Green*

# Additional Petitions

## ¶509

**Petition Number: 21528-MN-509-D; UM Rural Fellowship**

**Termination of Office — Bishop**

**Amend ¶509**

Termination of Office.—An elder who is serving as a bishop up to the time of retirement shall have the status of a retired bishop. **An elder whose term of office expires prior to the time of compulsory retirement age shall retain the title of bishop, but other rights and privileges shall be suspended until the time of his/her retirement when paragraph 510 will apply; his/her time of office shall expire at the close of the jurisdictional conference at which his/her successor is elected, and he/she shall therefore be entitled to participate as a bishop in the consecration of his/her successor.**

4. Resignation.—a)A bishop may voluntarily resign from the episcopacy for assignment as an active clergy member under appointment in an annual conference after eight years of episcopal service or at any quadrennial interval following. Six months notice shall be given to the jurisdictional or central conference Committee on the Episcopacy so a successor may be elected. The bishop would re-enter **the appointive process in the annual conference from which he/she was elected.**

**b)**A bishop may voluntarily resign . . . until a successor is elected and assigned.

**c) In both cases,** tThe consecration papers of a bishop . . .

## ¶732

**Petition Number: 21513-MN-733.1-D; UM Rural Fellowship**

**Board of Ordained Ministry - Associate Member**

Add a new sentence after the first sentence of ¶733.1:

**Each annual conference shall elect at least one ordained associate member, who shall have a vote except on matters prohibited by the Constitution.**

## ¶532

**Petition Number: 21545-MN-532-D; UM Rural Fellowship**

**Community Context in Appointment Making**

**Amend ¶532:**

Criteria.—Appointments shall take into account the unique needs of a charge in a particular setting,**the community context**, and also the gifts. . .

2. **d)Community Context: the ability of the pastor to relate effectively to his/her community setting, such as rural, town, urban, suburban, etc.**

d),e) Family situation: . . .

3. Community Context.—The district superintendent may develop community profiles with the pastor and the Committee on Pastor-Parish Relations. Sources of information for these profiles could include: neighborhood surveys; local, state, and national census data; information from annual conference Committees on Parish and Community Development; and research data from the General Council on Ministries and other church agencies. Profiles may be reviewed annually and updated when appropriate to include:

a) General demographic data and trends, including age/sex/racial-ethnic composition of the community.

b) Economic trends, including the incidence of poverty.

c) Projected community changes.

d) Other sociological, economic, political, historical, and ecumenical aspects of the community surrounding the church.

# Proceedings of the 1996 General Conference of The United Methodist Church

## Committee On Journal Report

The Committee On Journal hereby certifies as accurate, with the following corrections, the proceedings as printed in the *Daily Christian Advocate* for Tuesday, April 16, 1996.

*Daily Edition*, page 4, column 1, Church and Society, Joseph Harris is clergy.

*Daily Edition*, page 4, column 1, Local Church, Janice Riggle Huie is clergy.

*Daily Edition*, page 24, column 2, Committee on Journal, William S. Reasner is clergy.

*Daily Edition*, page 26, column 2, Bishop Joseph Christian Humper (Sierra Leone) convened the Committee On Journal in the absence of Bishop Arthur F. Kulah (Liberia).

*Daily Edition*, page 54, column 3, HASSINGER speech should read "and out of that sense the interest of the other...."

*Daily Edition*, page 55, column 1, Carl Schenck's speech should read "Bishop, Carl Schenk."

**Reported by William Reasner**
**Committee On Journal**
(C13, seat 2)

*(Tuesday afternoon session continued from page 55)*

*Membership Restrictions of Merged Agenda & Calendar Committee*

BISHOP SANO: Right. The amendment is before the, the proposed amendment is before the body. Is there a second to amend the amendment by addition of or deleting the rest of the sentence. Is there a second to that? There is a second. Any discussion on this amendment to the amendment? There is none? Okay. Those in favor of this amendment to the amendment. Yes, do you wish to speak to it? Microphone seven? Or microphone two.

CAROLYN JOHNSON: A point of order, Bishop. The main motion that is before us, I believe is amended, and I believe the commission has brought that to us as an amendment, and mine would have been an amendment to the amendment. So this second piece that has come forth, is that correct?

BISHOP SANO: No. No.

JOHNSON: The chair did say he would bring it as an amendment, that was not correct?

BISHOP SANO: Yes. Right. Yes. The motion is in order. There was no request for any further speeches. Bob, did you wish to speak to the....

ROBERT STEVENS: I believe I made a statement on behalf of the committee earlier.

BISHOP SANO: All right. The Chair will call for a vote on this. The amendment to the amendment is what we have before us now, and that is to add, to delete in addition the phrase "or staff person of any general agency." All right. Those, and you'll vote when the light turns on. [Yes, 313; No, 581; Abstained, 29] There is, okay, the amendment to the amendment is defeated.

We have now the original amendment before us to delete the phrase "or a director." Any further discussion? There is none. The vote is on the amendment to delete the phrase "or a director." You will vote when the light turns on. [Yes, 536; No, 382; Abstained, 14] The amendment prevails. It is deleted. Any further discussion on the report? Back here, microphone seven.

GARNETT M. WILDER (North Georgia): Pursuant to the fact that this has been delayed for the next committee, I propose this motion: I move that the Committee on Organization be instructed to inform each person or group presenting a minority report as to the proper mode of expression so as to assure that the proposal be presented in acceptable form.

BISHOP SANO: Yes, as in the case of another proposal, we'll handle that after the report is acted on. All right. Over here, please, microphone two. Is that close enough for you? Is there a microphone? Okay. Microphone one.

*Delegate Expense Account Amendment*

SHIRLEY PARRIS (New York): On page 99 of the *DCA*, the new Rule E under 10, delegate expense account, I would like to amend by addition. I would like to have the following added: that this rule shall become effective with the General Conference of the year 2000, and if I have a second, I would like to speak to it.

BISHOP SANO: Is there a second? Is there a second? There is. Thank you. You may speak.

PARRIS: There are some delegates who fall under the provision which is proposed for deletion, whose arrangements for attendance at this General Conference were made under that provision. To be subjected to the new ruling when we are locked into our original arrangements will mean financial hardship if not financial embarrassment. I applaud the reason and the need for the change, but I ask that you support my amendment because it will support the change, but it will allow for a forewarning to both agencies and persons in that category for the year 2000.

BISHOP SANO: All right. Is there a speech against the proposed amendment by addition? There is none. Did you wish to speak to it, Bob?

STEVENS: Only to say that this action was taken by the committee about two years ago, and we sincerely regret that that information was not passed on to the persons that were affected. Simply as a committee member, I guess I assumed that it had been done, and Shirley, I'm surely embarrassed if that didn't get done. And I'm sorry.

BISHOP SANO: All right. The chair does not see any call for further discussion, so we will call for the vote. Vote when the light turns on. You've supported the amendment by addition. [Yes, 684; No, 194; Abstained, 21] Any further discussion on the report? Yes, please. Microphone seven.

AUSTIN FREDERICK (Southwest Texas): I would like to call the previous question to all that is before us.

BISHOP SANO: All right. All that is before... Is there a second to that? All right. Those who will support, do we take a vote by electronic too on this? Okay. You've heard a call for the question of all that is before us, let's remind ourselves that that is pages 87 through 906, excuse me, 106 excluding recommendation two. Is that correct, Bob?

STEVENS: That's correct. That is correct as amended.

BISHOP SANO: All right, as amended. If you will call for the question; vote when the light turns on. [Results: yes, 889; no, 38; abstained, 5] The question has been called for. Did you wish to make any further speeches?

STEVENS: No, I believe the matter is before you. I think we've answered most of the questions.

BISHOP SANO: All right. We have called for a vote on the section indicated. Vote when the light turns on on the proposal from the committee, as amended. It has been approved. [Results: yes, 897; no, 13; abstained, 12] We want to thank the committee for their work on this section. We do have another section before us. Recommendation two please.

STEVENS: Yes, and just a final word about the first section. If you have concerns and issues that need to come to this committee, it would help us a great deal if you would create a written piece of communication to the committee and give it to Carolyn Marshall who is secretary of the General Conference. Then the committee will have your concerns to have before them.

Now secondly, if you read our report that was on the first page of the *DCA*, started on the first page of the *DCA*, which would be page 87. You know, we talked about trying to do a new way of giving a broader base of participation and at least some discussion time and discernment time and reflection time on perhaps one issue. The committee spent a major portion of its meeting about two 1/2 years ago trying to devise such a plan. And out of that came the proposal that we give all of the delegates a chance to have some general discussion about a major issue that's before this General Conference. And the issue that was selected by the committee in consultation with a number of groups and persons, was a study of ministry.

But more importantly, was the process. The process was to divide ourselves into groups, into a group of, 25 groups of what, 40 people that would be, about, each, and they would have a convener or a guider who would assist them in discussing issues that they felt were important on the matter. A study. It would not be a place where legislation would be developed, it would not be a place where motions would be taken or entertained; it would not be a place where consensus would be pushed, but rather a place for you to have some time for discussion and understanding and clarification. Out of that came our recommendation number two which is on page 106, which was the committee's effort to try to put together a plan that might enable this to happen. And, Bishop, I move adoption of recommendation number two on page 106 of the *Advance DCA*.

BISHOP SANO: All right, you have heard the motion from the committee. It's before us, so back here, microphone eight, please.

*Proposed Process for Study On Ministry*

JOHN W. THOMAS (South Indiana): As chairperson of and on behalf of the Commission for General Conference, I move the substitution for the item designated as recommendation number two. For clarification, I ask the delegates to look at the green sheet that was originally passed out and is before each one of you on your desk. That is a recommendation. I will read it and there is a slight amendment in item six, the second line, which I will clarify when I get there. We propose the study on ministry come before the General Conference using the following process:

Number one: The Council of Bishops will present the study of ministry to the General Conference in plenary on Wednesday morning, April 17, 1996, as an order of the day.

Number two: Following this presentation the body of the General Conference will be divided into 25 randomly selected non-legislative groups for reflection and dialogue on the study.

Number three: Each reflection group will be meet for 90 minutes guided by a moderator bishop selected by the Council of Bishops.

Number four: Resource persons will be available near the room of the reflection group to be called upon by the reflection group to answer questions and provide information.

Number five: Immediately upon adjournment of the reflection groups from 12:15 p.m. to 12:45 p.m. on April 17, that's tomorrow, the recorder from each reflection group will meet with compilers of the report to share the thinking of each group.

Number six: From 12:45 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. an inclusive group of six compilers, one General Conference delegate from each jurisdiction, (right there is a slight amendment) and one from the central conferences. Again, and one from the central conferences,

chosen by each College of Bishops, will meet to compile the thinking of the reflection groups and write a short report. This group of compilers will be staffed by a person designated by the general secretary of the United Methodist Communications.

Number seven: The compiled report of the reflection groups will be printed in the *Daily Christian Advocate* for all General Conference delegates to read. Copies of the report will be sent immediately upon the completion of its writing to the legislative committee to which it has been assigned as it convenes in its first session.

Number eight: At the time the ministry study comes before the whole General Conference, in the plenary agenda, there will be a period of open discussion without the use of the parliamentary procedure.

Number nine: After this period of open discussion, the body will then follow the legislative process in accordance with the Plan of Organization and Rules of Order adopted by the General Conference.

BISHOP SANO: All right. This was a motion to amend by substitution the recommendation two printed on page 106. This is coming from an individual, correct? And, so, is there a second? Is there a second? There is. All right, did you wish to speak to it? microphone eight, please.

THOMAS: We have run this by those that will be presenting the report and it is felt that this will be a slight amendment to what is on page 106, which would be a better procedure. We have had no objections to this.

BISHOP SANO: Let the chair clarify where we are in the process. There has been a motion to amend by substitution. What we will do next is to perfect the original which is on page 106. If you wish to perfect it, we'll entertain any motions and discussion on that and then we will turn back to this sheet—the proposed amendment by substitution and perfect it. And then the chair will ask whether you will substitute this for the recommendations on page 106. If it prevails, then this will become the main motion before us and at that point it now becomes the original motion and at that point it is again open for discussion.

I hope that will be clear enough so the chair now is going to direct the body attention to page 106 to see if there is any amendments on the original recommendation. Is there any? Yes, point of clarification? Microphone eight, please.

BISHOP SANO: Microphone eight.

LUCILLE VANZANT (Oklahoma Conference)

VANZANT: Number eight, I would like to have clarified for me.

BISHOP SANO: Oh, we are on, we are on the original at the moment. The original is before us to amend. Before we turn to this to perfect, we're trying, we're seeing, if there is any questions on or any perfections we wish to offer.

VANZANT: Will you get back to read this?

BISHOP SANO: We certainly will, yes. Wave vigorously, and I'll take note. All right. Any amendments proposed for the original? There is none? We'll go back to, you might as well stay at the microphone. Let's have your questions for clarification.

VANZANT: Or is it just harder for me to get to a microphone? On Number eight, where it says that there will be a period of open discussion without the use of parliamentary procedures, I've never been in a meeting where we didn't have to use some type of parliamentary procedure. Would you explain to me how we're going to take and finish up the business?

BISHOP SANO: Do you wish to speak to that?

ROBERT W. STEVENS: Bishop, I think the intent of this is that this would be for a period of organized and managed discussion with the bishops still being the presiding officer. But it means that there would be no motions, amendments, or debate in the sense of that structure, alternate speeches, for and against. I, bishop, I am not going to be presiding, but I think that would be....

BISHOP SANO: Yes. Those of you who have your *Robert's Rules of Order*, it's on pages 533-534. And he described it quite accurately. There is, yes, microphone nine, please.

THELMA L. JOHNSON (West Ohio): Yes, I have concern about, this is for the study on ministry, is this for a one time, just a one time, so it won't affect next year, if it happens next year, it would have to be requested again?

BISHOP SANO: Do you want to speak to it?

STEVENS: Bishop and members of the conference, I think from the perspective of the Committee on Plan of Organization and Rules of Order, they consider this an experimental effort, and I'm sure that the next committee will evaluate the process and perfect it and respond to the next General Conference. It is not intended that this become set in concrete forever within the rules. That's my understanding of what we're proposing. It might be at the next General Conference. Okay?

BISHOP SANO: Okay, Don, here please. Microphone three.

*Amendments Proposed to Study of Ministry Process*

SHARON K. RHODES-WICKETT (California-Pacific): I move to amend the amendment with two different deletions, bishop, and I, would you like to take those in two separate motions?

BISHOP SANO: Let's have both of them and make it connected.

WICKETT: The first one is number seven. I move to delete the first sentence. I...I'm appreciative of the efforts for discernment and dialogue and reflection, and I think that's helpful, and I think that's necessary. I am concerned about the impact that that may have upon the work of the legislative committee to have the responsibility for perfecting this and working on this. And I'm going to make this motion so that it does not

come to the *DCA*, but rather it goes directly to the legislative committee and then the work of the committee is not measured against the reflection group reports, but it's rather in dialogue with the study, you know, itself. That's my first petition.

BISHOP SANO: Let's hear, all right, let's hear, let's hear the second one.

WICKETT: My second deletion is to delete all of number eight and the first part of number nine up to the comma, after this period of open discussion, comma. So I'm in essence suggesting that we delete the open discussion on the floor of conference, but rather move it right along.

BISHOP SANO: Yes, let's treat them separately. One by one, you know where the mover is...wants to go with this. Let's go back to item number seven. You had an amendment proposed? Sharon, please? Item number seven, you want to clarify what your motion was on that?

WICKETT: On number seven, my motion is to delete the first sentence which would have the effect of not having the printout in the *DCA*.

BISHOP SANO: All right. Is there a second to that? There is a second. Did you wish to speak to it? All right, you did speak to it, thank you. All right is there any discussion? All right, I don't see any. The chair is going to call for a vote on amendment by deletion of the first sentence in point number seven. You will vote when the light turns on. It is deleted. [Results: yes, 571; no, 331; abstained, 14]

We are at the 5:00 hour; we had scheduled to adjourn. Do you wish to extend or do you wish to go to the assembly, your legislative committees? Do we have a motion to extend the time just to complete these three? All right. It has been moved. There is a second. All right. Those who will, you will vote when the light comes on. You are extending the time only through the two additional motions. All right; we have extended the time. Could we have the second amendment, please?

WICKETT: The second amendment was to delete all of number eight.

BISHOP SANO: All right.

WICKETT: Then, just the first phrase of number nine, which reads "after this period of open discussion, comma," to delete that.

BISHOP SANO: Okay, let's see if we can handle both of them at once. Is there a second on that? There is a second. All right. Those, the motion to amend by deletion of eight and the first phrase of nine up through the comma. Vote when the light turns on. It has been deleted. [Results: yes, 621; no, 295; abstained, 13]

The 5:00 time has come; we're ready for the legislative committees. Let's have the secretary instruct us on what.... Are you ready then for the whole report? All right. Let's vote on the, let's see we're at the point of amending this, so it will, we'll go through the steps. Those who will, make the amendment the main motion. That's going to be the first step. Those who will vote to make this the main motion now, to substitute for the original. Vote when the light comes on. It is the main motion before us. Any further discussion? Did the mover, original movers wish to speak to it? There is none, no requests? Let's now vote. This is the main motion before us as amended. All right. Okay, vote when the light turns on. All right; it's adopted as amended. [Results: yes, 860; no, 78; abstained, 3]

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER (male): Thank you very much, Bishop Sano.

BISHOP SANO: Thank you. The secretary has two elections to bring before us and then announcements. Carolyn, please.

*Elections of Coordinator on Calendar and Committee On Plan of Organization*

CAROLYN MARSHALL (secretary of General Conference): Two elections which need to be done at this time. One for the Coordinator on Calendar to which Fitzgerald Greist is nominated. And the second one for the Committee on Plan of Organization and Rules of Order. These persons have been placed in nomination: Emery Percell, Jerome Del Pino, Bette Trumble, Darlene Amon, Robert Stevens, Momoh Kpaan, David Tanoko, Michael Pointer, Charles Brockwell and Marcus Matthews.

BISHOP SANO: All right; the nominations are before you. All right; those who will approve, you will vote when the light is on. All right; they're elected. [Results: yes, 835; no, 15; abstained, 24] The announcements, please.

MARSHALL: An announcement for that newly elected Committee on Plan of Organization and Rules of Order, that committee will meet in room A208. A208, 30 minutes following the adjournment of the evening session. In addition to that as far as time is concerned, inasmuch as we have extended the time now, we will begin the legislative organization of legislative committees at 5:30.

Please go directly to those legislative committees for the purpose of organization. Those persons who are elected to positions of leadership as chairperson, vice chairperson and secretary have a meeting scheduled at 6:00. We will change the time for that to 6:30. And advance the time for beginning the evening plenary this evening half an hour. The chairperson of the committee on presiding officers needs to bring a report to bishop.

BISHOP SANO: All right; we are adjourned for the legislative committees. I'm sorry, yes. Presiding officers? Yes, if you'll hold just a moment, please.

REX BEVINS (Nebraska): Chair of the presiding officers committee. The presiding officer for this evening's session will be Bishop Rudiger Minor, Bishop of the Commonwealth of Independent States. And the presiding officer for tomorrow morning, Wednesday April 17th, will be Bishop Lloyd Knox of the Atlanta Area.

BISHOP SANO: Thank you. Let the chair test with a body on the proposed schedule. To postpone the beginning of the hymn singing by half an hour. That has been the proposal coming from the secretary. Let's have a vote on that by the body. If you could take your places, please. You heard the proposal to postpone convening of the session this evening to 7:45, the hymn singing. All right, to postpone by half an hour. All right, vote when the light turns on. It's adopted; we're adjourned now for our legislative committee.

## Evening Session
## April 16, 1996

*Bishop Ruediger Minor, presiding*

*(song)*

BISHOP RUEDIGER MINOR: Every quadrennium, there is a certain very important process happening in the Council of Bishops. And although it's happening every quadrennium, it's not routine. What happens for a time of over two years that the Council of Bishops is preparing its message to the church, to the General Conference, delivered by one of its members. And it's not just that a person is elected to give the Episcopal Address. In conversation, in listening and talking, praying, and deliberating, this message is developed. So although one of us is speaking to you, she is speaking for the bishops. This quadrennium, Bishop Judith Craig, bishop of the West Ohio Conference, will be the mouth of the bishops. And I present to you Bishop Judith Craig.

*Episcopal Address*
*Page 16, April 17, 1996*

*(applause)*

BISHOP RUEDIGER MINOR: Bishop Craig, the General Conference has expressed its gratefulness and we give thanks to God for the blessing that you have been to us and what you have given us for these days. And now I turn to the secretary of the General Conference for announcements.

CAROLYN MARSHALL: There are several announcements that seem to have come to us at this time. The first one is a reminder to those persons who were elected to the leadership for various legislative committees. The rooms to which you are assigned or the time that you are to be leaving this General Conference will be open this evening for your use until 11 o'clock. And to also remind you again that the petitions for each of the legislative committees are available immediately after we adjourn here in room C204.

The Plan of Organization and Rules of Order will meet within 30 minutes at 10:35 in room A208 for the purpose of organization and to begin work immediately on two referrals which are already done.

Several notes have arrived at the podium during the course of this day. Of first reserves with queries about receiving the DCAs that are placed on the desks of the delegates, and were wondering where theirs are available. A word to you that those are available for first reserve delegates at the DCA office.

One announcement came here which in reality is a deviation from our rules. Inasmuch as there was not opportunity to make contact during this evening for the person who originated this announcement. It is being brought to your attention along with calling attention to the rules which I will do after reading the announcements.

The Inter Ethnic Strategic Development Group will meet 30 minutes after the Episcopal Address in Ballroom Four. And then to refer you to page four in the *Advance DCA* let me simply read it to you—, you do not need to find it right now—which says, announcements shall be made through the *Daily Christian Advocate*. Oral or projected announcements shall be restricted to the official operation of the General Conference and its legislative and administrative committees. Following this evening's adjournment we will certainly adhere to that.

And the last announcement is to remind the delegates that a resource document is made available. This document is offered so that all of us will be prepared to participate in the discussions tomorrow. You are invited to review this material printed on the yellow paper, which you received today, before tomorrow morning's session. Bishop Minor that completes the announcements.

BISHOP MINOR: Thank you. It has been a long day. The work will continue and this is just the beginning. [laughter] I ask Bishop James Thomas to dismiss us with the benediction.

BISHOP JAMES THOMAS (retired): [*benediction*]

## Morning Session
## April 17, 1996

*Bishop Lloyd Knox, presiding*

*(applause)*

BISHOP LLOYD KNOX: Let us come to order. Our first order of the day is the address of the laity. And James Lane will be introduced by Paul Ervin who is the president of the National Association of Lay Leaders. So if Paul Ervin will come now and present Mr. Lane.

PAUL ERVIN: Thank you, Bishop. The laity address at General Conference is fairly recent. The first laity address was delivered in 1980, so this will be our fifth laity address. The selection process has been overseen by the National Association of Annual Conference Lay Leaders.

The national association operates much as the Council of Bishops operates with the Episcopal Address. There are some differences. One, it's shorter. Second, the address is from the lay perspective. It gives a message of hope and dreams for our church from the lay perspective.

The selection process has been varied. There have been consensus reports, addresses by the laity. There

has been a churchwide competition in years past. This year the selection was from among the active conference lay leaders for the person giving the address. But in order to focus upon the message rather than the messenger, the judging was done by five independent judges, in the blind. They did not know who had written the particular paper that was presented by the conference lay leader. The winner of the written competition presented his paper to the national association at their annual meeting and received comments for his consideration.

Our presenter this morning is Jim Lane. Jim is the conference lay leader from North Arkansas. Tomorrow morning at the national association lay leaders breakfast, he will become the president of the National Association of Annual Conference Lay Leaders. Jim has been active in his local church and in his conference. He has written lay speaking materials for the General Board of Discipleship. He represents the hope for future of lay ministry. The theme for his address this morning will be "Partners in Ministry." As Jim gives the laity address, he will be representing all of the laity of our church. Please welcome Jim Lane.

*Lay Address—page 63*

*(applause)*

BISHOP KNOX: Thank you very much, Jim, for that inspiring message. All right, I see a card back. If you will come to microphone 12 or eight. Well, 12 is right there. Microphone 12, please.

V.L. DAUGHTERY, JR. (South Georgia): In light of the episcopal address and the laity address, I would like to offer this motion. I quote, "The 1996 General Conference directs the Committee on Reference, requests the legislative committees and directs the committee on Agenda and Calendar to give priority in all sessions and actions to petitions relating to spiritual and numerical church membership growth, church membership decline, recommendations relating to evangelism, missions, and programs of service and servant ministries by giving such petitions prority status as calendar items to be acted upon by the 1996 General Conference." If I can have a second, I wish to speak to the motion.

BISHOP KNOX: Is there a second?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I second it.

DAUGHTERY: I wish to quote from one of my seminary professors, a bishop of the church and at one time my own bishop. "History shows us that the church is weakest and most ineffective when she spends her time considering herself and her own internal problems.

The business of the church, always and invaribly, should be her mission to the world. When she becomes concerned with her own life and fortune, she loses it. Only as the church is engaged in work for the salvation of the world does the church find herself and become in truth and deed the church of Jesus Christ against which the gates of hell can not prevail." Already in the petitions of this General Conference are the forms and functions to carry out this motion. We simply need to receive them early in the session and not wait until the waning days to be concerned about mission, ministry, membership decline, membership growth, and servanthood ministries. Thank you.

BISHOP KNOX: All right. V.L., I am going to ask you to withdraw the motion until a later time. I erred in recognizing you because we do have an order of the day. So, is that All right with you? Will you accept? Okay, thank you. We do have, we will be hearing, there is an election, and we need to do some electing, so if you have your *Advanced DCA* available please turn to pages 80 and 81 or in the regular *DCA* of yesterday, page 31. And we will ask our conference secretary, Carolyn Marshall, to lead us in this.

*Nominations for Interjurisdictional Committee On Episcopacy*

CAROLYN MARSHALL: On the pages which Bishop Knox has announced are listed the nominations which have come from the various annual conferences for the interjurisdictional committee on episcopacy. That is the item which is before us.

BISHOP KNOX: Do you have that? Have you found your pages? These are before you. If you will vote, if you will approve the nominations, you will vote "yes" on your machine. If you will not approve, vote "no", and if you don't know, you vote "abstain." Please vote when the light appears. And they are elected. [Results: yes, 795; no, 20; abstained, 39] Thank you very much. Now we have another election that needs to be done, which we will be led by Mrs. Marshall.

CAROLYN MARSHALL: Whereas the deed of the John Street United Methodist Church calls for the election of the church's board of trustees by the General Conference, that plan having been approved at the General Conference session of 1868, with every General Conference since then having so elected those trustees. We now present the nominees for 1996-2000 quadrennium as they come from the John Sreet United Methodist Church. The resident bishop of the New York Area of the United Methodist Church, Connie Takamine, Wilma Roberts, James H. Hohenstein, William C. Kirkwood, William Staubach, Jr., James Cardwell, Raynor Rodgers, and Steven K. Rose.

BISHOP KNOX: All right. The names are before you. I don't suppose there are any other nominations; I hope not. I don't see any cards, thank the Lord. Now, you will please vote "yes" if you approve; "no" if you do not approve; and if you are not sure, vote "abstain." Please vote when the light appears. And they are elected. [Results: yes, 821; no, 18, abstained, 76] Thank you very much. Our next order, which is an order of the day, is

the Study of the Ministry report. And we are going to ask Bishop Sharon Brown Christopher, Bishop David Lawson. Do you have something, Rex? Excuse me, the committee of presiding officers needs to make a report.

REX BEVINS (Nebraska): To announce that tomorrow morning's presiding officer will be Bishop Donald Ott of the Michigan Area.

BISHOP KNOX: Thank you. All right, and now we'll ask our bishops Christopher and David Lawson if you will come now and present the report which has been put in the hands of the Council of Bishops for four years and was an action of the General Conference. So this is one of the studies and we're asking [pause] They're asking for a brief break, so we will ask that V.L. Daughtery, we've already heard your motion and we wondered now, you've made your speech for it. It is basically a referral of... Would you give us a synopsis, V.L.? He is coming to microphone seven, please.

DAUGHTERY: V.L. Daughtery, South Georgia Conference. The essence of the motion...

BISHOP KNOX: We need a copy of the motion.

*Proposal to Priortize Mission, Membership Growth*

DAUGHTERY: is to ask and request that the legislative committees, the agenda on calendar and reference give priority to all the existing petitions relating to mission, ministry, servanthood ministries, membership growth, numerical and spiritual, and membership decline, and that we receive those early in this session of the General Conference. I was present at a General Conference where we picked a number out of the air and said we were going to grow by that number. We didn't grow, and it was an embarrassment. We need to deal from the grassroots with persons who are feeling these issues and give the approval or disapproval of this conference on those matters.

BISHOP KNOX: All right. Is there someone who wants to speak against the motion. Okay. Over here on the left, come to microphone four please, microphone four.

MERLIN ACKERSON (Iowa): I think the intention sounds very good. We're all interested in mission; we're all interested in ministry; we're all interested in growth and evangelism. My concern about this motion is that we might get bogged down in our legislative committees debating about what is and what is not appropriate priority, and I think we could spin our wheels doing a lot of that kind of discussion rather than getting to the business of our legislative sections. It seems to me that the business in our legislative sections is ministry, and it is mission, and it does all relate to the priorities of the church—that we grow, that we be faithful to Jesus Christ.

BISHOP KNOX: All right. Thank you. Anyone want to speak in favor of the motion? Are you ready to vote? If you will vote in favor of the motion, push the "yes" button, if you're not in favor push the "no" button, if you wish to abstain, push the "abstain" button. Please vote when the light appears. And the motion does not prevail. [Results: yes, 340; no, 539; abstained, 44] Thank you very much. I see, David, ready? Come to 11, come to microphone 11, please.

*Northeast Jurisdiction Appeal to Judicial Council*

J. FAY CLEVELAND (Western New York): I rise for a point of personal privilege.

BISHOP KNOX: All right.

CLEVELAND: My personal privilege would be to move a referral to the Judicial Council for a declaratory decision, a matter of utmost importance to the Northeast Jurisdiction and to the Northeast Jurisdiction Committee on Episcopacy.

The review committee of the Northeast Jurisdiction has referred three items to the Judicial Council regarding a grievance that has been in process for 14 months. All parties to the grievance are aware of this referral and are anticipating and desiring a decision to be made as speedily as possible. It is my understanding that only if this referral becomes an action of this General Conference will such a declaratory judgement or decision be possible at this time.

Therefore, on behalf of the Northeast Jurisdiction Committee on Episcopacy and the Northeastern Jurisdiction Review Committee and all parties to the grievance, I move that the General Conference support the referrals from the Northeast Jurisdiction Review Committee and request declaratory decisions of the Judicial Council on those matters at the earliest possible opportunity.

BISHOP KNOX: All right. Is there a second?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I second it.

BISHOP KNOX: Would you like to speak further?

CLEVELAND: Only to say that individuals have been waiting and hurting long enough, and we need to move ahead with the process. I believe this action would allow us to move ahead quickly, fairly, and with justice.

BISHOP KNOX: All right. This is properly before us. Anyone else have something they would like to say? Are you ready? If you would approve this, you will push the "yes" button, if you do not approve, the "no" button, please vote when the light appears.

[Results: yes, 715; no, 95; abstained, 116.]

BISHOP J. LLOYD KNOX: Thank you very much. I believe that Bishops Lawson and Christopher are ready, and we will go ahead with the report.

STEVEN KIMBROUGH: This is a part of the report. May we stand and sing two stanzas of "Here Am I Lord."

*(song)*

BISHOP DAVID LAWSON: Just a word of explanation for you. We have been told you were going to have a

cookie break before we made our report. I would like to share with you that you do not get cookies now. And you must not hold us responsible for that.

*(laughter)*

*Bishops' Report On Study On Ministry*

BISHOP LAWSON: We procrastinated here for awhile just on your behalf but it did not work and so here we are. Can you hear me? Thank you. I can hear you clear enough. The sound people are now aware of our needs. Can you hear clearly? All right, thank you. Ladies and gentlemen, the Council of Bishops by unanimous decision of those present and voting, brings to you our vision for the ordering of ministry in the United Methodist Church which we are calling "The ministry of all Christians expressing God's mission to the world."

This vision for United Methodist ministry centered us throughout our work. It became the source of energy, the central commitment, and the vision by which the Council evaluated all proposals and suggestions. This vision was the birthing place of the proposal that follows. Let me remind us all that the last General Conference, after extensive work and conversation, debate and decision on the part of the General Conference, the General Conference asked the Council of Bishops to take responsibility for developing a proposal for ministry of the future.

The Council has received that delegation from the General Conference, and has been about this work for the quadrennium. We come now to you with the report.

The Report includes both the introductory material which you have found in your *DCA* and proposed legislative changes. It also has available to you a correction sheet made necessary because of the process of transmitting material. A wrong sheet was sent to the editor of *DCA*.

Add a correction which is a part of our visual report. At this session of the General Conference by this action now, your Council of Bishops presents to you our report to you. In this report, we are recommending that you receive the report, that you place it in the processes which we have already agreed to, that the legislative committees will receive it in due order and begin their work on it. And when in time, legislative proposals return to the body for consideration and action, we will have before us continuing, the report of the ministry study.

What that means is, in keeping with rule 36 of our Rules of Order, as the report is made, those who brought the report will have opportunity to speak to amendments to it, if there is concern about the substance of change that is being made.

Now this is normal procedure for a General Conference. However, the people making the report are not normally making a report. And so, when we come back for that time of our work, we will need your permission for a bishop or two to speak to the issues before us. And that's ahead of us when the reports begin to come back.

I'd like to say to you, that openness to God's spirit leads us away in our work, from parenthetical assumptions, assumptions of control, and dominance and unequal value, to an organic view of inter-relatedness and inter-relatedness among a variety of ministries, an organic view.

These ministries we said to ourselves are all of equal value. God's spirit continued to lead us from parliamentary rules and decision making by vote to an openness toward experimenting with the gift of God's discernment.

In order to remain open to the guidance and surprises from our God, we as a council made several commitments.

First, worship was to be the center of all study and deliberation.

Second, the council and its study committee were committed to a radical openness to whatever outcome God might provide.

Third, as a council, we committed ourselves to intensive study of all past ministry studies dating back into the 1960's; parallel studies from other denominations around the world, resource materials from the earliest days of our predecessor denominations.

Fourth, we committed ourselves to listen, listen, listen, listen. The introduction to the proposal which you have in your hands, lists the representative groups with whom we spent time. Omitted from that list is the National Association of Local Pastors. In addition, we asked every episcopal area in the world to organize response groups to read and evaluate the early written documents. Each of their reports was carefully read, ideas and suggestions were gleaned, refinements were made to the developing proposal over time.

In light of our emphasis on the ministry of all Christians, we were delighted to discover that over 500, over 500, lay people were involved in this listening process. The fifth commitment, resource papers were developed, allowing intense examination and development of various aspects of the issues. Sixth, consensus decision making, or if you care to call it that, United Methodist conferencing, was the style throughout the process.

Proposals were continually rewritten reflecting what was heard and learned. We took no votes until the final vote in the final presentation to the Council of Bishops.

And finally, seventh, we recognize that there was a continuing need for the formation, the shaping of the spiritual life of all Christians, laity and clergy alike. And that was foundational for any proposal that would ever be written, and is, in this proposal, woven through all of its provisions.

*Call for Discernment*

BISHOP SHARON BROWN CHRISTOPHER: This proposal for ministry in the United Methodist Church represents the stewardship of the Council of Bishops. We offer it now

to the General Conference with the hope that you will join us in the prayerful open search for God's leadership in this critical matter.

Last night, Bishop Craig urged us to gather together around the table, prayerfully attempting to discern God's will for our Church. In this spirit, let us now lay aside our caucuses and special interests, open our minds and hearts, respectfully listen and learn from one another, and seek the leadership of God's spirit.

BISHOP LAWSON: Central to our understanding of ministry is the task of equipping the church for the ministry of all Christians. There's been a genuine excitement in the Council of Bishops around this emphasis from the very beginning. In several meetings, the council sent a clear message to its study committee. "If you do not accomplish anything more," they said, "find ways of energizing the church for this task."

A part of this energy grew out of our vision of enabling church members to identify themselves as ministers of Jesus Christ, by assisting them in understanding how this ministry in the world can be expressed, commissioning them for such ministries, and sending members of our churches out from the congregations with a sense of vocation.

BISHOP CHRISTOPHER: A part of the council's energy grew out of a confession. Despite many worthy programs and organizational structures, our United Methodist Church has not achieved this goal of enabling all persons for ministry. We still define the highest lay achievement in terms of holding denominational offices and committee memberships. We still tend to define lay ministry as service in the institutional church. The full power of our Christian discipleship is thereby limited, perhaps thwarted.

BISHOP LAWSON: And thus every proposal in this report is conditioned by this vision of the ministry of all Christians in the world. A vision of over ten million United Methodist people moving to the structures of society, prepared to identify themselves as followers of Jesus Christ, prepared by their congregations to understand in fresh ways how this ministry may be exercised in the world of work and play, in neighborhoods, wherever: amendments to the legislation about the local congregations, the proposed stewards of lay ministry, the newly evolved ordained deacons, the newly focused ordained elders who are also deacons and carry the deacon responsibilities, adjustments to legislation concerning local pastors.

The definition and responsibilities of bishops and district superintendents are all conditioned by this principal thrust and single understanding. Our baptism marks us all as ministers of Jesus Christ. All of us of equal value in the sight of God and one another. No expression of Christian ministry is more important than any other.

*Distinctions Between Ministries*

BISHOP CHRISTOPHER: When the family of God gathers around the Lord's Table, we are reminded that we are sisters and brothers in Christ. Each of us greatly loved by God, and called to service.

BISHOP LAWSON: In the Apostle Paul's imagery we are the body of Christ. This is our essential identity.

BISHOP CHRISTOPHER: Some of us are feet, some hands.

BISHOP LAWSON: Some eyes, some ears.

BISHOP CHRISTOPHER: Within our equality, there is diversity. God called some within the family to serve on behalf of the entire family. All are needed.

BISHOP LAWSON: And thus while all ministry belongs to the entire church, specific expressions of that ministry focus in specific offices. God calls some of us to a lifetime of servant vocation, witness, service on behalf of all the others.

BISHOP CHRISTOPHER: Others are called to service in the context of their secular vocations and in volunteer ministries through the local church. We believe that the three offices recommended in this proposal are needed to enable and equip the ministry of all Christians in the world.

*Lay Ministry Steward*

BISHOP LAWSON: As they are proposed, these offices kneel at the Lord's Table in solidarity with all of God's people. The distinct responsibility to which God has called them, wholly integrated with, and supportive of, the servant ministry of the entire church.

One office, in which persons may feel God calling them to express their life vocation, we're suggesting to you is the lay ministry steward, or in other language, the steward of lay ministry. When you recall the power, the spiritual power, of lay leadership in the early days of the movement called Methodism in the United States, those class leaders, and stewards and others—this new office has an exciting possibility in it that's movemental in its nature. It certainly is in harmony with the cry which came back to us from all the hearing processes, a request on the part of lay persons around the denomination for a new level of spiritual leadership for themselves in this evolving church.

The lay ministry steward is called to innovative, disciplined, responsive support to the ministry of all Christians in and through the congregation. Called by God, affirmed through the discernment of the pastor in the local congregation, the lay ministry steward works under the guidance of the pastor in a collegial relationship with all other leaders in the congregation.

In contrast, the specific functional responsibilities for program and administration in the local church, the lay ministry steward has a single purpose: that of assisting the congregation in the development of Christian discipleship and in advancing the ministry of the laity in the world.

BISHOP DAVID J. LAWSON: The lay ministry steward will seek out and help members identify their skills, will help them be in ministry,

be a witness in their workplace during the week, help them to disburse into the world scattered as God's people. One concern with spiritual formation of the people of God, the lay ministry steward will seek for themselves training in small group life, Bible study, most important, the theology of work, and other related matters.

Within this focus, this office is designed with the greatest flexibility possible. Since we have only been partially successful in emphasizing lay ministry in the world, we're challenged to allow for experimentation, innovation, flexibility. In order to prevent competition in the congregation, we must contain this office within the accountability structures of that congregation.

It is our belief that God is now calling lay persons to this kind of servant leadership. This new office proposed to you creates an avenue of expression of this call with accountability in the congregation. In a process similar to persons seeking pastoral ministry, the pastor and the congregation will explore with them the nature of their call, the gifts they bring for the service, and lead the congregation to discern whether or not they should be affirmed for the office. This is a practice with which we are quite familiar now with candidates. And for this reason, not all congregations will have such persons in their midst.

BISHOP SHARON BROWN CHRISTOPHER: While God calls all persons to ministry, God calls some to a lifetime vocation within the body of Christ. These persons enter into covenant relationship with God and the Church and are designated for specific leadership through prayer and the laying on of hands. Ordination is a public sign and act in which the Church affirms God's gifts, and authorizes their use through the work of those who are called as ordained ministers.

Now servant leadership is the foundation for all ministry, including the ministry of the ordained. The Church of Jesus Christ has one ministry in which all Christians are called. With the leadership of God's spirit, certain portions of this total ministry are focused in persons called by God, and provided by God with gifts and grace needed for specific forms of leadership. Within this understanding, we have identified two ministerial orders of ordained persons.

BISHOP DAVID J. LAWSON: The first order we've identified is our new understanding and appropriation of the office of deacon. The church currently has ordained deacons and consecrated diaconal ministers. This proposal seeks to enhance and to develop the diaconal office, allowing the richness and central purpose of these historic offices to flow into a newly ordained deacon.

*Order of Deacon*

Deacons are persons called by God, authorized by the church (the meaning of ordination), and ordained by a bishop to a lifetime of servant leadership in both the community and the congregation in a ministry that connects the two.

In the world, this new deacon, this ordained deacon, seeks to express a ministry of compassion and justice, assisting lay persons as they claim their own ministry. And in the congregation the ministry of the deacon is to teach and to inform disciples, to lead worship together with other ordained persons and laity, to celebrate the sacrament of baptism, to assist the elders in the sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

The deacon models service, inviting others to their own servant ministry in the world. We anticipate that the appointment for deacon will, in most instances, be outside the institutional church, in the world of work and marketplace. These deacons will carry out ministries of service, compassion, and justice. In those instances where their appointment is within the local congregation, deacons must demonstrate that this placement specifically affirms the inter-relatedness of worship and work.

BISHOP CHRISTOPHER: The ministry of the deacon will take many forms. Some will be employed in their place of service. Others may serve as volunteers. Some may be employed by schools, colleges, theological schools, or by church-related health and welfare agencies. Some will serve as educators, both in the church and in the community. Much of the service will be in settings that have no explicit religious affiliation.

In every instance, the deacon will also receive an appointment in a local congregation, and will share in the responsibility for leading other Christians into their own ministries of service. In rare instances, when the deacon volunteers, the bishop may appoint the deacon to a special assignment as a volunteer without financial support. These will be instances of special need and critical urgency.

We must emphasize that this order of deacon is new. While it flows out of previous expressions of diaconal service, it is different from all previous kinds of consecrated and ordained forms.

*Order of Elder*

BISHOP LAWSON: The second ordained ministerial order we've identified for you is the order of elder. The Council of Bishops proposes a vital and newly focused ordained elder, called by God, authorized by the Church, and ordained by the bishop. The elder enters into a lifetime itinerant ministry of Word, Sacrament, and Order. The elder leads in the ordering of the life of the church for the fulfillment of its central task. And you will not be surprised at this, of preparing Christian disciples for their service in the world.

The servant leadership of the elder is expressed by leading the people of God in worship and prayer, in leading people to faith in Jesus Christ, by exercising pastoral supervision in the congregation, and by leading the church in obedience to mission in the world.

At a time when the church is rediscovering the centrality of service in all of its ministries, we affirm the continuing responsibility of the elder to fulfill their servant leadership as deacons, while serving as elders. And as such, to be bound by the meaning of the deacon's ordination, and thus, in every congregation there will be the servant leadership, the presence of the deacon, sometimes in the form of the new deacon, sometimes in the form of the elder who is also a deacon, sometimes through the ministry of the local pastor who serves, and is licensed under the guidance of an elder. This proposal emphasizes that the deacon's ordination is foundational to all ordination.

BISHOP CHRISTOPHER: All clergy, both deacon and elder, upon election to full membership in the annual conference, shall be members of and participate in the order appropriate to their election.

Now an order is a mutually supportive covenant community within the church to care for and hold accountable its members for the sake of the life and mission of the church. These orders seek to respond to the spiritual hunger among clergy for a fulfilling sense of vocation, for support among peers, for a deepening relationship with God.

Now they are not exclusive clubs of insiders, but are spiritual communities that supplement and deepen the formation that deacons and elders receive through congregational life and exist to assist in the continuing formation of clergy for their vocation. Each order will provide for regular gatherings of ordained deacons and ordained elders; will assist in plans for individual study and retreat experiences; will develop a bond of unity and common commitment to mission and ministry; will help create relationships of mutual trust and support; and will provide accountability and offer support for the members in the fulfilling of these purposes.

The bishop will convene and provide continuing spiritual leadership for each order with the support and assistance of the Board of Ordained Ministry. The board will nominate in the order and elect quadrennially a chairperson of the order, who, in cooperation with, and with the guidance of the bishop, will provide continuing leadership for the order. The chairperson will be responsible for implementation of plans and activities, will represent the order on the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, and will serve on the board's executive committee.

*Plan for Local Pastors*

BISHOP LAWSON: Now within this new vision for ministry in our denomination, the bishops recognize that there need to be new provisions for the local pastors, these persons' vital spiritual leadership in increasing ways in our denomination.

Our proposal allows local pastors to continue in long term service by completing a course of study. The assumption currently held in our *Book of Discipline* that these persons need to continue toward associate membership is being removed from this proposal, as are college requirements. However, should a local pastor choose to do so, provision is made for the fulfillment of requirements for ordination as a deacon, and then subsequent process through a probationary period toward the ordination of elder.

To exercise this option, you will discover the local pastor must reach the age of forty years, must have completed a five year course of study, and thirty-two semester hours of graduate theological study or its equivalent.

*Plan for Transitional Provisions*

The council realizes that this new understanding of ministry requires some transitional provisions. Because the office of diaconal minister, as well as the current ordained deacon, have flowed into the new ordained deacon, we recommend that the consecration of new diaconal ministers be discontinued as the ordination of the current style of deacon.

All persons who have begun the candidacy for diaconal ministry prior to January 1, 1997, may proceed under the provisions of the 1992 *Book of Discipline*. Persons currently serving as diaconal ministers may continue their service as long as they desire or until their retirement. Provision is made for those desiring to do so, that is, those diaconal ministers who desire to do so, to enter into a process of becoming an ordained deacon.

And because local pastors will now have the possibility of becoming ordained deacons, and proceeding through probationary membership to full membership in the conference and ordination as elders, we recommend the discontinuation of the status of associate members.

Current associate members in good standing may continue until their retirement or until they are discontinued for other reasons. Associate members in good standing as of January 1, 1997, may, after meeting specified requirements, be elected as full members of the annual conference and ordained elders as a part of a transitional provision.

There are many other recommendations and adjustments in the current legislation. In every instance, all proposals focus on, as the highest priority, the ministry of all Christians in the world. The Council of Bishops commends this ministerial proposal to you for your own prayerful consideration. The recommendations come after extensive study of past ministerial proposals and study commissions, review of current studies of other Christian bodies around the world, examination of more alternatives than you can believe.

The council offers these proposals in the belief that they will advance the cause of Jesus Christ, and will enhance the ministry of all United Methodist Christians in a time that calls for a fresh focus on the ministry of witness and service outward into the society and community. We offer this to you with a great deal of excitement,

and frankly, with no small amount of passion.

BISHOP CHRISTOPHER: Now we begin the process of seeking the wisdom of this whole faith community, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. We have received the report from the Council of Bishops. We have received news reports, recommendations from many quarters, and advice from friends. Now we also receive an invitation from the Council of Bishops.

The bishops invite this General Conference to accept the same discipline that guided our search.

Number one: Acknowledging all that we think, feel, fear, and hope, and admitting that we come here with our heads full of ideas and partial conclusions, we also affirm that our hearts are open to new guidance from God.

Number two: We will surround all we do with worship. Prayer will be the context for our work.

Number three: We will respectfully listen to one another with the will to learn and question.

Number four: We will provide occasional moments of silence in our deliberations in order that we may remember whose will it is we seek.

Number five: We will believe that this church can discover the leadership of God's spirit. The ancient ones of the Christian faith discovered that those seeking the gift of discernment need to be in a worshiping community. They need to understand the issue at hand, remember their purpose, and discover relevant information. Prayer is critical for it opens the mind and the heart to the possibility of new insight. The most difficult learning is the necessity of being open to surprises. This last faith attitude was called "sacred indifference to the outcome." God may choose to lead us on to new paths. Please remember that as you do your work, the Council of Bishops is engaging in an around-the-clock prayer vigil everyday for two weeks. They will be praying for all the work of the General Conference, including what we do here today. In the prayer room, in your private residence, the bishops invite you to share in this spiritual discipline.

Please, God, help us to discover wisdom as we search for the paths you would have us follow.

*Sending Forth to Special Committees*

This is how we are to proceed: The Committee on Plan of Organization and Rules of Order proposed that we approve the following procedure. At the announced time, each delegate is to go to the assigned room for your reflection group, and you should have on your table those assignments for you.

There will be a moderator who will guide you through the process, assisting you as you explore the ministry proposal. The process will be explained when the groups first meet. Please work together to ensure that all who wish to speak may have the opportunity. This is not the occasion for debate. It's not the occasion to persuade or dispute. It is in the legislative committee and the plenary session where such can happen. Here, we seek to share and to listen and to learn.

It is hoped that all delegates will feel free to express their hopes, suggestions, and questions. Three guiding questions will be used to encourage the sharing. First, how does this document lead us into spiritual growth? How does this proposal help us to be a missional church? And how does this document help lead us into a more faithful equipping of the laity for mission?

The recorders for your group will carefully record your discussion, listening for consensus and questions. They will then prepare a short document representing the consensus points and concerns of your entire reflection group, and will join the other recorders in discussion to identify the consensus points, the points of clarification, and the concerns of the entire General Conference.

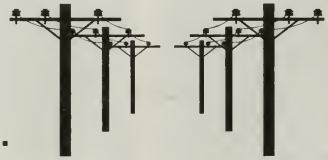
A group of compilers will work in room C205 with these reports and prepare a written statement of what has been discerned. And this statement will be given to the Legislative Committee on Ordained Ministry.

It is that legislative committee which will receive all matters related to the ministry proposal. Then the legislative committee will work with the ministry proposal and all related petitions and report their recommendations to the plenary session of this General Conference.

Please note, persons who can clarify provisions of the proposal can be reached nearby your meeting room. You are encouraged to send for one of these persons if further information is needed in your group.

Now you are invited to make your way to an assigned room. Please be aware that this is the first work of the 1996 General Conference. You enter a new faith community with a holy purpose. You will find Christ in your gathering, so enter with anticipation and hearts full of grace. And let us go on our way by joining together in the last verse of hymn number 593, "Here I Am, Lord." May God bless us all.

# TELL THE FOLKS BACK HOME...



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*Daily Report*

# Daily Christian Advocate

THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Denver, Colorado | Friday, April 19, 1996 | Vol. 3 No. 4

## God Is in This Place

Those who were in Oklahoma City April 19, 1995, will always remember that day in particular, and the days after, as a city and community united to stand up to tragedy. On that day, one would wonder: where was God?

The awful sight of the federal building is now gone. In its place is the beginning of a beautiful park. A people's faith, courage and determination are reflected in such beauty and newness. Life goes on amid stark reminders of what happened here. Recovery . . . healing . . . rebuilding, yet, for some, the struggle still continues.

The Scripture paints a vivid picture of people rebuilding out of ruin and claiming the promises of God: things new and lasting, things better than before. Let us hope this for the people of Oklahoma City. Today, amid freshly planted trees, flowers and green grass, a city will remember and give thanks to a God who was—and is—there!

*—The Rev. Thomas Roughface,*
Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference

"There's a song in every silence,
seeking word and melody;
there's a dawn in every darkness,
bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future;
what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see."

*—Natalie Sleeth*

***In Remembrance***
***Oklahoma City***
***April 19, 1995***

*As we remember this tragedy, we also reflect on Liberia and the many other places of destruction and suffering in God's world.*



One of the nineteen quilts made by Susan Lucky, in honor of the children killed in the bombing.
*photo by John Goodwin*

## A Conference Moment



Let's be aware of who is watching us. Young eyes are watching us. Marvel Humper, daughter of Bishop Joseph Christian Humper, witnesses the proceedings. *photo John Goodwin*

## Agenda

**Friday, April 19**

| | |
|---|---|
| 8:15 | Choral Music |
| 8:30 | Worship |
| 9:00 | Call to Order |
| 9:05 | General Council on Ministries Report |
| 9:25 | Committee on Courtesy and Privileges |
| | Committee on Presiding Officers |
| | Committee on Agenda and Calendar |
| 9:40 | Legislative Committees |
| 12:30 | Lunch Recess |
| 2:30 | Legislative Committees |
| 5:00 | Dinner Recess |
| 7:30 | Legislative Committees |


## Daily Christian Advocate

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## Top Ten Reasons for Going to General Conference

10. You never have to explain who John Welsey was.
9. No one tries to sell you a raffle ticket.
8. Everyone has a name tag so you don't have to remember any names.
7. You get sermon ideas that no one else from your congregation has heard.
6. You get to ride the escalators.
5. You get a commemorative hymnal that doesn't match any other hymnal in your church.
4. You know where your bishop is.
3. You finally get to watch a big screen T.V.
2. You can see the many different styles of dark blue suits.
1. When you speak on the floor of conference, someone writes down every word you say and they publish it even if it doesn't make any sense.

*—Brad Motta*

# Day Three: a Call To Witness and Prayer

As delegates streamed toward the convention center on day three, more and more delegates were carrying their DCAs, Bibles, Disciplines and reports in wheeled luggage as their piles of paper grew.

### Morning Worship

The morning worship service began with the enthusiastic and disciplined voices of the Maranatha Choir of University United Methodist Church, Gainesville, Fla., led by Robert W. Jackson. In the sermon, Albany [N.Y.] Area Bishop William Boyd Grove continued the unity theme with quotations from John Wesley. Can we become men and women of "catholic spirit," he asked, "willing to pray with those who disagree with us, and long for their welfare? . . . If your heart (not your opinions) is as my heart, give me your hand." Bishop Grove encouraged a unity "that will surprise our church." That plea was met with a lengthy, standing ovation.

### Discussion and Prayer

Following worship, presiding Bishop Donald A. Ott, Michigan Area, reminded delegates that in the Episcopal Address the bishops asked that all meetings begin with five minutes of one-on-one conversation and prayer, especially between persons who do not know each other well. Delegates pondered two questions: What is my most earnest hope for the next few hours of this conference? What do I believe is God's most fervant hope for these next few hours? Then they joined in prayer, beseeching God to combine the two hopes into one.

### A Call to Witness and Prayer

A 90-minute celebration of United Methodism's historic stance in support of human rights for all persons inspired positive response.

The Commission on the General Conference had scheduled the special event in response to concern over the 1992 action by Colorado voters who passed a state constitutional amendment denying human-rights protection to homosexuals. The amendment, later overturned by a Colorado court, is now before the nation's Supreme Court. Because of this controversy, many United Methodists had wanted to move General Conference to another state. The idea of an on-site witness prevailed.

The moving service included Scripture reading, singing, praying and witnessing by persons reflecting the inclusiveness and worldwide nature of United Methodism.

F. Belton Joyner Jr., Raleigh, N.C., recalled God's grace in history, the examples of Christ and John Wesley's concern for human rights. Referring to Colorado Amendment 2, he said "some of our colleagues in United Methodism felt it was at odds with our historic Wesleyan witness for human and civil rights for all. Some of our family saw the amendment to deny to gay, lesbian and bi-sexual persons basic human and civil rights, and our tradition says 'no' to such denial.

"To be sure," he continued, "some of our United Methodist kin supported the amendment and saw it as an extension of our official denominational view that the practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching, . . . yet here we are. . . . We call ourselves to prayers of repentance for ways we have violated or looked past others. We make witness to God's freeing gift of basic rights for all humankind."

Scripture was read in Spanish and English by Mary Silva, San Antonio, and F. Belton Joyner Jr., Raleigh, N.C.

In the meditation, William Abraham of Perkins School of Theology, Dallas, reminded delegates of Jesus' teaching and healing ministries, sending his disples to do the same. "We dare to go forward under the authority of Jesus Christ," he said. "We cannot limit the kingdom." He noted that we must make disciples who will gladly "be spent in the service of justice and peace."

Andrei Kim, Moscow, Russia, spoke of the severe limits on religious, human and civil rights in his country. Dorothy Yoeman, Elgin, Ill., movingly described the justice problems faced by imprisoned, battered women and her opposition to the death penalty. Randy Miller, San Francisco, witnessed on behalf of justice and rights for gays and lesbians and his own knowledge of "the rejection of being the unwelcome guest."

Minerva G. Carcano, Albuquerque, N.M., told how she experienced the "darkness within us" as she heard behind-the-scenes statements of racism, sexism and homophobia at both Jurisdictional and General Conferences. Francisco de Castro Maria, an Iliff School of Theology student, described human rights problems in his native Angola, caused by grueling economic conditions and massive refugee migrations.

As the witnessing continued, delegates became increasingly involved, standing and applauding the speakers.

Leading delegates in a "season of prayer," Bishop Rueben P. Job, Nashville, Tenn., said: "Prayer is the universal language of us all."

The service closed with the Wesley covenant prayer which ends, "O glorious and blessed God . . . you are mine, and I am yours. So be it. May the covenant which I have made on earth be ratified in heaven."

*—Roger Burgess*

## Announcements

The Missouri East/Missouri West Conference lunch will be held at 12:15 p.m. Friday, April 19, at the Holiday Inn. The cost is $15 and all Missourians attending General Conference are invited. For more information talk to Rev. Cody Collier or Dr. Rhymes Moncure.

For those holding reservations to Higher Education Night: Buses to the University of Denver will be available at the main entrance of the Convention Center between 4:15 and 5:30 p.m. and will return to the Convention Center after the program.

BMCR dinner tickets and bus pick-up time information will be delivered to delegates' seats this morning. Others can pick up their envelopes at the visitors counter.

The New York Conference dinner will be held Wednesday, April 24, 5:30 p.m., in the Denver Room of the Marriott Hotel, $33. Reservations must be made by 5 p.m. Friday. Contact Ernest Swiggett (297-1300) or Jane A. Middleton (571-0300).

We're worried! Are you here? Your *prepaid* tickets for Sunday's special events tour are being held at the ticket booth in Lobby A. You must claim your tickets by noon Friday.

Youth Rally, Saturday, April 20, 10 a.m.—12 noon, Convention Center, East Plaza. Sponsored by "Open the Doors."

Conference council on ministries directors and their guests may meet the bus on Monday, April 22, at 12:40 p.m. (in the circular drive off the 14th St. exit) for the luncheon at Rounders Restaurant at the Sandlot at Coors Field. Look for your host wearing the Colorado Rockies jacket. The bus will return in time for the 2:30 p.m. plenary session. Reservations may still be made with Sachi Boyer in Room 113.

The HIV/AIDS Ministries Network and the Health and Welfare Ministries Program Department, General Board of Global Ministries, The United Methodist Church will sponsor a HIV/AIDS Memorial Service of "Hope, Help and Healing" in Grand Ballrooms B and C of the Adam's Mark Hotel, 1550 Court Place on Tuesday, April 23, at 12:45 p.m. Bishop Leontine Kelly will be preaching.

Tennessee Conference delegates and friends are cordially invited to attend a dinner at the Holiday Inn, Wednesday, April 24, 5:15 - 7 p.m. Cost, $15.20. Please give your money to James R. King or Betty M. Alexander by Monday afternoon, April 22.

Delegates and friends from the New Jersey area are invited to gather for a luncheon at 12:45 p.m. on Wednesday, April 24, in the Holiday Inn. Contact either June McCullough in the Southern New Jersey delegation (Section C, Row 13) or Bob Brandt in the Northern New Jersey delegation (Section A, Row 1) to make your reservation.

How do Hispanics study the Bible using the "Judge, See and Act" methodology? Come, find out! Study the Bible from a Hispanic perspective Friday and Saturday 7-8 a.m. and Monday through Wednesday same time in A102 of the Convention Center.

Tired? *Cansado?* Come and prop up your feet in our Hospitality Center, Suite 1701, Hyatt Regency, Welton and 17th. Open Monday through Friday 10:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m. and Saturday noon—5:00 p.m. We await your visit!

Delegates who wish the full text of the case forwarded by the leadership of St. Paul's U.M.C. in Coronado, Calif., and a response to that perspective may request this document from the California-Pacific delegation chair, Becky Haase.

New England delegates will hold a dinner honoring Bishop and Mrs. Herbert Skeete on Wednesday April 24, to be held at the Holiday Inn at 5:45 p.m. All delegates and friends of the Boston Area are invited to attend. Please contact Dient Crain, Section D, Row 10, Seat 6, for reservations. Cost $20.00 per person.

*Global Praise* CDs and audiocassettes are available at the Cokesbury Bookstore:

1) *Songs for the Poor*, hymns of Charles Wesley. Proceeds go to Bishops Appeal for Africa.

2) *Africa Praise I*, songs of faith from eight African countries performed by the Africa University Choir. Proceeds go to Africa University.

3) *Global Praise I*, songs of the Christian faith from around the world.

4) *Spirituals, Songs from the American Experience*, songs by Steven Kimbrough and Cynthia Wilson-Felder.

*Blessed be the Women!* Join us for worship Sunday, April 21, 1996 at 10:00 a.m. in Ballroom 4 of the Colorado Convention Center, sponsored by the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women. Obispa Graciela Alvarez Delgado from la Conferencia Anual de Mexico will be preaching. Bishop Ann Brookshire Sherer will be the celebrant and Francis E. W. Guidry will be the liturgist. Also sharing in worship will be Cynthia Wilson-Felder, music leader, and The Celebrants, a sacred dance choir.

Indiana Area Bishop Woodie W. White was elected president of the Council of Bishops. He succeeds Los Angeles Area Bishop Roy I. Sano.

## Chalices and Patens Find New Homes

The chalices and patens used for Holy Communion during the 1996 General Conference opening worship are being made available by Cokesbury. The sets will be taken to various places in the United States, including Brentwood, Tenn.; Grand Rapids, Mich.; Pearl River, N.Y.; Pueblo, Colo.; Salt Lake City, Utah; and Thornton, Colo. We at DCA are curious about how the chalice and paten sets will be used when they reach their final destinations. If you have purchased a set for a special ceremony or event, please stop by the *DCA* office and tell Brad Motta. A future *DCA* article will describe the various uses of the chalices.

—*Marcy Barnes*



photo John Goodwin


## *Advice from the Experts on New Paraments and Stoles*

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DCA-345-6

## University Senate and Judicial Council Nominations

UNIVERSITY SENATE

Appoint four, two of whom shall be executive officers of United Methodist-related educational institutions, the other two holding other positions relevant to academic or financial affairs or church relationships (¶1517.2)

1. Kevin LaGree (Candler/Emory)
2. Shirley A. R. Lewis (Paine College)
3. Robert Edgar (School of Theology at Claremont)
4. David L. Beckley (Rust College)

Nominate 12 for General Conference to elect four (¶1517.2)

six chief executive officers of U.M.-related educational institutions:

1. Ellen Hurwitz (Albright)
2. Roy Shilling (Southwestern Univ.)
3. Wesley Poling (Kentucky-Wesleyan)
4. Douglas Lewis (Wesley)
5. Ann Die (Hendrix College)
6. Wanda Bigham (Huntington College)

six holding other positions relevant to academic or financial affairs or church relationships

1. David Maldonado (Perkins)
2. Donald Messer (Iliff)
3. John White (Nebraska-Wesleyan)
4. Aubrey Lucas (Univ. Southern Mississippi)
5. Dennis Campbell (Duke Divinity)
6. Lovett Weems (St. Paul)

JUDICIAL COUNCIL

Nominate for an eight-year term: six clergy to fill two places and six laypersons to fill two places (¶2602)

1. Clergy: John L. Topolewski (Wyoming) NE
2. Clergy: Richard Cain (Cal-Pac) W
3. Clergy: Kenneth Chalker (E OH) NC
4. Clergy: Rex Bevins (NB) SC
5. Clergy: John Collins (NY) NE
6. Clergy: Jane Tews (Desert SW) W
7. Lay: Jack Plowman (W PA) NE
8. Lay: Hal Bonney Jr. (VA) SE
9. Lay: Jon Gray (MO-W) SC
10. Lay: Sally Curtis Askew (N GA) SE
11. Lay: Anthony Danburam (Nigeria) CC
12. Lay: Daniel K. Church (E OH) NC

The Iluzija (Latvia) United Methodist Choir

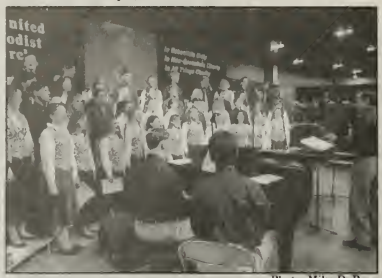


Photo: Mike DuBose

## Corrections

Bishop Victor Bonilla is a member of the Council of Bishops with voice but not vote.

Add Bishop Robert M. Blackburn to the retired bishops' list.

The Chancel Choir of Mountain View UMC, Boulder, Colorado, Timothy Brown, director, was inadvertently omitted from the worship bulletin and schedule of daily worship services.

The city for Carolyn Marshall should be changed from Petersburg to Veedersburg, p. 47, col. 2, Wed. edition.

P. 66, April 18. Change Lee-Wi Tan to Wee-Li Tan.

### Fifteen Bishops Express Pain at Lesbian, Gay "Proscriptions"

(UMNS) Personal "pain" at "proscriptions...against gay and lesbian persons" in official policies was voiced by 15 bishops in a dramatic statement released late yesterday.

The bishops, 11 active and four retired, affirmed their commitment to "continue our responsibility to order and discipline of the church," but urged congregations "to open the doors in gracious hospitality to all our brothers and sisters in the faith."

"We believe it is time to break the silence and state where we are on this issue that is hurting and silencing countless faithful Christians," the statement said. Active bishops signing the statement were Judith Craig, William W. Dew Jr., Calvin D. McConnell, Susan M. Morrison, Fritz Mutti, Donald A. Ott, Sharon Zimmerman Rader, Roy I. Sano, Mary Ann Swenson, Melvin G. Talbert, and Joseph H. Yeakel. Retired bishops signing were: Jesse R. DeWitt, Leontine T.C. Kelly, Melvin G. Wheatley, and C. Dale White.

# Delegates Take Advantage of Translation Services

As one walks through the convention center during General Conference, many languages can be heard. In fact, nine languages other than English, plus American Sign Language, are officially represented.

In order to give the speakers of these languages as much active participation as possible, a team of 48 interpreters and two on-site technicians are available to the approximately 141 delegates who requested interpreters. Interpreters are available to translate Chinese, French, German, Indonesian, Korean, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish and Swahili. The Rev. Laverle Carrington and several local volunteers translate American Sign Language.

Donald Reasoner, a missionary for the General Board of Global Ministries, coordinates equipment for the translators and serves as a Spanish and Portuguese translator. He said two systems are used to translate English into other languages. In the plenary sessions, an infrared system allows the individual to select a channel and listen on headphones to an interpreter, who sits in a booth at the front of the room. If a speaker needs translation, the interpreter translates the comment or question, which is then broadcast over the room's public-address system.

The other interpretation system, which relies on a portable headset, is used in the committees. Seven of the 10 committees are served by interpreters. Nilda Ferrari, multilingual resources director for the General Board of Global Ministries, serves as General Conference language-interpretation coordinator. According to Ms. Ferrari, all committee chairs support the effort to provide interpretation for those who need it.

Both Mr. Reasoner and Ms. Ferrari report relatively smooth sailing. They said the few minor glitches they have encountered have been easily solved. This is the first General Conference which has provided interpreters for committee meetings and other uses beyond the plenary sessions. Mr. Reasoner and Ms. Ferrari credited their success to recent technological developments and increased awareness of the need for interpreters.

—*Marcy Barnes*

## Luncheon Celebrates Latin American, Caribbean Ministries

A luncheon yesterday honored Latin American and Caribbean delegates and the 34 annual conferences that have taken action in support of the missional initiative "Encounter with Christ in Latin America and the Caribbean."

Some 200 United Methodist bishops and delegates of the Council of Evangelical Methodist Churches of Latin American and the Caribbean (CIEMAL), Methodist Church of the Caribbean and the Americas (MCCA), representatives of the supporting 34 conferences, church executives and other special guests rejoiced in the response to this mission outreach program.

"Encounter with Christ" will link Methodist and United Methodist peoples of the Americas and the Caribbean in new dimensions of evangelism and mission. This commitment to partnership and mutuality in mission, as we move into the 21st century, will be undergirded by "Encounter with Christ" (No. 025100) through the General Board of Global Ministries.

### ♀♀ *Blessed Be the Women: Be Counted!* ♀♀

Chairpersons of the 48 subcommittees:

| | |
|---|---|
| Female | 22 |
| Male | 26 |
| Lay | 22 |
| Clergy | 26 |
| Racial Ethnic Minority | 15 |
| Youth/Young Adult | 1 |

Observations in Legislative Committees:

- Discipleship Com - Baptism Study Deliberation: Women are 30% of committee and made 12% of comments. Clergy are 49% of committee and made 87% of comments.
- Local Church Subcom - Discussion ¶260-270: Lay and clergy, male and female participation equivalent to their representation in the subcommittee. *Blessed Be !!!*
- Church & Society Subcom - Discussion on Abortion: Men are 50% of the group and made 68% of the comments.

Information provided by the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women

## Did You Know?

The podium used by this General Conference was first used by Pope John Paul II during his 1993 visit to Denver.

## Joys and Concerns

Our prayers are with Bishop William R. Cannon who fell and broke his hip April 17 while in attendance at General Conference.

Bishop Arthur Kulah has opted to stay in Liberia to support church members during the violence. Liberian delegate Lamark Cox, who boarded one of the last U.S. helicopters leaving the war-torn African nation, was scheduled to arrive in Denver late yesterday. He will hold a press conference at noon today in the Press Room (Ballroom 1).

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## Special Events Offer Diverse Opportunities

Whether you've set your weekend sights on Breckenridge, Cheyenne, the Colorado High Plains, Colorado Springs, Iliff School of Theology, Estes Park/Loveland or the Denver Metro Area, fun and adventure await you!

Special Events Day, April 21, is designed to offer General Conference delegates and their families unique opportunities to get acquainted with the Rocky Mountain Conference "neighborhood": the people, the churches and the attractions.

Hundreds of delegates and visitors have already signed up for the tours. In fact, Tour A (Breckenridge) and Tour F (Estes Park and Loveland) are booked solid. But don't despair, said Duane Knutson, a Special Events Planning Committee member and co-leader of the Colorado Springs tour. "There is added value in each of the tours. We're trying to offer visitors a choice beyond Denver Metro, trying to demonstrate hospitality wherever folks go."

Delegates received a brochure describing the tours. Mr. Knutson, a member of First United Methodist Church, Colorado Springs, noted that the second Colorado Spring tour (Flying W Ranch) and the Greeley/Weld County tour have been cancelled.

Paula Johnston, Local Host Committee chair, urged persons to purchase tickets by noon Friday, April 19. The tours, departure/return times and costs are as follows:

Tour A: Breckenridge, 7 a.m.-8 p.m., $33
Tour B: Cheyenne, Wyo., 8 a.m.-8 p.m., $40
Tour C: Colorado High Plains, 8 a.m.-7 p.m., $15
Tour D: Colorado Springs (Tour 1), 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m., $15
Tour E: Iliff School of Theology, 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., $10
Tour F: Estes Park and Loveland, 9 a.m.-7 p.m., $33.50
Tour H: Denver Metro Area (various opportunities), free

Enjoy!

*—Barbara Dunlap-Berg*

# Host Churches and Guest Preachers

Alameda Heights
Naboth Mandizvidza Muchopa, London

Alger Memorial
John Miller, Ludlow, Pa.

Applewood Valley
Moira Biggins, Great Britain

Arvada
Mary Elizabeth Moore, Claremont, Calif.

Aspen Community
Bishop Hermann Sticher, Nurtingen, Germany

Bethany
Olav Parnamets, Estonia

Bethel
Charles Yoost, Mansfield, Ohio

Beulah
Gereroso Ocampo, Bulacon, Philippines

Brentwood
Anthony Oglesby, Evansville, Ind.

Brighton
Bradley Watkins, Savoy, Ill.

Broomfield
Maxie Dunham, Wilmore, Ky.

Burlington
Daniel Henry, Bolingbrook, Ill.

Burns Memorial, Aurora
Bishop Ernest W. Newman, East Point, Ga.

Calvary, Colorado Springs
M.J. Kim, Ashland, Va.

Christ
John Horton, Macon, Ga.

Columbine United
Eva and Istvan Csernak, Hungary

Community, Westcliffe
James Porter, Fort Worth, Texas

Deer Park
Robert Kohler, Nashville, Tenn.

Edgewater
Reynaldo Gagno, Philippines

Englewood
Anita Iceman, Tucson, Ariz.

Erie
Jaime Potter-Miller, Johnstown, Pa.

Faith
Thomas Bickerton, Hurricane, W. Va.

First, Berthoud
Bob Coleman, Floyds Knobs, Ind.

First, Casper, Wyo.
Kabamba Munyangwe, Chingola, Zambia

First, Cheyenne, Wyo.
Bishop Dan Soloman, Oklahoma Area

First, Fort Collins
George Hunter, Wilmore, Ky.

First, Fort Morgan
William Scott III, Holly Springs, Miss.

First, Golden
Bishop Joseph Humper, West Africa (April 21)

Michael Hahm, World Mission Global Ministry (April 28)

First, Greeley
J. LaVon Kincaid Sr., Pittsburgh, Pa.

First, Lafayette
Theodore Smith, Alexandria, Va.

First, Laramie
Edgar Goins, Louisville, Ky.

First, Longmont
Bishop Judith Craig, Ohio West Area

First, Platteville
Mary Ann Galloway, South Point, Ohio

First, Pueblo
Rodell Roberts, Jacksonville, Fla.

First, Salt Lake City
Tim Crawford, Frakes, Ky.

First, Yuma
Luther Milsaps, Tupelo, Miss.

Flemming
Miriam Barrera, Iligan City, Philippines

Fowler/Manzanola
Mike Weaver, Dumfries, Va.

Genoa/Seibert
Stanley G. Washington, Youngstown, Ohio

Goode Centennial
David Beckley, Holly Springs, Miss.

Good Shepherd, Colorado Springs
Carol Smith, Columbia, Mo.

Good Shepherd, Thornton
Fredrik Wegelius and Marcus Soderstrom, Finland

Grant Avenue
Guss J. Shelly, Senatobia, Miss.

Green Mountain
Bishop Ruediger Minor, Moscow, Russia

Heritage, Littleton
Jim W. Morris, Beverly, Ky.

Holly
Marion O. Fitch, Lebanon, Ohio

Hope
Phillip Wogaman, Washington, D.C.

Jefferson Avenue
Kelly Clem, Rainbow City, Ala.

Johnstown
Alec Alvord, Charlotte, N.C.

LaJunta
J. Felton Jennings, Miami, Fla.

Lakewood
B. K. Bauknight, Bethel Park, Pa.

Limon
Carol Thompson

Longs Peak
Timothy Riss, Catskill, N.Y.

Merritt Memorial
Mutwale Ntambo, Kigoma, Tanzania

Montclair
Bishop Paul Granadosin, Philippines

Mountain View Community
Bishop Mack B. Stokes, Atlanta, Ga.

Mountain View, Boulder
Bishop Doloksaribu

Mountain View, Woodland Park
Bishop Walter Klaiber, Germany

Niwot
Vanessa Alers, Caguas, Puerto Rico

Northglenn
Bishop Denis Dutton, Malaysia

North Park Community
Peggy Johnson, Baltimore, Md.

Park Hill
Cornelius Henderson, Atlanta, Ga.

Parker
Bishop Bill Oden, Louisiana Area

Peoples, Colorado Springs
Gilbert Caldwell, New York

First, Rocky Ford
Mary Hicks Good, Sun Prairie, Wis.

Simla/Ellcott
Tarmo Lilleoja, Estonia

Simpson
Bob Hoshibata, Seattle, Wash.

Smokey Hill
Bishop Heinrich Bolleter, Zurich

St. Paul
David Richardson, Sylmar, Calif.

St. Paul, Pueblo
J. T. Phillips, Macon, Ga.

Steamboat Springs
Philip Amerson, Bloomington, Ind.

Stratton/Kirk
Bill Howie, Warhow, N.C.

Sunrise
Bishop Emerson Colaw, Dayton, Ohio

Trinity, Colorado Springs
Bishop Aldo Etchegoyen, Argentina (4/28)

Daniel G. Nalbantski, Bulgaria

Wheatland, Wyo.
Eugene "Gene" Frazer, Columbus, Ohio

University Park
Randy Nugent, New York

Valley Vista
Jane Hull Harvey, Washington, D.C.

Warren
Bishop Roy C. Nichols, Oakland, Calif.

Westminster
Michael Brown, Asheville, N.C.

Wiley-McClave
William Hines, Findlay, Ohio

# Reports of Legislative Committees

**Church and Society** — (4/18/96, 4:30 p.m.)

The committee concurred with petitions:

- Substituting new text for Social Principles Para. 71 D on divorce;
- Adding a new Social Principles paragraph on "Men and Women" after para. 71 E;
- Dealing with connectional relationships between the General Board of Church and Society (GBCS), conference, district, and local churches; membership on annual conference boards of church and society; and the purpose and objectives of the GBCS.

*—Shanta M. Bryant and Lee Ranck*

**Conferences** — (4/17/96, 9 p.m.)

The committee organized into subcommittees with the following chairs: Lucille Vanzant, J. LaVon Kincaid Sr., Bruce Ough, and Paul Extrum-Fernandez.

The committee concurred with petitions:

- Providing for The United Methodist Church to send two delegates annually to the British Methodist Conference and for The Methodist Church in Great Britain to send four delegates to The United Methodist General Conference. (21053, p. 175);
- Changing the phrase, "persons with handicapping conditions" to "people with disabilities." (20309, p. 193);

The committee concurred with petitions (as amended):

- Suggesting that annual conference and district meetings be held in places accessible to people with disabilities. (20368, p. 190) [NOTE: The committee deleted all of the guidelines.];
- Allowing annual conferences flexibility in structuring while providing for connectional relationships between local churches, districts, conferences, and general agencies, and while being responsible for monitoring inclusiveness in the conference. (21617, p. 191) [NOTE: The committee deleted paragraph b)];

The committee nonconcurred with a petition:

- Giving the effective bishops membership and vote in the General Conference. (20556, p. 175)

*—Ken Horn and Carolyn Simms*

**Discipleship** — (4/17/96, 4 p.m.)

The committee concurred unanimously with the petition to adopt the newly published Spanish-language hymnal, *Mil Voces Para Celebrar*, as an official hymnal of the church.

The committee formed four subcommittees and appointed a chair for each:

Structure, (Aileen Williams, chair);
Doctrine, (Duane Sarazin, chair);
Laity/Youth, (Larry Powell Sr., chair);
Baptism, (Greg Stover, chair).

*—Lynne DeMichele and Garlinda Burton*

**Financial Administration** — (4/18/96)

The committee recommended concurrence:

- Changing the name to General Board of Pension and Health Benefits from General Board of Pensions;
- Authorizing changing to new wording regarding legal entities of the Board of Pension and Health Benefits;
- Approving new language for permanent funds;
- Replacing text of P1604 authorizing the activities of the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits;
- Updating language and placing a floor in the accepted level of annuity rates;
- Changing "clergy" to "churches" to reflect responsibility of local churches to pay pensions;
- Revising the Basic Protection Plan;
- Deleting P2512;
- Changing language from "persons with handicapping conditions" to "people with disabilities";
- Amending the Area Episcopal Residence Committee to allow other structures;

The committee recommended non-concurrence:

- Funding of the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits;
- Expanding the options of the Health Flex Insurance Program to gays and lesbians;
- Inserting a preface to P2501:
- Adding mandatory consultation by churches with other Christian churches when seeking a building site;
- Reflecting the diversity of the denomination in corporate body of trustees of church institutions;
- Mandating the annual conference or district board of trustees to conduct an energy audit;
- Prohibiting sale, lease, or mortgage of annual conference property to benefit current operating expenses of the conference or local churches;
- Asking for a task force to study salary equalization for pastors;
- Prohibiting mortgage or sale of real property by a district board of trustees.

The committee referred to a general agency.

- To General Council on Finance and Administration a proposal to establish a relationship with a major credit card company.

*—Joretta Purdue, Erik Alsgaard*

**Global Ministries** — (4/18/96)

The committee recommended concurrence:

- Supporting a permanent fund for mission work in Latin America and the Caribbean;
- Urging participation in development and reconstruction work in Africa;
- Calling for emergency assistance in rebuilding war-torn Liberia;
- Supporting the peace process in Central America;
- Deploring the continued occupation of East Timor by Indonesia and the abuse of human rights there;
- Advocating work on peace and human rights efforts in the Middle East and North Africa;
- Calling for development of programs on conflict resolution and alternatives to violence;
- Opposing the building of a radar station in Vieques, Puerto Rico;
- Supporting removal of all U.S. military bases from Okinawa.

*—Linda Bloom*

**Higher Education and Chaplaincy** — (4/18/96)

The committee organized into three subcommittees:
Structural Relationships, (Stefanie Gray, chair);
University Senate and Seminaries, (*Myron F. McCoy*, chair);
Chaplaincy and Miscellaneous, (*Bradley F. Watkins, Sr.*).

The committee unanimously voted to accept the document *Education: The Gift of Hope* and recommended that the General Conference urge every local congregation to study the document.

The committee also recommended concurrence on the following:

- DCA, volume 1, page 823, to amend par. 1511:
- Number 21277 Standards for Endorsement for Ministry Settings. Amend the first sentence of par. 1511.2*g*.
- Number 21274. The Division of Chaplains and Related Ministries. Amend par. 1511.1.
- Number 21276. General Oversight for Clergy Members. Amend the last sentence of par. 1511.2*d*
- DCA, volume 1, page 821: Number 21662 pertaining to the Annual Conference Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry. The committee rejected the deletion to *Discipline* paragraph 732. As a result, the committee then voted nonconcurrance with all other petitions dealing with the structure of the Annual Conference Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry.

The committee recommended nonconcurrence:

- Number 20631 to delete words World Service from first sentence of par. 1512;
- Number 21275 to change the language of par. 1511.2*c*;
- Number 20479 to eliminate the Annual Conference Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry.

*—Terri Hiers and Dawn Hand*

**Independent Commissions** — (4/18/96, 4:45 p.m.)

The committee recommended concurrence:

- Affirming Commission on Status and Role of Women or similar structure at all levels of the church;
- Affirming the work of Gideons International but calling the organization to a more inclusive membership;
- Adding local church and annual conference to advocacy responsibilities of GCOSROW re: resolution of sexual harrassment issues,
- Affirming that tasks of currently-mandated Conference Commission on Archives and History must be carried out, but may be assigned to another structure than a commission.

*—Ann Whiting and Kristin Knudson Harris*

**Local Church** —(4/18/96, 3:30 p.m.)

The committee recommended concurrence:

- Identifying children as well as men and women in a ministry concern that they be brought into a saving relationship with God;
- Inserting the word "who" into the sentence "The people of God, (who) are the church made visible in the world . . .";
- Specifying that United Methodist pastors are not employees of local churches, even though they may be so classified for taxation and other governmental entities;
- Defining clergy as deacons, elders, and local pastors under full and part-time appointment, and are licensed or ordained;
- Defining "cooperative ecumenical parish;
- Changing "persons with handicapping conditions" to "people with disabilities" in describing specialized areas of ministry;
- Changing term cooperative parish to "cooperative ministry" in section on churches in transitional communities.

The committee recommended concurrence with amendment:

- Inserting a new section defining and outlining relationship between the annual conference and Ecumenical Shared Ministries.

The committee recommended nonconcurrence:

- Calling for rejection of "exaggerated efforts" at inclusive language that deny ecumenical triune teaching;
- Calling for a quadrennial study commission on Classic Christianity and Modern Feminism.

*—Kathy Kruger Nobel and Rayford Woodrick*

**Ordained and Diaconal Ministry** — (4/18/96, 5 p.m.)

The committee voted non-concurrence:

with petitions 21751 (¶116), 21757 (¶201), and 21758 (¶201), all of which deal with the Lay Ministry Steward in the Ministry Study. They also dealt with petition 21750 (¶108) and concurred with an amended version, which deleted references to the Lay Ministry Steward but retained language relating to ordained ministry.

*—Linda Green and Judy Smith*

### How to Access General Conference Information Online

Have you wondered how to access General Conference information online inside the convention center? It's easy, if you follow these directions.

Sit at any Windows NT terminal. If the login screen is present, press CTRL-ALT-DEL. If "delegate" does not already appear in the username box, use the mouse to click in the username box. Erase the username and type "delegate." No password is required. Click on OK. You will then see a window called "General Conference." Inside that window, double click on the Netscape icon. The General Conference WWW Pages will open automatically, and you can start browsing.

Beyond the convention center you may access this information through United Methodist Information (http://www.umc.org/). From the United Methodist Information page, visitors can select "General Conference" to see the same information contained on our local web server, updated once daily.

## *Now Signing in Autograph Area*

***Friday, April 19th***

*Dorothy Jean Furnish*
*12:30 - 1:30*
*Adventures with the Bible*

*Douglas Johnson*
*12:30 - 1:30*
*Don't Know Much About Being a Leader*

*Raquel Martinez*
*12:30 - 1:30*
*MIL VOCES (U.M. Spanish Hymnal)*

*Will Willimon*
*1:30 - 2:30*
*Where Resident Aliens Live*

*George Hunter*
*1:30 - 2:30*
*Church for the Unchurched*

*James Thomas*
*1:30 - 2:30*
*Methodism Racial Dilemma*

*Steve Harper*
*1:00 - 2:30*
*Devotional Life in Wesleyan Tradition*

*Tom Oden*
*12:30 - 1:30*
*Requiem: a Lament in Three Movements*

### Consent Calendar Explanation

With this issue, the *DCA* begins the first calendar items. There are three consent calendars: A) concurrence with proposed changes to the *Discipline*. B) concurrence with petitions on non-Disciplinary matters. C) non-concurrence on Disciplinary and non-Disciplinary items. The first day items will be listed as 01. The second day will be listed 02, and so forth. Items can be placed on the consent calendar if: 1) no more than five votes were cast against the prevailing position; 2) it has no financial implications; 3) the proposal does not require a constitutional amendment. Any five delegates may have a consent calendar item removed by having such a request on file with the secretary by 3 p.m. on the day it appears in the *DCA*.

# Consent Calendar A01

**1**-707.4
**Subject: Membership on Boards and Agencies**
Committee Item: CO7-707.4-C
Petition:
20309-CO-707.4-D, Pg. 193
Membership: 86; Present: 82;
For: 79; Against: 0; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/17

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**2**-12.3
**Subject: United Methodist Delegates to Other Conferences**
Committee Item: CO9-12.3-C
Petition:
21053-CO-12.3-C, Pg. 175
Membership: 86; Present: 82;
For: 82; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/17

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**3**-707
**Subject: Conference Agencies**
Committee Item: CO10-707-A
Petition:
21617-CO-707-D, Pg. 191
Membership: 86; Present: 80;
For: 79; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/17

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Delete all of 1.b so that it ends with maintained in 1.a.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**4**-707
**Subject: Accessibility in Annual Conference Boards and Agencies**
Committee Item: CO11-707-A
Petition:
20368-CO-707-D, Pg. 190
Membership: 86; Present: 81;
For: 78; Against: 3; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/17

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Insert a new sub-paragraph after current ¶707.3 and renumber accordingly:

~~All~~ **Whenever possible** meetings scheduled by the Annual Conference and its districts, boards, or committees ~~shall~~ **should** be held in places which are accessible to persons with disabilities. ~~The following are guidelines as to what makes a place accessible:~~

~~Architectural Guidelines~~

~~a. All meeting rooms to be used are accessible to those in wheelchairs. Examples of things which may make a room accessible:~~

~~1) Everything is at ground level with no steps.~~

~~2) An elevator is available.~~

~~3) A ramp of size and maximum angle of 1/12 that wheelchairs can negotiate is available.~~

~~4) Door openings are at least 36 inches wide.~~

~~5. Pews or chairs are arranged to include space for wheelchairs.~~

~~b. Accessible washrooms.~~

~~c. Convenient parking for those with disabilities.~~

~~d. Curb cuts if curbs must be negotiated.~~

~~e. Adequate hand rails for safety.~~

~~f. Adequate lighting.~~

~~g. For overnight meetings, accessible lodging for participants.~~

~~Communications Guidelines~~

~~a. A loud speaker system.~~

~~b. Sound equipment for the more profoundly hearing impaired.~~

~~c. Signing for the deaf.~~

~~d. Large print program materials or tape recordings available.~~

~~e. Programs and directions making use of visuals, symbols, images, and sounds for persons who have difficulty communicating via the printed or spoken word.~~

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**5**-728.3
**Subject: Church and Society's Responsibility for Criminal Justice and Mercy Ministry Concerns**
Committee Item: CS4-728.3-C
Petition:
22330-CS-728.3-D, Pg. 1230
Membership: 101; Present: 94;
For: 93; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**6**-728.1
**Subject: Annual Conference Board of Church and Society**
Committee Item: CS11-728.1-C
Petition:
20935-CS-728.1-D, Pg. 126
Membership: 101; Present: 96;
For: 96; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**7**-1103
**Subject: Objectives**
Committee Item: CS16-1103-C
Petition:
20938-CS-1103-D, Pg. 127
Membership: 101; Present: 95;
For: 91; Against: 4; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**8**-1102
**Subject: The purpose of the Board of Church and Society**
Committee Item: CS18-1102-C
Petition:
20937-CS-1102-D, Pg. 126
Membership: 101; Present: 94;
For: 94; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**9**-1107
**Subject: Vacancies**
Committee Item: CS77-1107-C
Petition:
20941-CS-1107-D, Pg. 128
Membership: 101; Present: 94;
For: 88; Against: 4; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**10**-1511.1
**Subject: The Division of Chaplains and Related Ministries**
Committee Item: HE13-1511.1-C
Petition:
21274-HE-1511.1-D, Pg. 823
Membership: 88; Present: 78;
For: 78; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**11**-1511.2
**Subject: Standards for Endorsements for Ministry Settings**
Committee Item: HE14-1511.2-C
Petition:
21277-HE-1511.2-D, Pg. 823
Membership: 88; Present: 79;
For: 79; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**12**-1511.2
**Subject: General Oversight for Clergy Members**
Committee Item: HE29-1511.2-C
Petition:
21276-HE-1511.2-D, Pg. 823
Membership: 88; Present: 76;
For: 75; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**13**-741
**Subject: Conference Commission on the Status and Role of Women**
Committee Item: IC1-741-C
Petition:
21667-IC-741-D, Pg. 905
Membership: 74; Present: 68;
For: 63; Against: 0; Not Voting: 5;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**14**-2203
**Subject: Responsibility of the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women**
Committee Item: IC8-2203-C
Petition:
20849-IC-2203-D, Pg. 912
Membership: 74; Present: 67;
For: 66; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**15**-742
**Subject: Commission on Small Membership Church**
Committee Item: IC78-742-A
Petition:
22019-IC-742-D, Pg. 1386
Membership: 74; Present: 67;
For: 54; Against: 4; Not Voting: 9;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Amend ¶ 742:

There ~~may~~ **shall** be in each Annual Conference a conference Commission on the Small Membership Church~~,~~ **or the responsibilities of the Small Membership Church Commission may be assigned to an existing or newly created multi functional agency of the council or alternative structure that cares for the functions of support, nurture, and growth of small membership churches and their relationships to the conference, districts, and other local churches.**

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**16**-105
**Subject: The General Ministry of All Christian Believers**
Committee Item: LC1-105-C
Petition:
21639-LC-105-D, Pg. 942
Membership: 91; Present: 71;
For: 71; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**17**-107
**Subject: The General Ministry of All Christian Believers**
Committee Item: LC3-107-C
Petition:
21640-LC-107-D, Pg. 943
Membership: 91; Present: 71;
For: 70; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**18**-114
**Subject: Employment Status of Clergy**
Committee Item: LC6-114-C
Petition:
21595-LC-114-D, Pg. 943
Membership: 91; Present: 71;
For: 70; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**19**-114
**Subject: Definition of Clergy**
Committee Item: LC7-114-C
Petition:
22673-LC-114-D, Pg. 1405
Membership: 91; Present: 71;
For: 69; Against: 1; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**20**-206.3
**Subject: Ecumenical Parish**
Committee Item: LC8-206.3-C
Petition:
21082-LC-206.3-D, Pg. 944
Membership: 91; Present: 71;
For: 67; Against: 1; Not Voting: 3;

Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**21**-207
**Subject: Ecumenical Shared Ministries**
Committee Item: LC9-207-A
Petition:
21083-LC-207-D, Pg. 945
Membership: 91; Present: 69;
For: 66; Against: 2; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows: Insert , **P248.1**" following P244" in 12th line of the third paragraph.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**22**-207.5
**Subject: Churches in Transitional Communities**
Committee Item: LC10-207.5-C
Petition:
22106-LC-207.5-D, Pg. 1406
Membership: 91; Present: 70;
For: 67; Against: 1; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**23**-260
**Subject: Age-Level, Family, and Specialized-Ministries Coordinators**
Committee Item: LC11-260-C
Petition:
20331-LC-260-D, Pg. 959
Membership: 91; Present: 71;
For: 71; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

# Consent Calendar B01

**24**-NonDis
**Subject: Continuation of the Eurasia Episcopal Area**
Committee Item: CC1-NonDis-C
Petition:
21727-CC-NonDis-O, Pg. 1106
Membership: 36; Present: 29;
For: 21; Against: 0; Not Voting: 8;
Date: 4/15

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**25**-NonDis
**Subject: Zaire to Become a Central Conference**
Committee Item: CC3-NonDis-C
Petition:
22013-CC-NonDis-O, Pg. 1210
Membership: 36; Present: 29;
For: 22; Against: 0; Not Voting: 7;
Date: 4/17

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**26**-NonDis
**Subject: By Water and The Spirit: A United Methodist Understanding of Baptism**
Committee Item: DI1-NonDis-A
Petition:
21464-DI-NonDis-O, Pg. 227
Membership: 110; Present: 100;
For: 100; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/17

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Paragraph 2 under *Baptism and Holy Living* amended to read:

Baptism is the doorway to the sanctified life. The sacrament teaches us to live in the expectation of further gifts of Gods grace. It initiates us into a community of faith that prays for holiness; it calls us to life lived in faithfulness to Gods gift. Baptized believers and the community of faith are obligated to manifest to the world the new redeemed humanity which lives in loving relationship with God and strives to put an end to all human estrangements. There are no conditions of human life ~~(including age or intellectual ability, race or nationality, gender or sexual identity, class or handicapping conditions)~~ that exclude persons from the sacrament of baptism. We strive for and look forward to the reign of God on earth, of which baptism is a sign. Baptism is fulfilled only when the believer and the church are wholly conformed to the image of Christ.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**27**-NonDis
**Subject: Support for the Approval of "By Water and the Spirit"**
Committee Item: DI2-NonDis-C
Petition:
22822-DI-NonDis-O, Pg. 1306
Membership: 110; Present: 100;
For: 100; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/17

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**28**-NonDis
**Subject: Adoption of the Spanish Language Hymnal, Mil Voces Para Celebrar**
Committee Item: DI4-NonDis-C
Petition:
21465-DI-NonDis-O, Pg. 265
Membership: 110; Present: 101;

For: 101; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**29**-R557
**Subject: God's Shalom for the People of Central America**
Committee Item: GM4-R557-C
Petition:
21354-GM-R557-U, Pg. 808
Membership: 116; Present: 115;
For: 115; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**30**-NonDis
**Subject: In Opposition of Building a Radar in the Lajas Valley and the Town of Vieques, Puerto Rico**
Committee Item: GM6-NonDis-C
Petition:
22711-GM-NonDis-O, Pg. 1371
Membership: 116; Present: 114;
For: 112; Against: 1; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**31**-NonDis
**Subject: The Church's Response to Ethnic and Religious Conflict**
Committee Item: GM11-NonDis-C
Petition:
22489-GM-NonDis-O, Pg. 1367
Membership: 116; Present: 115;
For: 115; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**32**-NonDis
**Subject: Education: The Gift of Hope**
Committee Item: HE23-NonDis-C
Petition:
21128-HE-NonDis-O, Pg. 825
Membership: 88; Present: 82;
For: 82; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

# Consent Calendar C01

**33**-NonDis
**Subject: Episcopal Oversight in the Commonwealth of Independent States**
Committee Item: CC2-NonDis-N
Petition:
23023-CC-NonDis-O, Pg. 1210
Membership: 36; Present: 29;
For: 29; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/15

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**34**-12.1
**Subject: Effective Bishops as Members of General Conference**
Committee Item: CO2-12.1-N
Petition:
20556-CO-12.1-C, Pg. 175
Membership: 86; Present: 79;
For: 74; Against: 2; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/17

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**35**-12
**Subject: Composition of General Conference**
Committee Item: CO3-12-N
Petition:
22154-CO-12-C, Pg. 1258
Membership: 86; Present: 82;
For: 81; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/17

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**36**-13
**Subject: Meeting of the General Conference**
Committee Item: CO4-13-N
Petition:
20778-CO-13-C, Pg. 1258
Membership: 86; Present: 82;
For: 77; Against: 4; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/17

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**37**-13
**Subject: Meeting of General Conference**
Committee Item: CO5-13-N
Petition:
20407-CO-13-C, Pg. 175
Membership: 86; Present: 82;
For: 80; Against: 1; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/17

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**38**-603
**Subject: Presiding Officers of General Conference**
Committee Item: CO6-603-N
Petition:
22735-CO-603-D, Pg. 1262
Membership: 86; Present: 82;
For: 80; Against: 0; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/17

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**39**-15.10
**Subject: Amendment to the Constitution**
Committee Item: CO12-15.10-N
Petition:
20197-CO-15.10-C, Pg. 175
Membership: 86; Present: 78;
For: 77; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;

Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**40**-701
**Subject: The Purpose of the Annual Conference**
Committee Item: CO13-701-N
Petition:
20473-CO-701-D, Pg. 185
Membership: 86; Present: 78;
For: 75; Against: 1; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**41**-707
**Subject: Conference Agencies**
Committee Item: CO14-707-N
Petition:
20191-CO-707-D, Pg. 190
Membership: 86; Present: 78;
For: 78; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**42**-707
**Subject: The Structure of Annual Conference**
Committee Item: CO15-707-N
Petition:
20489-CO-707-D, Pg. 190
Membership: 86; Present: 78;
For: 78; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**43**-707
**Subject: Connectional Relationships**
Committee Item: CO16-707-N
Petition:
20565-CO-707-D, Pg. 191
Membership: 86; Present: 78;
For: 78; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**44**-707.1
**Subject: Conference Agencies**
Committee Item: CO17-707.1-N
Petition:
20052-CO-707.1-D, Pg. 191
Membership: 86; Present: 78;
For: 78; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**45**-707.1
**Subject: Mandated structures provided by Annual Conference**
Committee Item: CO18-707.1-N
Petition:
20187-CO-707.1-D, Pg. 191
Membership: 86; Present: 78;
For: 78; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**46**-707.1
**Subject: Conference Agencies**
Committee Item: CO19-707.1-N
Petition:
20429-CO-707.1-D, Pg. 192
Membership: 86; Present: 78;
For: 78; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**47**-707
**Subject: Connectional relationship**
Committee Item: CO20-707-N
Petition:
20428-CO-707-D, Pg. 190
Membership: 86; Present: 78;
For: 78; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**48**-707.1
**Subject: Responsibilities of the Annual Conference**
Committee Item: CO21-707.1-N
Petition:
20474-CO-707.1-D, Pg. 192
Membership: 86; Present: 78;
For: 78; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**49**-14
**Subject: The Responsibility of General Conference**
Committee Item: CO22-14-N
Petition:
20779-CO-14-C, Pg. 1258
Membership: 86; Present: 77;
For: 76; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**50**-728.2
**Subject: Membership of the Board of Church and Society**
Committee Item: CS12-728.2-N
Petition:
20444-CS-728.2-D, Pg. 126
Membership: 101; Present: 94;
For: 94; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**51**-753
**Subject: Eliminate District Director of and Committee on Church and Society**
Committee Item: CS15-753-N
Petition:
20555-CS-753-D, Pg. 126
Membership: 101; Present: 92;

For: 89; Against: 1; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**52**-728.1-
**Subject: Board of Church and Society**
Committee Item: CS21-728.1-N
Petitions:
20008-CS-728-D, Pg. 125;
20009-CS-728-D, Pg. 125;
20443-CS-728.1-D, Pg. 126;
20472-CS-728-D, Pg. 126;
21632-CS-728.1-D, Pg. 126;
22329-CS-728-D, Pg. 1230
Membership: 101; Present: 95;
For: 95; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**53**-1103
**Subject: The Objectives of the General Board of Church and Society**
Committee Item: CS62-1103-N
Petitions:
22543-CS-1103-D, Pg. 1231;
22725-CS-1103-D, Pg. 1231
Membership: 101; Present: 94;
For: 91; Against: 2; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**54**-1109
**Subject: Membership of the Executive Committee of the General Board of Church and Society**
Committee Item: CS74-1109-N
Petition:
22546-CS-1109-D, Pg. 1233
Membership: 101; Present: 88;
For: 86; Against: 0; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**55**-1104
**Subject: Responsibilities of the General Board of Church and Society**
Committee Item: CS81-1104-N
Petition:
22334-CS-1104-D, Pg. 1232
Membership: 101; Present: 94;
For: 88; Against: 5; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**56**-NonDis
**Subject: Baptism**
Committee Item: DI3-NonDis-N
Petitions:
20110-DI-NonDis-O, Pg. 260;
20111-DI-NonDis-O$, Pg. 260;
20250-DI-NonDis-O, Pg. 261;
20786-DI-NonDis-O, Pg. 1286;
21055-DI-NonDis-O, Pg. 264;
22216-DI-NonDis-O, Pg. 1294;
22558-DI-NonDis-O, Pg. 1302;
22629-DI-NonDis-O, Pg. 1303;
22866-DI-NonDis-O, Pg. 1306;
22868-DI-NonDis-O, Pg. 1307
Membership: 110; Present: 100;
For: 100; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/17

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**57**-810.3
**Subject: Eligibility for Election to General Agencies**
Committee Item: GJ1-810.3-R
Petition:
22477-GJ-810.3-D, Pg. 1329
Membership: 97; Present: 93;
For: 93; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/17

The Committee recommends referral to Judicial Council.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**58**-NonDis
**Subject: Concern for North Korea**
Committee Item: GM3-NonDis-N
Petition:
22644-GM-NonDis-O, Pg. 1369
Membership: 116; Present: 114;
For: 113; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**59**-732
**Subject: Eliminate Annual Conference Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry**
Committee Item: HE10-732-N
Petition:
20479-HE-732-D, Pg. 821
Membership: 88; Present: 75;
For: 75; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**60**-1511.2
**Subject: Endorsement of Ordained Ministry**
Committee Item: HE30-1511.2-N
Petition:
21275-HE-1511.2-D, Pg. 823
Membership: 88; Present: 77;
For: 77; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**61**-NonDis
**Subject: Policy of the Division of Chaplains and Related Ministries**
Committee Item: HE32-NonDis-N
Petition:
22789-HE-NonDis-O, Pg. 1384
Membership: 88; Present: 79;
For: 79; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**62**-741
**Subject: Conference Commission on the Status and Role of Women**
Committee Item: IC2-741-N
Petition:
22715-IC-741-D, Pg. 1385
Membership: 74; Present: 68;
For: 64; Against: 2; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**63**-741
**Subject: Conference Commission on the Status and Role of Women**
Committee Item: IC3-741-N
Petitions:
20089-IC-741-D, Pg. 904;
20464-IC-741-D, Pg. 904;
20510-IC-741-D, Pg. 905;
22018-IC-741-D, Pg. 1385
Membership: 74; Present: 67;
For: 66; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**64**-741.3
**Subject: Chairperson of the Commission on the Status and Role of Women**
Committee Item: IC6-741.3-N
Petition:
20466-IC-741.3-D, Pg. 905
Membership: 74; Present: 67;
For: 66; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**65**-2201
**Subject: Name**
Committee Item: IC9-2201-N
Petition:
22807-IC-2201-D, Pg. 1389
Membership: 74; Present: 67;
For: 65; Against: 0; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**66**-1801
**Subject: General Commission on Archives and History**
Committee Item: IC35-1801-N
Petition:
22790-IC-1801-D, Pg. 1386
Membership: 74; Present: 67;
For: 60; Against: 0; Not Voting: 7;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**67**-1802
**Subject: Incorporation of the General Commission on Archives and History**
Committee Item: IC36-1802-N
Petition:
22791-IC-1802-D, Pg. 1386
Membership: 74; Present: 67;
For: 60; Against: 0; Not Voting: 7;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**68**-1803
**Subject: Purpose of the General Commission on Archives and History**
Committee Item: IC37-1803-N
Petition:
22792-IC-1803-D, Pg. 1386
Membership: 74; Present: 67;
For: 60; Against: 0; Not Voting: 7;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**69**-1805
**Subject: Meetings of the General Commission**
Committee Item: IC38-1805-N
Petition:
22794-IC-1805-D, Pg. 1386
Membership: 74; Present: 67;
For: 60; Against: 0; Not Voting: 7;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**70**-1806
**Subject: Officers of the General Commission**
Committee Item: IC39-1806-N
Petition:
22795-IC-1806-D, Pg. 1386
Membership: 74; Present: 67;
For: 60; Against: 0; Not Voting: 7;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**71**-1807
**Subject: Staff of the General Commission on Archives and History**
Committee Item: IC40-1807-N
Petition:
22796-IC-1807-D, Pg. 1386
Membership: 74; Present: 67;
For: 60; Against: 0; Not Voting: 7;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**72**-1808
**Subject: Executive Committee**
Committee Item: IC41-1808-N
Petition:
22797-IC-1808-D, Pg. 1386
Membership: 74; Present: 67;
For: 60; Against: 0; Not Voting: 7;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**73**-1809
**Subject: Finances of the General Commission on Archives And History**
Committee Item: IC42-1809-N
Petition:
22798-IC-1809-D, Pg. 1386
Membership: 74; Present: 67;
For: 60; Against: 0; Not Voting: 7;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**74**-1810
**Subject: Historical Society**
Committee Item: IC43-1810-N
Petition:
22799-IC-1810-D, Pg. 1387
Membership: 74; Present: 67;
For: 60; Against: 0; Not Voting: 7;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**75**-1811
**Subject: Archival Definitions**
Committee Item: IC44-1811-N
Petition:
22800-IC-1811-D, Pg. 1387
Membership: 74; Present: 67;
For: 60; Against: 0; Not Voting: 7;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**76**-107
**Subject: Identifying the Primary Purpose of the Church and its Ministry**
Committee Item: LC2-107-N
Petition:
22104-LC-107-D, Pg. 1405
Membership: 91; Present: 71;
For: 68; Against: 1; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**77**-113
**Subject: A Study Commission on Classic Christianity and Modern Feminism: The Future of their Relationship**
Committee Item: LC4-113-N$
Petition:
22672-LC-113-D$, Pg. 1405
Membership: 91; Present: 71;
For: 67; Against: 3; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

# Calendar Items

**78**-601
**Subject: The Mission of the Church**
Committee Item: CO1-601-N
Petition:
20201-CO-601-D, Pg. 178
Membership: 86; Present: 73;
For: 45; Against: 15; Not Voting: 13;
Date: 4/17

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**79**-707.1
**Subject: Conference Agencies**
Committee Item: CO8-707.1-N
Petition:
20755-CO-707.1-D, Pg. 192
Membership: 86; Present: 82;
For: 71; Against: 9; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/17

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**80**-728.4
**Subject: Annual Conference Board of Church and Society Responsibilities**
Committee Item: CS14-728.4-N
Petition:
22331-CS-728.4-D, Pg. 1230
Membership: 101; Present: 93;
For: 87; Against: 6; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**81**-1104
**Subject: The Responsibilities of the General Board of Church and Society**
Committee Item: CS58-1104-N
Petition:
22332-CS-1104-D, Pg. 1231
Membership: 101; Present: 94;
For: 77; Against: 15; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**82**-1104
**Subject: The Responsibilities of the General Board of Church and Society**
Committee Item: CS59-1104-N
Petition:
22333-CS-1104-D, Pg. 1231
Membership: 101; Present: 94;
For: 79; Against: 12; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**83**-1109
**Subject: Executive Committee**
Committee Item: CS75-1109-C
Petition:
20943-CS-1109-D, Pg. 128
Membership: 101; Present: 90;
For: 83; Against: 7; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**84**-1108
**Subject: Officers**
Committee Item: CS76-1108-C
Petition:
20942-CS-1108-D, Pg. 128
Membership: 101; Present: 91;
For: 82; Against: 6; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**85**-1104
**Subject: Responsibilities of the General Board of Church and Society**

Committee Item: CS79-1104-N
Petition:
22726-CS-1104-D, Pg. 1232
Membership: 101; Present: 93;
For: 83; Against: 7; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**86**-1104
**Subject: Responsibilities of the General Board of Church and Society**
Committee Item: CS80-1104-N
Petition:
22335-CS-1104-D, Pg. 1232
Membership: 101; Present: 94;
For: 72; Against: 17; Not Voting: 5;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**87**-1512
**Subject: Funding of Division of Chaplains and Related Ministries**
Committee Item: HE31-1512-N
Petition:
20631-HE-1512-D, Pg. 823
Membership: 88; Present: 79;
For: 49; Against: 28; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**88**-741
**Subject: Eliminate Annual Conference Commission on the Status and Role of Women**
Committee Item: IC4-741-N
Petition:
20483-IC-741-D, Pg. 904
Membership: 74; Present: 67;
For: 58; Against: 6; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**89**-741.2
**Subject: Commission on the Status and Role of Women**
Committee Item: IC5-741.2-N
Petitions:
20381-IC-741.2-D, Pg. 905;
20465-IC-741.2-D, Pg. 905
Membership: 74; Present: 67;
For: 50; Against: 8; Not Voting: 9;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**90**-2203.7
**Subject: Advocacy role of the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women**
Committee Item: IC7-2203.7-C
Petition:
20850-IC-2203.7-D, Pg. 913
Membership: 74; Present: 67;
For: 35; Against: 32; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**91**-NonDis
**Subject: Membership of Gideons International**
Committee Item: IC25-NonDis-A
Petition:
21557-IC-NonDis-O, Pg. 1391
Membership: 74; Present: 67;
For: 38; Against: 23; Not Voting: 6;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Text reads as printed in the Advance DCA except for the final paragraph which is amended as follows:

Therefore, be it resolved, that the General Conference of The United Methodist Church and its member congregations strongly encourage Gideons International to open their membership to all Christians, regardless of ~~sex~~ **gender**, socio-economic class, or denominational background.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**92**-113
**Subject: Regarding Triune and Inclusive Language**
Committee Item: LC5-113-N
Petition:
22671-LC-113-D, Pg. 1405
Membership: 91; Present: 71;
For: 62; Against: 7; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

# Proceedings of the 1996 General Conference of The United Methodist Church

## Committee On Journal Report

The Committee On Journal hereby certifies as accurate, with the following corrections, the proceedings as printed in the *Daily Christian Advocate* for Wednesday, April 17, 1996.

*Daily Edition,* page 4, column 1, Cashar Evans Jr. was mispelled.

The Committee On Journal hereby certifies as accurate, with the following corrections, the proceedings as printed in the *Daily Christian Advocate* for Wednesday, April 18, 1996.

*Daily Edition,* page 60, column 1, "Delegates Approve Changes," line 18 should read "General Conference of 2000 rather than 1996."

*Daily Edition,* page 71, column 3, first paragraph, "Michael Pointer" should read "Michael Coyner."

**William Reasner**
**Chair, Committee on Journal**
(C13, seat 2)

*(Continued from page 79)*

*Wednesday Morning Announcements*

BISHOP KNOX: Thank you very much. Now let's hear from our conference secretary. She has several announcements.

CAROLYN MARSHALL: During the worship service this morning, the mention of the McCurdy Choir singing this afternoon at two o'clock here prior to a plenary session was made. There will not be a plenary session here, but I know that the members of the choir would be very happy and pleased if any of you who are available at two o'clock could be present in order to hear them.

Those persons who were elected chairs and other elected officers of legislative committees, as you organize and find a need for particular other space as far as sub-committees are concerned, as well as other materials, you are requested to go to the business manager, and his office is in A206 in order to receive those other locations which you may use.

As we move from this place to one of those 25 randomly selected groups for reflection and dialogue, I want to mention to you that among the persons who are here from the British Methodist Church is Moira Biggins, who is a member of their committee which is now working on revising the format for their annual conference. And they are in the process of developing a process very similar to that which we are using now, and are very appreciative of being here. She will be joining the group of compilers as a time of personal privilege, and a time of sharing with one of our other denominations from the British Methodist Church as they meet.

Then also to tell you that some of you have been wondering about a break. There are cookies and coffee for you. Please pick them up and endeavor, as much as possible, to be in your small groups by 10:45, as soon following that schedule as closely as possible. You did have on your desks this morning a blue sheet which delineated the places where all of those small groups would be meeting.

BISHOP KNOX: Thank you. Go in peace, and may the peace of God be with you. Amen.

## Morning Session
## April 18, 1996

*Bishop Donald A. Ott, presiding*

*(Prayer and Song)*

BISHOP DONALD A. OTT: I would like to give you directions for a time of conversation. You will want and need to hear them. Will you please come to order? First a word to let you know that the choir from Gainesville, Florida, you heard this morning will be giving a concert in the lobby of the Grand Ballroom at 2:00 p.m., a good opportunity before legislative committees.

Now, before the order of the day, I want to call your attention to a statement in the episcopal address of our first evening together. In that address, the Council of Bishops asked for all meetings to begin with conversation and prayer. We are going to begin today with a five minute time for such conversation and prayer. In a moment, I will read to you the two sentences from the episcopal address and ask that you immediately after hearing them begin that conversation with a person near you. Perhaps with one in front or behind you to increase the possibility that it is someone you know less well. You may even wish to stand to converse for those few minutes. After four minutes, I will ask you to take the last minute to pray together in the way that is appropriate to you and your conversation partner. I will offer the amen for all at the ending of the five minute time.

Now, please, listen to those two sentences from the episcopal address and then will you go immediately to your conversation. "We ask that each time you gather in a legislative committee, in a caucus meeting, in plenary; you begin with five minutes of reflecting with another person, per-

haps someone you do not know well, speaking about these two questions: What is my most earnest hope for the next few hours of this General Conference? Two. What do I believe is God's most fervent hope for these next few hours? Then we ask you to pray with that conversation partner beseeching God to bring the two hopes into one."

*(paired conversation)*

BISHOP OTT: In the name of our living God. Amen. Thank you Conference. The order of the day is at hand. It has been announced to you as a Call to Witness and Prayer and the celebration of the United Methodist Church's historic stance in support of civil and human rights for all persons. This report begins, this call, this celebration, this order of our day, begins with the word from the Biblical witness. You will need to be and want to be in silence, preparing to hear it. Will you please be in silence as we begin?

*Special Call to Awareness*

GATHERING

God's Word: Amos 6:8

WILLIAM K. QUICK (Detroit, Michigan): In the words of the Prophet Amos...

*(scripture)*

*Hymn: "Amazing Grace" (Verses 1, 2, and 3 will be sung by soloists)*
*The Lord has promised good to me, his word my hope success;*
*He will my shield and portion be, as long as life endures.*

*Words of Welcome*

F. BELTON JOYNER JR. (Raleigh, N.C.): What do you do with a God who won't quit? What do you do? What do you do with a God who won't let go?

God is a God of history. God moves in history in order to reach and claim God's people. That's our story. God touches history with the presence of grace. That's our experience. That's who we are.

Consider, Moses leads the people out of bondage. Consider, Nebuchanezzar becomes an unwitting servant of the one who owns history. Consider, Rahab takes risk for a people not her own. Consider, Amos speaks a word of justice and judgment to a nation that's lost its focus. God is a God in history.

And crash! With the softness of a baby and the hardness of a cross, God enters history in the incarnate word Jesus Christ! Nothing makes more clear the fullness of God's presence in this world, than the presence in this world of that cosmic Christ.

We build boundaries, barriers, blocks. But God gate-crashes history, comes among us and won't let go.

No wonder when we people of faith are at our best, we care about the daily news of history as well as the good news of faith. God is in both.

So it has been in our Weslyan heritage: lives of faith lived in the midst of the world; Holy Club trips to the debtor's prison; John Wesley's care for saving children when a society said, "Children were for using"; Wesley's passionate dying voice against slavery in this land.

Thus it's in our Biblical roots and in our faith journey heritage to witness for human and civil rights for all persons. Our social principles say it specifically: "Certain basic human rights and civil liberties are due all persons."

If God's prevenient grace is probing for a place for the spirit to land, how can I not give full human dignity to each soul? If God's image is stamped on that human sister or brother, how can I not acknowledge divine reflection in that child of God?

Yet we've not always seen that image—yet we have not always acknowledged that grace—or seen that all persons—all persons breathe the same air molecules as did our incarnate Lord, and God calls us to repent.

In 1992, a majority of those voting here in Colorado, approved an amendment to the State Constitution, Amendment Number Two, which some of our colleagues in United Methodism felt was at odds with our historic Wesleyan witness for human and civil rights for all.

Some of our family saw the amendment to deny to gay, lesbian and bisexual persons basic human civil rights, and our tradition says "No" to such denial.

To be sure, some of our United Methodist kin supported the amendment, and saw it as an extension of our official denominational view that the practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching.

But from across the connection, came the voices of those who felt that in light of the passage of the amendment, it was no longer appropriate for this General Conference to meet in the state of Colorado. And yet, here we are. Rather than leaving this moment of history, we have stayed to see how God might be working in this, and how God would have us work in this.

We call ourselves to prayers of repentance for ways we violated or looked past others. We make witness to God's freeing gift of basic rights for all humankind. Amendment Two...its fate is now in the courts. And us... what about us? Welcome! Enjoy the God that comes into history, and won't let go. So let us stand in heart or in posture, to acknowledge the presence of that God.

CALL TO WORSHIP

*JOYNER: The Spirit of God is moving...*
*AUDIENCE: Like the rushing of a mighty wind. We feel God's presence in our midst.*
*JOYNER: The Spirit of God is moving...*
*AUDIENCE: And we are "strangely warmed." God's fire melts hearts turned to stone; breaking down the barriers which have too long divided us.*
*JOYNER: The Spirit of God is moving...*
*AUDIENCE: Restoring sight to those who are spiritually blinded. Creating new words of praise for those who have lost their voices. Empowering those paralyzed by fear.*

*JOYNER: Spirit of the Living God fall on us afresh.*
*Spirit of the Living God fall on us afresh.*
*Melt us, mold us, fill us, use us.*
*AUDIENCE: The Spirit of God is moving.*
*JOYNER: Amen.*
*AUDIENCE: Amen.*

COLLECT FOR PURITY

*EVERYONE: Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hidden.*
*Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,*
*that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name, through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

*MARY SILVA (Rio Grande Conference): (speaking in Spanish) Scripture: reading Ephesians 1:3-12*

*JOYNER: reading Ephesians 1:3-12*

MEDITATION

WILLIAM ABRAHAM (SW Texas): Let us pray together.

Oh God, we pray that you will take our minds and think through them; that you will take my lips and speak through them; but that above all, you will take our hearts and set them on fire with love for you and for our neighbor, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The word of the living God as we find it in the Gospel according to St. Matthew, chapter nine. *(reading of Matthew 9)*

A letter of the Reverend John Wesley, near London, February 1, 1777: "My dear brother Christopher: James Curshaw, an obscure Irishman, is stark, staring mad. He prophesies that all the Methodists are to go over to America in the belly of a whale." Now happily, the first Methodists from Ireland who came to this remarkable continent did not come in the belly of a whale. And happily they did not represent the eccentric James Curshaw.

Robert Strawbridge, when he came, was, indeed, something of a maverick. When he showed up in Frederick, Maryland around 1762, he was a strong-willed individual who was prone to take ecclesiastical law into his own hands, and yet, God was able to make use of this remarkable itinerant preacher. And we see in Strawbridge all the passion, and the intensity and the industry which did so much to make Methodism a pivotal movement in western Christianity even before we began a church.

Now, as we remember and celebrate today what God has done through our movement and our church as an instrument of social justice across the world, it's very important that we place this crucial aspect of our work and witness in an appropriate theological and spiritual context.

I think it's fair to say that at the outset we're only too aware, we are aware, surely, that we're here to celebrate not what we have done. We are here to celebrate what God has done in his mercy in and through the appearing of his Kingdom among us. And I think it is just as well that we put the matter that way. For otherwise, we might have to spend as much time in repentance as we do in celebration and in commitment.

Our record in the matter of social justice and natural and civil rights is frankly a mixed one. Sometimes it's a stem from our natural conservative instincts, instincts which are clearly visible in Wesley himself. At other times our reticences stem from the ambiguity and deeply contested character of all political and social claims.

Now our prophets, of course, have been very sure that they have had a word from the Lord in no uncertain terms. But our prophets have not always been infallible, so there's always been room also for debate and contention, and the same is true, I suspect, today. So we need to carry ourselves with an appropriate degree of humility and circumspection. So we do here, now, celebrate what God has done in and through our efforts—even through our flawed efforts.

Now, what's fascinating to me as I read the record of our church in the area of social justice is the very particular theological and spiritual context which made that possible. These components, I think, this spiritual and theological context is incipiently visible in the passage that I read from Matthew—certainly visible in the passage from Ephesians.

Why are we so concerned about matters of social justice? Of human and civil rights? In part, surely, it is because we are utterly committed to the gospel of the coming of the Kingdom of God.

There is no going back on that. Any movement which takes the gospel—this gospel—seriously cannot restrict the faith to a circle of private existence or experience.

The Kingdom of God is inescapably political and social in its connotations. Entry into that is inescapably personal but entry into that Kingdom leads us ineluctably out into history—into creation—into society so that God's wonderful rule may come in every nook and cranny of the world. Yet that Kingdom which we proclaim into which we enter—was announced and made visible in a way that was different from the run of the mill of politics of Christ's day, or for that matter, any other day. That Kingdom's arrival was born in deep compassion.

When Jesus saw the crowds he had compassion for them because they were harassed and helpless. Work in the Kingdom takes seriously the disorder, the confusion and the darkness of human existence. It acknowledges that work is difficult and demanding. That therefore, it utterly depends upon prayer. So he said to his disciples the harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Pray, therefore, that the Lord will send laborers into the harvest. This work is to be carried out incarnationally by people—by ordinary people like you and I. And so these disciples were initiated into the ways of Jesus. And eventually he gave to them an inimitable authority over the destructive and disruptive powers at work in the world.

Part of the genius of our movement has been the ability to integrate these different components of the Christian faith into a dynamic life-giving reality. At our best we have held them together in love and fellowship. We've been personally rooted in the gospel of the Kingdom—driven by compassion— committed to the hard labor of harvesting—girded about with prayer—sold on fellowship and small groups and interpersonal contact—and utterly committed, surely, to the ending of injustice and oppression and slavery and poverty in God's world. Now to be sure, we have wobbled, and we have wavered. And no doubt we will wobble and we will waver again, but we humbly offer that wobbling and wavering to God. And we know that he will make manifest his Kingdom in and through it all.

And what then of the future? Can we incorporate our commitment to civil rights and justice into the mission of our church, thoroughly and naturally? I think we can, if we take seriously and think seriously about the mission of the church as it is laid out here.

The wider context in Matthew, it seems to me, is fascinating at this point. This passage that I have read is one of three passages. Chapter four gives us a wonderful account of Jesus going out and taking Galilee by storm. He didn't need a public relations firm to attract the crowds. The crowds came—so many of them that by the time you get to chapter nine you have what happens here—gathering the disciples, commissioning them to go out and do this work. And that wonderful and final commissioning in chapter 28: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you, and lo, I am with you always to the close of the age."

The disciples' work is clear. We are to go and make disciples, baptizing and teaching. And that is bonded. This is the wonder of it all. It is bonded on the one hand by the comprehensive authority of our risen Lord, and on the other it is bonded by the presence of the risen Lord with us here and now. We dare to go under the authority then, not of some secular philosophy or movement, but under the authority of Jesus Christ. We're not going to be afraid to work with other people who do not share those convictions. We can do that with flair. And as we go over against the secular world we seek assiduously to make disciples.

This is no narrow or sentimental or cheap project. It involves making disciples, that is, intentionally forming agents of the Kingdom of God who know God for themselves in justification and sanctification, and who know God so well that the whole of creation and society and history is to be brought under his compassionate rule and Kingdom. And as we go, we will be bonded by the double blessing of Christ's authority and presence?

Now, let me make this concrete. I began my ministry in the Irish Methodist Church in a housing estate in Belfast which at that time had the worst murder rate in western Europe. Across from the front door of the church, there was a shabine. Now, what's a shabine? It's very simple. It's an illegal drinking club, which was in this case run by a band of local terrorists.

On one occasion I visited one of my church leaders in an apartment above the shabine. He had yielded to temptation. I found both he and his wife lying flat out drunk and naked, soaked in their own urine.

We had no windows in the church because we could not get insurance to cover them. They were broken every time we put them back in. And there were occasions when we found dead bodies dumped at the rear of the church. I learned an awful lot from that experience. But one thing I learned above all else. I learned how important it is to make uncompromising disciples if we are to be serious about social transformation.

I recall the women who had been on the peace marches in Ireland and who had been spat on and kicked for doing it. I recall the young Christians who had to learn to survive in a hostile environment and I recall those who had to work so hard to build new structures for a stable society and for peace and for lasting justice. Now, we know, do we not, that we will not have any deep impact on the world if we restrict the faith to the private sphere and limit the Kingdom to some version of individual salvation. But equally we know that we will not change the world if we restrict our work to proclamations and declarations and whatever else we do without rooting people firmly and deeply in the Kingdom of God.

Let me put it very personally. Thirty years ago this year, I was wobbling my way into the Christian theothought of atheism. As a seeker, seeking the Kingdom of God, one thing was clear even then. If you are going to ask me to go out there under the front lines and help change the world, then make me a disciple of Jesus Christ. Teach me the faith. Nourish me in compassion. Bring me into and root me in the Church. Introduce me to the working of the Holy Spirit, and teach me to fast and pray and stay the course. Don't leave that to others to do that.

And if you make me a disciple, make me a genuine disciple of the Kingdom. Introduce me to the rule of God which has come in Jesus Christ. Introduce me to the justice and to the implications of that in the social and political sphere without fear. Make me a disciple who is acquitted of my sin, and who is liberated to serve God and the neighbor with passion, with a passion for justice and peace.

This vision, it seems to me, of making disciples, has been central to the Christian faith at its best. It's been at the heart of our Church in its origins, and it is crucial, I dare to say, to our faithfulness unto God for the future. And to our God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be all glory, majesty, dominion,

and power, both now and unto ages of ages. Amen.

*(Applause)*

*Hymn: "River of Tears, Streams of Justice"*

*Witness: Andrei Kim, Moscow, Russia;*

*Translated by: Tobias Dietze*

I greet you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ, our Savior. And I greet you in the name of all our church neighbors of the Russia United Methodist Church. When I was leaving Russia and my church, I asked my church members to pray for this conference, that it would be under the leadership of God, and all of its outcomes would be for the sake of the Gospel of Christ. So at this moment, more than 6,000 miles from here, the young Russian Methodist Church is praying for you.

Our country, Russia, is having a time of hardship now. There are a lot of problems in economic life, politics, and spiritual life. And the situation is such that in his own country, the Russian citizens do not have any guarantees for life and civil rights. Indeed, we have a saying in Russia that says, guarantees are given only by the Lord and the Funeral Services Bureau.

The most important problem for the Russians at this moment is how to earn their daily bread. And of course, man needs his daily bread, and he needs certain conditions to lead a normal life. And these conditions do not exist; that already means that there is no normal life. And of course, the situation is used by those who want the return to the olden times, who want to create nationalist tendencies, and who seek the enemy everywhere.

I do not want to speak about politics and economy, but I want to concentrate on the spiritual life in Russia. The problem is mostly illustrated by the statement from Sugannoff (spelled phonetically), a candidate for presidency in Russia which was made recently. He said, "If I will be elected for president, I will prohibit any professions, denominations, apart from Russian Orthodoxy. This is a very real threat, because the Russian Orthodox Church agrees to that and makes also some efforts in that direction. In spite of all the material problems, a lot of people come to the church because they are seeking spiritual food, since man does not live on bread alone. And, of course, the major part of the population came to the Russian Orthodox Church as the prevailing church in Russia. Regrettably, in many of these Russian Orthodox churches—in their—sermons—priests preach about the destroying power and strength of other denominations and of their untruthfulness. That's why they want to prohibit any other new denominations.

Last year, I had the possibility to take part in a conference of the Russian Orthodox Church as a representative of the United Methodist Church in Russia. The central issue of that conference was mission in the Russian Orthodox Church and their understanding of proselytizing. There was a very specific understanding of liberty, liberty of religion. Their understanding of liberty means, not equality of all denominations, but a privileged position of the Russian Orthodox Church as the traditional, the cultural, and the religious heritage of the country. Those privileges do have to be confirmed and sanctified by state law. And I said, of course we don't argue that the Russian Orthodox Church is the main denomination in Russia and has the biggest cultural and social heritage.

But on the other hand, the presence of different denominations and even sects in Russia, this is only for the good—even of Russian Orthodoxy—because it stimulates the Russian Orthodox Church to strengthen its efforts to force their troubles for mission in the country. And to prohibit other denominations would also be a spiritual loss for Russian Orthodoxy. Those words, those were my words, were not accepted at the conference.

I myself find my church weak spirits, what this position of the Russian Orthodox Church means. After two years, we were kicked out of the building of the public library where we had worship services on Sundays. Our church was hopeless and was in danger of being extinguished. But, thanks to God, we found a new room, new premises, and our church is living. And this is the problem not only of our church, but all non-Russian Orthodox denominations in Russia. And each year it is becoming more difficult to preach the Word of God in a Protestant or non-Russian Orthodox congregation. But those difficulties only strengthen our belief. And I believe that, thanks to our and your prayers, I believe that the grace of God and the will of God will prevail in Russia, and the Kingdom of the Lord will do well there also. May our Lord bless you. Thank you very much.

*(applause)*

*Hymn: "As Your Children Lord"; Tune: Kum ba yah, My Lord*

*As your children, Lord, we are here (3X)*

*Lord, we are here, O Lord, we are here.*

*Dyeti muiy tvahyee, O Gospod (3X)*

*muiy zdyes, O Gospod.*

*Fill our spirits, Lord, with your love (3X)*

*O Lord, give your love.*

*Dai lyubov svaiyou, O Gospod; (3X)*

*na polni, dushi nam.*

*Witness: Dorothy Yeoman, Elgin, Illinois*

For almost 12 years, I've been going down to the Dwight Correctional Center in Dwight, Illinois, the prison for women there, as a volunteer. And to begin this ministry, Church Women United decided to build a chapel and a children's visitation center there. It took us ten years to raise the needed funds and a lot of state and government interference, but we did it!

Now that chapel is being used daily, and we have felt that, when a mother is imprisoned, her children suffer from the enforced incarceration. And so, in the children's visitation center, mothers can visit their children in a

more homelike atmosphere, read to them, and play games with them; and we've raised funds for toys and books as well.

There are almost 800 women incarcerated at Dwight and between 35 and 50 of them attend the monthly Bible study that I've led. Eighty percent of these women are abused and battered, but because they're poor, most of an ethnic minority, and have not had the best legal advice, they're serving time in prison.

John Wesley, our founder of Methodism, told us that justice should be our concern, and justice for those imprisoned was his plea. Now in England—John Wesley's home—in 1969, the death penalty was abolished. In this country, in the past 75 years, 417 people have been found to be wrongly convicted of their crimes and 23 of those human beings were executed, but were innocent. Even though we now execute criminals on all sides, violent crimes continue to rise. And because of the high cost of executions and appeals, some criminals are serving only 20 percent of their sentences. How many laid-off police officers is one execution worth?

Recently, there was a story in the national press, maybe some of you have read it. Illinois was going to execute the first woman in almost 60 years. Gwen Garcia had killed her abuser. If I told you the whole story of Gwen Garcia's life, you'd hardly believe it. On death row, she lost all hope, and in writing me, she said why should she have other appeals? She'd never had justice given her, why should she expect it now? And so she wanted to die.

Amnesty International then entered the picture, publicized Gwen's past life. She watched her mother commit suicide as a very young child. She was raped repeatedly by an uncle with whom she lived, and was forced into a marriage by her family for which they were paid $1,500.

She was then abused and sexually mutilated by her Iranian husband. When her baby daughter was to be given back to that family to be raised, she held that child in her arms and smothered her, rather than have her go to live the same way she had lived. She was found guilty of murder of that baby daughter, sentenced to 20 years, and because of good behavior was out in ten years.

Out of prison, she married, and was again abused, and so she killed her abusive husband. And for this she was given the death penalty.

I was asked if I would sign a petition for clemency to be sent to the governor, and I did, not just to save Gwen's life, but because I'm a United Methodist lay women and a disciple of Christ. And I don't believe in the death penalty, which is also stated in our Social Principles.

Bianca Jagger came from New York City, and I'm sure that her celebrity status brought this case more into the public eye than my pleas. But just 12 hours before Gwen was going to be executed, the governor commuted her sentence to life in prison without parole.

I continue to stand against capital punishment, but sometimes I feel that I'm standing alone; for how many United Methodists, either laity or clergy, are speaking out against it? Another victim of abuse sitting on death row in Illinois has asked me to help with her clemency plea, and I intend to do that.

Thank you for listening to my plea. I promise to keep my commitment for battered women serving time in prison. And I'll continue to try and help them in my prison ministry. Thank you.

*(Applause)*

*Solo: "Help Us Accept Each Other" Steven Kimbrough*

*Witness: Randy Miller, San Francisco, California*

*Out of the wilderness we cry, O Lord. God, hear our prayer. And how, how shall I sing, sing the Lord's song in a foreign land?*

My dear brothers and sisters, I rise before you this morning to witness to the redeeming power of Jesus Christ, and to tell the good news that God's spirit is even now at work, reconciling and healing all those whom the Spirit touches. I know that the God who has brought us thus far on our journey will not forsake us until we are perfected in grace.

My sisters and brothers, I rise before you this morning as a proud African-American, as a gay man, as a Christian, a United Methodist, and a child of God, seeking God's will for my life, the life of the church, and the life of the world. I have been asked to provide a witness this morning to the terrible scourge of discrimination faced by gays and lesbians, bisexuals and transgendered persons all over the world.

Although I am not yet 40 years old, I have seen enough discrimination and hatred as an African-American man and as an openly gay man, to turn the heart to stone.

While attending seminary in Atlanta in the 1980s, I witnessed the torching of a newly-built Metropolitan Community Church simply because it was a place that welcomed gay and lesbian Christians. I waited for the outcry from the religious community that I naively thought must inevitably come when a house of God is desecrated. The silence was deafening. Lord, have mercy on us!

While working at the General Board of Discipleship in Nashville, Tennessee, I met a gay man in church who had suffered irreparable brain damage after having been savagely beaten by a group of angry young teenagers who came upon him and his lover sitting in their car together. His lover was beaten to death. Lord, have mercy upon us!

And in my own life, I have known the fear of losing my job and livelihood. I have felt the discrimination that comes from being born both African-American and gay. I have started over far too many times and searched far too often in vain for job openings where living proudly and openly, as God created all of us to be, was not a liability, but an asset. I have felt the alienation that must always go hand in

hand with discrimination. I know the rejection of being the unwelcome guest, even in God's house, even in this Church.

In this very state in which we hold this great conference, a law has been passed which would deny me my civil rights, and not allow me to seek the legal remedies should I lose my job or home simply because I am a gay man. Now those who support this measure argue that they are only protecting all of us against the special rights of a small minority. In response to that, I hear the melodic voice of Coretta Scott King at a recent conference in Atlanta that I attended. Quoting her husband Martin, "We must come to see," she said, "that we are bound in an inescapable web of mutuality, and an injustice anywhere is an injustice everywhere."

*(Applause)*

As United Methodists and the spiritual children of John Wesley, we come from a long tradition that has proudly stood and defended the human and civil rights of all people.

Discrimination and intolerance, no matter how they clothe themselves, and no matter where they occur, are great evils; no matter where they occur all around the world, are great evils. They are not made more holy because some of those who support the repeal of the rights of lesbians and gays have communion with us in God's Church. They are not made more holy. As Christians, we dare not rest with simply supporting the civil rights of gay and lesbian people and all people. To paraphrase Jesus, "Even those who are without the fellowship of God, do this."

Jesus calls us to do more. Jesus calls us to embrace the exile and lift up the downtrodden, and surely, surely, that must include gay and lesbian people.

Let us pray today, my brothers and sisters, for a new understanding of the heart, that will, in the twinkling of an eye, give us an understanding of the sanctity of the human and civil rights of all God's children.

Let us pray that the time will come now, and come quickly, when we will no longer need civil rights laws to protect the least of these, because God's law will be written in every human heart.

Let us pray that God's reconciling love will fall on us even now, even here, in this General Conference, and that we will in tearful forgiveness, embrace and comfort each other for past wrongs and as God's free children, reconcile.

And finally, my gay and lesbian brothers and sisters I say, lift up your hearts, for God has not forsaken us, and our liberation must come as surely as morning follows the long night and as spring follows the bitter winter. I say, lift up your hearts, for our salvation is at hand. Now, now is the moment to heal our Church. Now is the moment to cast down the walls that divide us and be made one. Now is God's moment. Now. Now. Amen. I pray that this is a faithful witness.

*(Applause)*

*Hymn: "Jesus, United By Thy Grace"*

*Jesus, united by thy grace and each to each endured,*
*with confidence we seek thy face and know our prayer is heard.*

*Witness: Minerva Carcaño, Rio Grande Conference, Albuquerque, New Mexico*

As I have considered speaking to you about human and civil rights, I have been haunted by the image of darkness within.

Every time I have attempted to look out into society at the invitation to share with you an insight of the subject of human and civil rights, I have been drawn again and again inwardly. Even as I have desired to say to you, as a woman of color, that the Church has been courageous and faithful, I have been silenced—silenced by a spirit much greater than my own that forces me to see darkness rather than light—that does not allow me to speak a word of affirmation—that requires rather that I speak a word of judgment that light might truly shine.

We, the United Methodist Church, are constant defenders of person's human and civil rights. We are quick to condemn any person or institution that violates the sacredness of human life, that devalues a person's gifts and abilities, that tears apart someone's body or spirit. We, indeed, strive to be a beacon of light in a world of darkness. Yet there is a deep darkness within us—a darkness so profound and so enveloping, that we have been swallowed up by it, seduced by its comfort, no longer able to recognize for ourselves the difference between light and darkness. Our racism, our sexism, and our homophobia are symptoms of our acquiescing to the darkness within.

I remember, not so long ago, arriving at a jurisdictional conference on a bright, shining summer day—summer morning—entering the place of meeting and watching the sunlight streaming through. The election of bishops was the agenda at hand. And as the conference began, a word came across the floor of that conference, a guiding message: "Two is enough. Two is enough. Two is enough." It was an unholy mantra, spoken as if sacred word. And it moved across that sunlit meeting room, filling it with great darkness.

What did it mean? It meant that no other Black person would be elected to the episcopacy on that occasion, because there were already two bishops who were Black serving in that jurisdiction, and two was enough.

It did not matter whether the Spirit was lifting up a Black brother or sister for such a call. It did not matter whether a Black sister or brother had greater gifts for the ministry of the episcopacy than the others being considered. It did not matter whether the Church would be blessed by the leadership of a person who happened to be Black. It simply did not matter, for "two was enough."

I recall a day when a sister left the United Methodist Church. She walked away because she determined

one day that she had been beaten down long enough. Though gifted, the Church had always found reasons for not receiving her gifts. Though wise, the Church consistently told her that she simply did not understand. Though deeply spiritual, the Church found her spirituality lacking. Though faithful, she was never faithful enough for the Church. She was a United Methodist clergy woman who served throughout this connectional Church of ours. Included, but always excluded—recognized, but always denied. In the light of retrospect, she understood that the problem was that, though she was a White person, she was not a man. Sometime after leaving the Church, she said to me, "I went from the darkness of abuse to the light of healing."

And I cannot help but recognize before you that it was precisely at a General Conference that I came to know the truth about a Christian's attitude toward a relationship with homosexual persons. I was a seminarian then, struggling with the issue of homosexuality, desperately wanting to be faithful. I was standing with some of the most godly persons I knew at that General Conference. Their lips spoke of nothing other than God's love and God's mercy.

But then a self-avowed homosexual crossed our path, another United Methodist, and those lips of sweetness began to spew out the most vile attacks against that brother. Not loud enough for him to hear, of course, but loud enough to help me hear. Hatred was not the answer, nor was it exclusion, nor apathy. The right Christian attitude towards a relationship with homosexual persons must be one of nothing less than love. That was a long, long time ago, but things have not changed. Sweet lips still spew foul darkness upon us. And love—love is still the bearer of light.

It is no mystery that the world around us remains in darkness in spite of our concerted efforts as United Methodists to stand for human and civil rights. Though we are certainly not the Light, we are called to be the embodiment of the Light. Unfortunately, our embodiment of the Light appears to be only skin-deep—an inner core of darkness resisting the indwelling of the eternal Light. And thusly, dis-empowering our efforts to truly stand for the human and civil rights of persons.

May God have mercy upon us, and may we someday, as United Methodists, and as the Christians we claim to be, and as the Christians we can be, be truly God's light in a world of darkness; true defenders of persons' human and civil rights.

*Solo: "Precious Lord"*

*Witness: Francisco de Castro Maria, Angola*

Amen. First of all, I would like to thank the office of the General Conference for inviting me through Iliff School of Theology, where I am a student, to speak briefly on this crucial topic, human rights in Angola. I'm sure that I'm not the right person to speak on this topic, but there is such a reason why I accepted to do so. I accepted to speak on this topic because I am a Christian and also I am an Angolan.

As a Christian, I believe that one of the cardinal messages of Christianity is to emphasize the peculiarity and importance of the human being in the universe. And as an Angolan, I think that it is important that Angola addresses itself to the issues involved since one can say that Angola, like all African countries, suffers some violation of human rights.

For more than four centuries, Angola people experienced the violation of human rights and racial discrimination due to the colonization imposed on Angolans and denied the Black people the right to call themselves as humans by being providers of labor for the prosperity of Portuguese colonizers. Angola won its independence from Portugal twenty years ago. Now, in independent Angola, the single most serious threat to human rights is going to come from lack of development caused by external forces.

When people cannot satisfy their basic wants and needs such as food, shelter, and employment, they become restive, and the leaders respond by curtailing even further other human rights. So, although there have been encouraging signs lately, that leaders of Angola are showing concern about human rights, the grave economic, political, and social situation in which Angola is right now, gives us cause for concern.

Secondly, I believe that the number of refugees is an indicator of the degree of violation of human rights in Angola. Currently, Angola has more than 500,000 refugees, and has been described by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees as one of the worst refugee problems in the African continent. I hope this situation indicates that there is a lot to be done by churches and by all the people of Angola to solve this problem. And of course, we'll need your prayers and help. Are you ready to pray for us and give us help? Thank you.

*Reprise: "Precious Lord"*

## A SEASON OF PRAYER

BISHOP R. JOB: Prayer is native language for us all. Prayer is not passive, but one of humankind's most profound activities that always leads to action. And so we enter this time of prayer with confidence in the One for whom all things are possible.

Our Season of Prayer begins with invitation, then moves to silence, adoration, petition, intercession, covenant, and concludes with the prayer that is common to us all. The bridge between each segment of our prayer time will be a musical response, and you are invited to sing as our music directors give us leadership.

When we come to the time of petition and intercession, we invite you to stand and form small clusters of prayer where you are. Join hands if you wish. And during this time you may, if you wish, speak your prayers audibly.

Each of these sessions is a brief time, but you don't need to worry

about time, because, again, we will be prompted by the music. Will you join me now in the prayer of invitation?

Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. Luke 18:1

UNISON PRAYER

*Loving God,*
*We come to watch and pray at your invitation.*
*Because you have promised to be with those*
*Who gather in your name, we come with joy.*
*We welcome your presence into our midst*
*And ask for your help in this time of prayer*
*So that we may pray and live as you desire*
*In the name and spirit of Jesus. Amen.*

SILENCE

*Silence helps us to hear the voice of the one who has everything to tell us and nothing to learn from us. —Evelyn Underhill.*
*Each person is invited to listen quietly and carefully as individually and corporately we seek God's will.*

RESPONSE

*Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom.*
*Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom.*

ADORATION

*In the school of adoration the soul learns why the approach to every other goal had left it restless.— Douglas Steere.*
*Individually and silently we offer our thanksgiving and praise to God.*

RESPONSE

PETITION

*Prayer is an invitation to God to intervene in our lives. —Abraham Joshua Heschel.*
*In small groups of four to six we pray audibly and with each other for our deepest needs.*

RESPONSE

INTERCESSION

*To clasp the hands in prayer is the beginning of an uprising against the disorder of the world.— Karl Barth.*
*Continuing in the same small cluster groups we pray for God's intervention in the places, persons and situation most needing God's help.*

RESPONSE

COVENANT

*What we need is a desire to know the whole will of God, with a fixed resolution to do it.— John Wesley.*
*Together we offer all that we are to God as we make the Wesley Covenant prayer our own.*
*I am no longer my own, but yours.*
*Put me to what you will.*
*Rank me with whom you will.*
*Put me to doing, put me to suffering,*
*let me be employed by you or laid aside for you,*
*exalted for you or brought low by you.*
*Let me be full, let me be empty,*
*let me have all things, let me have nothing.*
*I freely and heartily yield all things*
*to your pleasure and disposal.*
*And now, O glorious and blessed God,*
*Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,*
*you are mine, and I am yours. So be it.*
*May the covenant which I have made on earth,*
*be ratified in heaven. Amen.*

RESPONSE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BISHOP JOB: Together we offer our prayers and our lives and our shared destiny in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray, saying, Our Father...

BENEDICTION
*F. Belton Joyner*

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

*WILLIAM ABRAHAM: Let us all stand together. Now, relax, and stand tall. Revel in the mercy of God our Father. Draw unsparingly on the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Rejoice in the ever-present power of the Holy Spirit. In that mercy, grace, and power, bind up the broken hearted. Heal the sick. Feed the hungry. Take care of the poor. Set at liberty the captives. And bring release to those who are oppressed. Work incessantly for justice for all peoples and for all persons. And proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord. And may the blessing of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit rest and abide on all of us this day and unto ages of ages. And the people of God said, "Amen."*
*Hymn: " God of Grace and God of Glory"*

*Courtesies and Privileges Committee*

BISHOP OTT: I expect that you would want me on your behalf to offer thanks to the Commission on the General Conference, and in particular the team that they pulled together to bring this special call to awareness. Thank you.

*(applause)*

We have only a few necessary items before you will be adjourned to a welcomed break and then legislative committees. We need to hear from the Courtesies and Privileges Committee, the Presiding Officers Committee, and announcements. Bill Cook. Is Bill Cook available? Thank you, sir. This is a report from the Committee on Courtesies and Privileges.

BILL COOK: We have in our midst an ordained elder from Northern Illinois we've been asked to acknowledge, Rev. Tom Gray, who is working across the country against the expansion of legalized gambling. He has testified before the U.S. Senate, U.S. House, been featured in *U.S. News and World Report*, he speaks for us, as United Methodists. He will be available from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. today to let you ask questions and hear what he's doing. He is a field director for National Coalition Against Legalized Gambling. Rev. Tom Gray? I don't

see him, but if you would, welcome him.

*(applause)*

Bishop Ott, we would request the permission of the conference to ask Bishop Peter Dabale to speak upon the crisis in Nigeria.

BISHOP OTT: You are requesting that at this time, or at a later time?

COOK: At this time or at a later date.

BISHOP OTT: Perhaps it would be well for you and the committee to decide with the Agenda Committee on the placement of that. Would you do that?

COOK: I will be happy to.

BISHOP OTT: Thank you very much. Rex Bevins for Presiding Officers Committee, please.

REX BEVINS: Tomorrow morning's presiding officer on Friday, April 19th, will be Bishop Ann Shearer of the Missouri Area.

BISHOP OTT: Thank you, and now to our conference secretary.

*Thursday Morning Announcements*

CAROLYN MARSHALL: Several announcements for our information and continuing responsibilities. The first one would call for the Committee on Agenda and Calendar as nominated now by the Council of Bishops and published on page 61 in today's *Daily Christian Advocate* to convene in room A210 at 12:30 today for organization.

The choirs which are singing for us each morning before worship and then also during the worship experience will be also sharing of their ministry at 2 p.m. each afternoon. That will be in the prefunctionary area near the Ballroom. Please avail yourselves of these additional opportunities for the ministry in music which they bring to us.

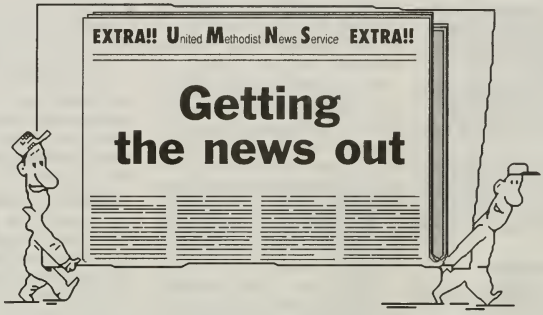
Several persons have brought to the attention of those responsible for facilities that there has not been opportunity to recycle paper. Several notes have arrived here saying there are recycling receptacles in the back of the rooms and to encourage all of us to please recycle as much paper as it is possible for us to do.

And lastly, but certainly one that you will all want to be aware of, as we move into our legislative committee meetings and then into sub-committee meetings, maybe even sub-subcommittee meetings, space—although it seems enormous as you enter this facility, is truly at a premium. However, it is extremely important that we not utilize hallways for those meetings. Some of you may be aware that yesterday when that happened, it just so coincided with the time that one of the fire marshals walked through. And we were on the verge of panic because they were ready to shut down the whole conference. So please adhere to holding all meetings within the confines of specified rooms. Thank you Bishop Ott.

BISHOP OTT: Thank you. In a moment I will call on a bishop of the Church, and the president of CIEMAL, to have our dismissal prayer. There are refreshments available. I would presume that you would be convening, unless other arrangements have been made, as soon as possible in your legislative committees. We have a distinguished guest with us on the platform through this morning's session, President of CIEMAL, Bishop Isaias Gutierrez. I've asked him to come and dismiss us.

BISHOP ISAIAS GUTIERREZ: Let us pray. (in Spanish)

*(prayer)*




## ✔ To your family and friends

Check the news daily by computer and telephone

– **Internet** http://www.umc.org/umns.html

– **InfoServ's Daily Roundup** 615-742-5432

## ✔ To your conference communicators

News and photos for your publications back home

## ✔ To the secular media

News and photos to **newspapers, radio, and TV** in your region, including Spanish and Korean language and Native American news outlets

## Questions? Ideas?

Check with **United Methodist News Service** in the Press Room, Ballroom I, Lower Level

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*Daily Report*

# Daily Christian Advocate

THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**Denver, Colorado** **Saturday, April 20, 1996** **Vol. 3 No. 5**

## Day Four: Prayer for Others, Legislation for the Church

The 72-voice choir of First United Methodist Church, Peoria, Ill., greeted delegates and visitors as they found their places to begin day four of General Conference. Led by Timothy Corday and augmented by the Dynamic Brass Quintet, also from Peoria, the choir set the stage for morning worship led by Alabama-West Florida Area Bishop William W. Morris.

Wisconsin Area Bishop Sharon Zimmerman Rader preached on "Prayers for Struggling Saints," continuing the deliberate effort to surround the conference with a mantle of prayer. She described a prayerful, honest relationship with God, growing from her experiences with United Methodists in Zimbabwe and readings from the Psalms. "A true relationship with another," she said, "demands that all of life is to be shared" with complete openness and honesty.

"The psalmist teaches us how to pray and how to live in relationship to God and to each other. Be honest. It is OK to cry out; cry out from isolation. It is also right to let loose with exuberant shouts of praise. Give expression to doubt; live in trust. Be honest about your anguish; sing with joy. Let God hear the sounds of guilt and hope."

### Plenary Session

Presiding Bishop Ann B. Sherer, Missouri Area, recognized Philip Fenn, Oklahoma Conference delegation clergy leader, and Ann Saunkeah, Oklahoma Indian Mis-

(continued on page 114)

### Agenda

**Saturday, April 20, 1996**

| | |
|---|---|
| **8:15 a.m.** | **Choral Music** |
| **8:30 a.m.** | **Worship** |
| **9:00 a.m.** | **Call to Order and Discernment**<br>**Committee on Courtesies and Privileges**<br>**Resolution on the Retirement of Robert Feaster**<br>**Presentation to U.S. Secretary of Education** |
| **9:15 a.m.** | **Committee on Hispanic Ministries Report**<br>**Presentation of Hispanic Hymnal** |
| **10:00 a.m.** | **Judicial Council and University Senate Nominations** |
| **10:10 a.m.** | **Break** |
| **10:30 a.m.** | **Calendar Items**<br>**Orientation (Coordinator of Calendar)**<br>**Action** |
| **12:15 p.m.** | **Committee on Presiding Officers Report**<br>**Committee on Agenda and Calendar Report**<br>**Announcements** |
| **12:30 p.m.** | **Lunch Recess** |
| **2:30 p.m.** | **Legislative Committees** |
| **5:00 p.m.** | **Dinner Recess** |
| **7:30 p.m.** | **Legislative Committees** |

### A Conference Moment



**Oklahoma delegate Judy Benson observes a moment of silence in remembrance of victims of the Oklahoma City bombing. While we are busy with meetings, our hearts have been listening to the many cries of God's people.**
*UMNS photo Mike DuBose*

(continued from front page)

sionary Conference, for a statement of concern and prayer honoring the memory of those who died, those who grieved and those who helped following the Oklahoma City bombing one year ago. While delegates were praying, extra forces kept watchful eyes on the convention center. Later the conference approved a suggestion by Chester Jones, Little Rock Conference, that a message of concern be faxed from the conference to Mayor Ron Norrick of Oklahoma City.

Delegate Randy Day, New York Conference, asked the body to hear a statement of concern over Israeli attacks on south Lebanon. The morning papers had reported a barrage killing at least 75 Lebanese civilians and wounding more than 100. Ohio West Area Bishop Judith Craig read the strongly worded statement, which said in part: "Self-defense is not a legitimate justification for so massive and calculated an effort. . . ." The conference then asked Council of Bishops President Woodie W. White to lead a delegation to Washington, D.C., to present the statement to President Clinton or Vice President Gore and report back to the conference. The full statement is printed elsewhere in this issue of the *DCA*.

Joy Moore, West Michigan, asked the conference to hear a statement by Bishop D.P. Dabale of Nigeria about conditions there. The bishop reminded delegates that the church had Evangelical United Brethren missionaries in Karim Lamido as early as 1923. The area is predominantly United Methodist. He described "an unusual showdown" between Christians and Moslems which escalated to an Easter Sunday incident in which "a whole village (Karim Maude) was completely [burned]," including 15 United Methodist churches and schools. At least 130 persons died; church members were displaced, rendered homeless and hungry. He asked for prayers and support for "all of Africa."

William Hinson, Texas Conference, asked for a point of personal privilege to "express pain as a member of this covenant community" over the statement of 15 bishops expressing their concern over "proscriptions in the *Discipline* against gays and lesbians within our church and within our ordained ministers." He urged the remaining bishops to "reassure us of your support for the *Discipline* and laws of our church."

Before turning to the business agenda, Bishop Sherer asked delegates to discuss one-on-one their hopes for the next few hours, God's hopes; and then pray together. She called on Portland Area Bishop William W. Dew Jr., General Council on Ministries president.

### GCOM Report

Bishop Dew reminded delegates that the GCOM and the General Council on Finance and Administration are the only two agencies that report directly to the conference floor, rather than through committees. As an introduction to the GCOM, Bishop Dew catalogued a long list of "listening to the church" efforts by general agencies, bishops and others through studies conducted over the past four to eight years, coordinated in part by GCOM. He also listed six proposals being considered to enhance ethnic ministries. He praised the general boards and agencies for their dedication and diligence, reflected in their reports to GCOM identifying key programs and initiatives by each one.

In a dramatic moment, Bishop Dew released the podium to Paul Dirdak, chair of the Interagency Task Force on AIDS, and Helen Worth, a task force member who said "God has been preparing me for this moment." She gave a moving account of her discovery that a blood transfusion had made her HIV positive, her subsequent acceptance by her church and her growing knowledge of and teaching ministry about AIDS. "Let God do the judging," she said. "All we have to do is love." She received a standing ovation.

Before returning to legislative committee work, delegates learned that U.S. First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, a lifelong United Methodist, will address the conference Wednesday, April 24, at 2 p.m. Warm applause greeted the announcement.

*—Roger Burgess*


## Daily Christian Advocate

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# Disciple Celebrates 10 Years of Transforming Lives

On Wednesday evening, General Conference delegates and visitors gathered to celebrate the 10th anniversary of Disciple Bible Study. It was an opportunity for the church to celebrate a "dream" that began in Flower Mound, Texas. In March 1986, a group of pastors, theologians, lay persons, a bishop, Christian educators, Bible scholars, publishers, editors and marketers shaped the vision that is now known as "Disciple: Becoming Disciples Through Bible Study."

The study was developed with the belief that people hunger for God's word and for the opportunity to meet in small groups to share their journey of faith. The study's goal is to help biblically literate people grow into disciples of Jesus Christ. More than 20,000 persons have been trained to lead Disciple groups, and more than 400,000 persons have participated in the 34-week study. Disciple is now available in English, German, Korean, Mandarin Chinese and Spanish. Training events have been held in Australia, Canada, England, Germany, Korea, Malaysia, Singapore, several countries in South America and the United States.



photo Brad Motta

The Disciple celebration began with fellowship, food and "birthday cake," as persons enthusiastically shared their Disciple experiences. Participants renewed friendships. Bonds developed as people realized they had a "shared experience" even if they lived thousands of miles apart.

The celebration moved to the ballroom for a 20-minute visual presentation of the Disciple story. Neil Alexander, president and publisher of The United Methodist Publishing House (UMPH), welcomed guests and hosted the event. Guests heard reflections by persons who were at the 1986 "dreaming" session and from key leaders.

Mr. Alexander recalled: "December 1992. The dream is in full flower. A third gathering of laity and Bible scholars, bishops, marketers, clergy, publishers and editors. Each had a story, and their witness was one: God is at work through Disciple. Slowly but surely, we are becoming a people of the Book. Experience confirmed direction. The people are ready to confront and be confronted by the hard words of the prophets. They are hungry for the meat of Paul's gospel. So the third Disciple study takes shape, and its message is direct. Call home." The crowd applauded enthusiastically at the announcement of the third phase, which will be available this summer.

The evening concluded with a presentation by the former UMPH president and publisher, Robert K. Feaster, to Bishop Richard B. Wilke and Julia Wilke for their contribution to the writing and development of Disciple. The Wilkes expressed their appreciation for Mr. Feaster's leadership and vision. Julia Wilke also paid tribute to two key contributors to Disciple's success: Nellie Moser, editor, and Wini Grizzle, program director.

The impact of Disciple cannot be overstated. It has been mentioned in the Laity and Episcopal addresses and in many conversations at General Conference. Ten years after its beginning, Disciple is helping to shape the direction of the church.

*—Bradford L. Motta*



photo Mike DuBose




photo Mike DuBose

## Your Guide to General Conference Terms

**ADCA**: Advance editions of the *Daily Christian Advocate*. Volume one contains reports and petitions from annual conferences and agencies, and volume two contains petitions from all others.

**Calendar Item**: the chronological number of committee items submitted to the calendar secretary appearing in the *DCA*.

**Consent Calendars**: three groups of calendar items that received overwhelming support from legislative committees (no more than five votes in opposition). The groupings are: 1) concurrence with proposed changes in the *Discipline*; 2) concurrence on non-*Disciplinary* petitions; 3) non-concurrence on all matters.

***DCA*: *Daily Christian Advocate***, a daily record published during General Conference that contains news, features, calendar items and a verbatim record of everything said in plenary sessions.

**Legislative Committee Item**: a number temporarily assigned to a petition or group of petitions enacted by a committee prior to being assigned a calendar number.

**Legislative Committee Recorders**: volunteers who input committee action into the Petition Electronic Tracking System.

**Legislative Committee Reporters**: volunteers who provide brief summaries of action for the Daily Christian Advocate.

**Minority Report**: When 10 persons or 10 percent of a committee (whichever is fewer) disagree with a committee recommendation, they may file a minority report that is given the same calendar number as the recommendation of the majority.

**Petitions**: requests from individuals, churches, annual conferences and agencies for changes in the *Book of Discipline*, the *Book of Resolutions*, or other aspects of the general church. Petition numbers identify the chronological order in which they were received, paragraph or topic, and source (see ADCA page 83).

## Can You Top This?

In the April 18 *DCA*, we mentioned Herman Will, who has attended 14 General Conferences and two Uniting Conferences. So far, no one has claimed to beat his record.

Now we're interested in other categories.

We're looking for the youngest delegate, the oldest delegate, delegates who are related to each other, the largest number of delegates from the same local church, the delegate who traveled the greatest distance to get to Denver, the delegate with the most hair-raising story of misadventures enroute to Denver, and the list goes on.

If you'd like to add your name and story to the "Can You Top This?" hall of fame, send a note to Barbara Dunlap-Berg at the *DCA*. We'll try to publish one "winner" a day during the remainder of General Conference.

## Comic Relief

Day 1: Delegates carry (in their arms) copies of their *DCA*s.

Days 2-3: Delegates carry briefcases and tote bags filled with *DCA*s and other resources.

Days 4-5: Delegates pull luggage carts and wheeled suitcases crammed with *DCA*s, resources, special-interest group literature and souvenirs.

Next week: Watch out! Delegates will be driving minivans to haul all the stuff.

*—Dawn M. Hand*

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Do you want the cat or the ball?

The legislative-committee language of concurrence and non-concurrence can easily elude the sharpest delegate. The Independent Commissions Legislative Committee was bailed out of a quandary by an observer, the Rev. Pat Looper, Riverdale, Ga., who is also a former member of the National Association of Parliamentarians.

Faced with how to handle a substitute motion and how that might affect concurrence/non-concurrence and after hearing multiple opinions from committee members on what substitution means, the chair turned to Ms. Looper.

In parliamentary language, she explained what the committee had done, then put the process in the language of the "parliamentarily challenged."

"You have a ball; now you want to substitute a cat. If you vote for the substitute, now you have a cat. You have now decided that you wanted a cat. You have voted on and decided for the cat. You now have to vote on the main motion which, again, is the cat!"

*—Ann Whiting and Kristin Knudson Harris*

# World Wide Web Broadens the Community of Faith

As the church moves toward the future, technology is broadening the community of faith in exciting new ways. Thanks to the World Wide Web, the excitment of General Conference is spreading for the first time to a world without borders. This year's General Conference proceedings, news and information can be experienced by anyone with a computer, a modem and a few free minutes.

This addition to General Conference has been many years in the making. In 1983 several denominations began experimenting with the use of electronic mail to create new communication opportunities on the electronic frontier. This program was called Computer Based Communications (CBC). From the 12 people who signed up initially, more than 10,000 persons from 22 denominations enrolled in CBC's successor, the Ecumenical Network, as well as its United Methodist affiliate, the Circuit Writer Network.

The World Wide Web, the interactive graphics and multimedia network, where much of the recent explosive growth of the internet has occurred, is the newest frontier to communicate the gospel message. Today more than 250 United Methodist churches, as well as hundreds of annual conferences, districts and ministries beyond the local church are connected to the World Wide Web. General boards and agencies, United Methodist News Service and other church entities are also a part of this growing outreach. Through the Compuserve system, Cokebury offers a complete online version of the *Daily Christian Advocate*. (The *DCA* is free to Cokesbury online users).

The use of computers at General Conference has grown significantly, due to the work of a dedicated group of people. The heart and soul of the system is the Petition Entry and Retrieval System (PETS). PETS is the brainchild of John Brawn, a professional computer programmer from San Jose, Calif. He created the mammoth data base from which the General Conference system operates. Every one of the thousands of petitions submitted to General Conference was entered into this system, and each can be tracked every step of the way throughout General Conference.

Dr. Susan Brumbaugh, the "webmaster" of the General Conference internet homepage, transfers all information to the World Wide Web page. She is excited about what is being done this year. During the 1992 General Conference, persons could call a toll-free number for information on petitions and other work of the conference. This line was staffed by one person. In 1996, access via the internet is virtually unlimited. "This year someone can sit at home and watch the 1996 *Discipline* as it [is developed]," Dr. Brumbaugh said.

The task of putting information on the internet is herculean. You can see the results of these efforts at the computer stations throughout the convention center or on the internet at the address http://www.gbgm-umc.org/GC. The internet is demonstrated daily at 1:30 p.m. in the Press Room (Ballroom 1, lower level). Get tickets for this event at the Press Room registration desk.

As the church looks toward the new millenium, the internet gives us a glimpse of the future—and a remarkable new tool in reaching the world with the message of God's love.

*—David Persons*

## Bishop Woodie White Leads Council of Bishops

On Thursday, the Council of Bishops elected Indiana Area Bishop Woodie W. White and Wisconsin Area Bishop Sharon Zimmerman Rader president and secretary respectively. In accepting the leadership of the 130-member council of active and retired United Methodist bishops, Bishop White acknowledged the valuable examples of his predecessors, particularly Los Angeles Area Bishop Roy I. Sano, outgoing council president.

Asking his episcopal colleagues to remember him in their daily prayers, Bishop White said he will seek to serve with "honor and distinction this body which I hold in such high regard."

Elected to a four-year term, Bishop Rader succeeds San Francisco Area Bishop Melvin G. Talbert. Retired Bishop Jack M. Tuell, Greenbank, Wash., was named assistant to the secretary.

In later action, the council nominated Bishop Emerito P. Nacpil, Manila, as president-designate for 1997. Council presidents traditionally serve one-year terms.

*—Lynne DeMichele*

## ♀♀ *Blessed Be the Women: Be Counted!* ♀♀

Observations from Legislative Committees Thursday and Friday:

- Higher Ed & Chap - Com action on Univ Senate & seminary monitoring: Males are 69% of committee and made 83% of comments. We affirm intentional and repeated efforts of Chairperson to encourage inclusive participation.
- Ministry - Com action on ordination proposals: Near parity in representation and participation - females are 38% of the committee and made 32% of the comments.
- Independent Commissions - Com action on some COCU and Christian Unity petitions: Men are 57% of committee and made 78% of comments. In action on GCSRW items, women were 52% of committee at that time and made 32% of comments.

Observations of unconscious behaviors that can exclude: Stepping on ends of others' sentences; interrupting and taking response opportunities from others; not waiting to be recognized before approaching microphone and speaking.

Celebration: We celebrated many committee chairpersons who regularly check with monitors to "see how they are doing" in building inclusive participation. Most are surprised at what data show, but all have been eager for feedback and intentionally apply learnings. *Blessed be!!!*

Information provided by the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women

# Judicial Council Decisions

DECISION NUMBER 778

IN RE: Meaning, Application and Effect of Pars. 270.2 and 735, With Specific Reference to Eligibility of Otherwise Qualified Spouse of A Bishop to Serve on the Jurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy.

DIGEST

There is no disciplinary provision prohibiting an otherwise qualified spouse of a bishop from serving on the Jurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy. However, it would appear unwise for such spouse to serve on the Jurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy as such service could present a real or potential conflict of interest, or an appearance of impropriety.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

The Pacific Northwest Conference has petitioned the Judicial Council for a declaratory decision interpreting the meaning, application and effect of Pars. 270.2 and 735, with specific reference to eligibility of an otherwise qualified spouse of a bishop to serve on the Jurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy.

Jurisdiction

The Judicial Council has jurisdiction under Par. 2616 of the 1992 *Discipline*.

Analysis

The *Discipline* is silent on the particular issue raised. Par. 623, which delineates the composition and responsibilities of the Jurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy, does not address this issue. Par. 270.2 pertains to the Pastor-Parish Relations (Staff-Parish Relations) Committee of a local church or charge. Par. 735 pertains to the Conference Committee on the Episcopacy.

Pars. 270.2 and 735 are instructive. Par. 270.2 prohibits an immediate family member of a pastor or staff member from serving on the Pastor-Parish Relations (Staff-Parish Relations) Committee. Similarly, Par. 735 prohibits immediate family members or the staff of any conference agency from serving on the Conference Committee on Episcopacy, with specified exceptions.

The rationale for the above cited prohibitions is that service on these respective committees by the prohibited individuals would present a real or potential conflict of interest. The same rationale would suggest that it would be unwise for an otherwise qualified spouse of a bishop to serve on the Jurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy.

This and related issues are matters which the General Conference should address in specific legislation.

Decision

There is no disciplinary provision prohibiting an otherwise qualified spouse of a bishop from serving on the Jurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy. However, it would appear unwise for such spouse to serve on the Jurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy as such service could present a real or potential conflict of interest, or an appearance of impropriety.

April 18, 1996

Signed by Tom Matheny, president, and Wayne Coffin, secretary

DECISION NO. 781

IN RE: Petition from the General Council on Finance and Administration for a Declaratory Decision as to the Constitutionality, Meaning, Application, and Effect of Paragraphs 507.1 and 923 of the 1992 *Discipline* as They Affect the Date on Which Newly-Elected Bishops Receive Salary from the Episcopal Fund.

DIGEST

Pars. 507.1 and 923 of the 1992 *Discipline* are constitutional, as they follow the direction of Pars. 15 and 25 of the Constitution in making plans for the support of the bishops of the church.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

The 1992 General Conference adopted the report of the General Council on Finance and Administration which included the following sentence: "The salary of a bishop newly elected in 1992 shall begin on September 1, 1992." Similar legislation is proposed to the 1996 General Conference. The General Council on Finance and Administration took action to petition the Judicial Council for a Declaratory Decision on whether the General Conference has the authority to adopt rules which set September 1 of the year of election as the beginning date for the salary of newly-elected bishops.

At an oral hearing on Saturday, April 13, 1996, Bishop Jack Tuell appeared for the Council of Bishops and Mary K. Logan appeared for the General Council on Finance and Administration.

(Judicial Council Decisions continued)

Theodore H. Walter recused himself and did not participate in any of the proceedings related to this decision.

Jurisdiction

The Judicial Council has jurisdiction under Par. 2616 of the 1992 *Discipline*.

Analysis

Par. 15 states that "[t]he General Conference shall have full legislative power over all matters distinctively connectional." Following this statement is a list of specific powers granted to the General Conference which includes "[t]o define and fix the powers, duties, and privileges of the episcopacy, to adopt a plan for the support of the bishops, to provide a uniform rule for their retirement, and to provide for the discontinuance of a bishop because of inefficiency or unacceptability." Further, Par. 25 states that one of the responsibilities of the Jurisdictional Conferences is "to elect bishops and to cooperate in carrying out such plans for their support as may be determined by the General Conference." Par 17, one of the Restrictive Rules, states that "[t]he General Conference shall not change or alter any part or rule of our government so as to do away with episcopacy or destroy the plan of our itinerant general superintendency."

Prior to 1976 newly-elected bishops were appointed to an episcopal area where their duties began immediately. Since 1976, the appointment to an episcopal area is effective on September 1 of the year of election. From 1976 to 1988, bishops were paid salary and other expenses from the Episcopal Fund from the date of consecration. Beginning in 1988 and continuing to the present, the salary has been paid from September 1 of the year of election.

Par. 506 states that the "consecration of bishops may take place at the session of the conference at which election occurs or at a place and time designated by the conference." This paragraph clearly assumes that consecration of newly-elected bishops may take place at a time other than the session of the Jurisdictional or Central Conference. Par. 49 gives to the General Conference the power to set the time and place for the bishops elected by the jurisdictions, and the Central Conferences the power to do the same for those elected by the Central Conferences.

Par. 15 requires that the General Conference establish a "uniform rule" for the retirement of bishops. Par. 509.1 provides for bishops to be retired on August 31 following the regular session of the Jurisdictional Conference. Because of this provision, it is logical for the *Discipline* to provide in Par. 507.1 that September 1 of the same year is the date on which all episcopal assignments made at Jurisdictional Conference become effective. The approximately six-week period between election and consecration and September 1 enables a newly-elected bishop to conclude matters at the prior appointment and make an orderly transition to assumption of the duties of the episcopal area. This is analogous to the way clergy members of an Annual Conference receive new appointments at the Annual Conference session but move to the new appointment at a later date.

In clear recognition that the bishops are general superintendents from the time of their consecration, funds are provided for travel and certain other expenses from the Episcopal Fund. Par. 527 states that bishops "are elected general superintendents of the whole Church..., so bishops become through their election members first of the Council of Bishops before they are subsequently assigned to areas of service."

As set forth in the 1992 *Discipline* Par. 923, bishops are paid from the Episcopal Fund, and the General Council on Finance and Administration recommends to the General Conference the budget for the Episcopal Fund. In adopting the recommendation of the General Council on Finance and Administration, the General Conference makes "plans for their support" as required by Pars. 15 and 25. It clearly is the responsibility of the General Conference to make these plans. The present plan may be unwieldy, cumbersome, vague, unfair, and/or unwise, but none of those things necessarily renders it unconstitutional.

The lack of any definition of effective bishop in the *Discipline* at present means that any plan of support for bishops recommended by the General Council on Finance and Administration must make assumptions about that definition. The present plan, and the plan recommended to the 1996 General Conference, assume that bishops become effective when they begin their residential and presidential supervision of the assigned episcopal area. It is the responsibility of the General Conference, not the Judicial Council, to determine what is meant by the term "effective bishops" in Par. 923 and whether the assumption of General Council on Finance and Administration is correct. In the context of the present plan of support, a person elected to the episcopacy is assumed to continue receiving a salary from the prior appointment from mid-July to September 1. When the General Conference determines the date a bishop becomes effective, it must also determine the source of the salary of the effective bishop.

Par. 505 refers only to bishops who are assigned to episcopal areas for residential and presidential supervision. It does not determine the total number of bishops in The United Methodist Church. As long as there is only one bishop assigned to an episcopal area, the total number of bishops in the period from the consecration of new bishops in mid-July until September 1 creates no *Disciplinary* problem.

(Judicial Council Decisions continued)

Decision

Pars. 507.1 and 923 of the 1992 *Discipline* are constitutional, as they follow the direction of Pars. 15 and 25 of the Constitution in making plans for the support of the bishops of the church.

April 18, 1996

Signed by Tom Matheny, president, and Wayne Coffin, secretary.

Supplementary Opinion

I agree for the most part, with the opinion of the majority.

However, there are observations that I must make.

First, I believe that it must be clear that a person becomes a bishop when consecrated, regardless of the definition of "effective." This is correct theologically and from the disciplinary point of view.

Second, every piece of legislation by an Annual Conference or the General Conference must meet the test, "Is it fair?"

It is not fair for a person to be consecrated a bishop and not be paid immediately.

It is not fair for a previous appointment to bear this burden in the interim period.

It is not fair for the General Conference to have the responsibility for a program of financial support, and to do it without money.

It is not fair for the General Council on Finance and Administration to, in effect, amend legislation by means of a budget item without carefully explaining this to the General Conference.

Signed, Tom Matheny

**Top Ten Things You Will Never Experience at General Conference**

10. A Good eight hour sleep.
9. Someone without an opinion.
8. A Cokesbury going out of business sale
7. A rummage sale to pay for the expenses of General Conference
6. A request that worship begin at 7 a.m. so everything will get done.
5. Hear someone say, "Do what you want, anything will be fine with me."
4. An announcement of the daily winning lottery numbers.
3. A unanimous vote on any issue dealing with sexuality.
2. A dress-down day when everyone wears jeans.
1. An announcement by the presiding bishop, saying "Let's Party!!!"

*—Brad Motta*

## Statement on Violence in the Middle East

General Conference after General Conference has condemned the ever-increasing cycles of violence in the Middle East. The current violence around south Lebanon has surged to heartbreaking levels. We are appalled by the scale of the Israeli assault upon the people of Lebanon. The extensive damage and many casualties that Israel has inflicted upon Lebanon far exceed a proportionate response to the Katyusha rocket attacks against Israel. Self-defense is not a legitimate justification for so massive and calculated an effort to drive up to 400,000 civilians from their homes, or to stage direct attacks upon power plants and civilian infrastructure far from the border.

The Israeli campaign against Lebanon has led to a severe, premeditated humanitarian crisis intended to bring political pressure on the governments of Lebanon and of Syria who are viewed as supporting Hezbollah. A strategy that holds the entire population hostage to armed attack must be condemned as totally unacceptable and in grave violation of international standards for the protection of civilians in times of conflict. Innocent people are being punished in a massive reprisal for attacks on Israeli civilians by Hezbollah. We condemn the attacks by Hezbollah. We believe that reprisals do not act as a deterrent to more violence, but only escalate it further. In like manner, we cannot be silent about Palestine while that community struggles to survive in the midst of such violations as the:

- Ongoing confiscation of Palestinian lands;
- Continued growth of Israeli settlement communities in the West Bank and East Jerusalem and the construction of bypass roads which isolate Palestinian towns and villages;
- Sealing and demolition of Palestinian homes;
- Administrative detention of men, women and minors without the right to a fair trial; and
- Continuing imprisonment of thousands of Palestinians in Israeli prisons.

All these sufferings during fifty years of Israeli occupation of Palestine have been made more acute since the suicide bombings in Jerusalem, Ashkelon and Tel Aviv. It is as if the Oslo Peace Accords had never been signed.

We call for the protection of the children, the youth and other civilians.

We call for a return to normalcy for people who have been refugees or subjugated in their own land for the past three generations.

We call for Christians, Jews and Muslims to be able to practice their faiths in the city which is holy to the three major monotheistic religions of the world.

Lastly, we call for increased efforts to assure geographic security, economic security and political security—all of which are necessary for Israelis, Palestinians and Lebanese to co-exist.

*—Judith Craig*

## HOW DO THEY DO THAT?

How do all those names and graphics appear on the giant television screens in the plenary sessions of General Conference?

Behind the metal doors of the plenary session, an inconspicuous truck labeled "Mountain Mobile Television" is parked. Inside, a crew of local professionals, United Methodist staff and United Methodist volunteers are presenting the images to the delegates. Along with the images, the giant television screens also show the names of each presenter and speaker on the conference floor.

General Conference producer Jay Voorhees, the director and the technical director work in the truck's first room. In the second room, audio for musicians and speakers is monitored. Actual taping occurs in the third room. Mr. Voorhees explained that he and his crew provide image magnification with an Eidephor projector, which sends a broadcast of the event to monitors throughout the convention center as well as to monitors on the floor.

*—Marcy Barnes*

## Joys and Concerns

Congratulations to Bishop L. Bevel Jones III, president of the North American section of the World Methodist Council (WMC); William K. Quick, pastor of Metropolitan United Methodist Church, Detroit; and Mary Hale, wife of WMC general secretary Joe Hale, for being selected as recipients of the WMC seat of honor at an April 19 luncheon in Denver.

Please be in prayer for Barbara Rose, lay delegate from the Kansas West Conference, whose husband died April 19.

## Meeting in the Oddest Places

Who would have guessed that Charles Whittle, Northwest Texas Conference delegate, and Mochell Hughes, *DCA* staff, would end up meeting in the emergency room of Denver General Hospital (DGH)?

On Thursday morning, several General Conference attendees exchanged smiles and conversation while they sat at DGH. Charles was waiting for his wife, Joan, who was receiving stitches after a fall. Sitting with him were Ed and Ann Hill, also of the Northwest Texas Conference. Mochell was accompanying Heather Peck, *DCA* staff, who fractured her foot. An unidentified delegate was being treated for hypertension.

Dr. Wyatt Decker reported that the hospital had seen a steady stream of General Conference attendees. Fortunately, none had severe injuries. He added that it's common for them to see several patients during an event such as General Conference, since DGH is just a few blocks away.

Kathy Deasy, R.N., reported treating three other General Conference patients Wednesday night. She said our name badges informed her that we were with "that convention."

Convention center paramedics said they had treated delegates for mild shortness of breath, rashes and itching, and lacerations, according to Dave Bronson, operations supervisor for paramedics.

*—Mochell Hughes*

## United Methodists Aren't Drinking Enough!
## First Aid Crew Offers Advice

Along with bumps and bruises, the first-aid crew is preparing for cases of dehydration. They warn that the high altitude and the busy General Conference schedule can be hazardous to one's health. Effects of dehydration are usually experienced four or five days after arriving in the higher altitude. Warning signs include headaches, less-frequent urination and bright yellow urine. Left unchecked, dehydration can lead to confusion and disorientation, lightheadedness, fainting and shock.

Participants are encouraged to:

—avoid beverages containing caffeine (coffee, soft drinks) and chocolate;

—drink plenty of water or fruit juice.

However, because of the electronic voting system, delegates are not permitted to take water to their seats. Therefore, drinking water during breaks and between sessions is vitally important.

Other health problems experienced by those attending the conference include:

—high blood pressure brought on by irregular and poor diet, lack of sleep and stress;

—diarrhea or constipation because of the diet change;

—blisters due to long walks in improper footwear;

—earaches as a result of the high-altitude adjustment.

Gerri Evans, registered nurse, cautions participants to watch out for steps, which have resulted in falls and consequent cuts and abrasions. That warning is particularly important as people step up and down sidewalk curbs. Beware of the curbs in front of the center. The *DCA* thanks paramedics Bill Wise and Cory Richards for their healthful advice.

General Conference business is important, but don't neglect yourself. Take care of God's creation, YOU!

*—Brad Motta*

# Cuban Bishop Describes Suffering in Wake of U.S. Embargo

Every day, Cuban Methodist Bishop Gustavo Cruz passes hungry children crying for milk in the streets of Havana. Poor people in Cuba die for lack of medicine, and people come to church in tattered clothes and shoes that are falling apart, he said.

Bishop Cruz was in Denver for the General Conference of The United Methodist Church, with which the 10,000-member Cuban Methodist Church is affiliated

In an interview with United Methodist News Service, Bishop Cruz said he agrees with those U.S. Christians who are asking the U.S. government to end the embargo against Cuba. He emphasized that he was speaking for himself, not on behalf of the Cuban church.

Bishop Cruz, who was consecrated as a bishop in March, wept during the interview as he recalled a friend who died 18 days after prostate cancer surgery because the Cuban hospital had no antibiotics.

"I don't blame the United States for the troubles between our countries. It's probably true that the Cuban government is very much responsible," Bishop Cruz said, adding that he does not take sides in the political battle, but considers himself on the side of Jesus Christ.

### Penalizing the Poor

But, he said, the embargo is penalizing the poorest Cubans, not government officials. "When the Cuban officials get sick, they have their own hospitals and access to the best medical care. But when a poor person gets sick, they die because of lack of medicine."

Bishop Cruz suggested that the United States could make resumption of diplomatic relations with Cuba conditional, holding Cuba to certain requirements.

He told stories of friends and church members who struggle from day to day to feed and clothe themselves.

Despite the economic strains, the bishop said, an evangelical fervor is sweeping the country. "The spirit of Jesus Christ is bringing thousands to church," he added.

Bishop Cruz estimated that 80 percent of Cuban Christians are youth and young adults. The Cuban Methodist Church has at least 200 organized congregations, with at least 100 more house churches or informal ministries bringing even more people to the faith. Christians also work ecumenically, in such organizations as the Council of Cuban Churches, the Caribbean Council of Churches and the Council of Evangelical Methodist Churches in Latin America.

### Seeking Relationships with Christ

"It is amazing that our young people have been taught nothing about the faith in the secular, government schools, yet many of them are seeking a relationship with Christ," he said. He recalled a young woman, a high-ranking official in the Communist youth organization, who



Bishop Gustavo Cruz of Cuba visits with Rita Will.

*photo Brad Motta*

came to his church, had "a life-changing experience" and became a Christian.

Bishop Cruz said relations between Christian churches and the Cuban government have been relatively good since 1991. He admitted, however, that tensions have increased since the downing of an anti-Castro dissident group's plane by the Cuban military earlier this year. He said Castro's government has cracked down on tourists coming to Cuba claiming to be church workers because many of them preach anti-government sentiments.

Since 1984, The United Methodist Church has been on record as supporting resumed economic and diplomatic relations between the United States and Cuba. The 1996 General Conference is considering petitions from at least three regional United Methodist bodies—the Wyoming, Wisconsin and Nebraska annual conferences—to reiterate the call.

*—M. Garlinda Burton*



The choir from First Unied Methodist Church in Peoria, Ill., offered the music for Friday's morning worship.

*photo Mike DuBose*

## Berkeley UMC, Denver, Works Toward Becoming More Inclusive

In many communities across the United States, the number of Hispanics is increasing, along with the need to provide ministries for and with this growing population. For five years, Berkeley United Methodist Church, Denver, has taken on this challenge.

Historically a predominantly White congregation, Berkeley Church faced the reality of a changing community. With the gradual influx of Hispanics to the neighborhood, new ministries were needed. Addressing this need, the Rocky Mountain Conference sent missionary Lucia Guzman to the congregation. Ms. Guzman is now director of the Denver coalition of Christian churches.

"We are committed to being a multicultural community of faith," said the Rev. Justo Gonzalez, current pastor of the congregation. For more than two years, Mr. Gonzalez has dedicated time and energy to implementing the National Plan for Hispanic Ministry.

"One of our most exciting programs is Saturday Christian Children Society," he added. The popular weekly program draws 20 to 25 neighborhood children for lunch, Bible study and recreation.

Berkeley Church's Sunday school attendance has increased, and other churches have been inspired to get involved. Highlands United Methodist Church, for example, provides transportation for the children. "Their help is a clear recognition that we all need to be involved in Hispanic ministries," Mr. Gonzalez said.

Berkeley Church's youth-outreach program, "Friday Night at the Movies," offers a much needed alternative to "hanging out" on the streets. "We . . . gather for a community meal that the kids cook," the pastor said. Then participants watch a movie that deals with youth-oriented issues and discuss it from a Christian perspective.

The program is funded by the Women's Division, General Board of Global Ministries, and King Soopers grocery store, which provides free rental movies.

Berkeley Church also tries to educate persons about Hispanic ministry. Of particular interest are primarily White congregations whose demographic studies show a need for Hispanic ministry.

—*Adrian Vega*

## Corrections

Add to list of guest preachers: First UMC Colorado Springs, 8:25 a.m. - William Quick, 10:55 a.m. - Kirbyjon Caldwell.

P. 84, 2nd column, 4th para, 5th line. the name Dient Crain should be Dight Crain.

Add the following to the GCFA Report No. 1, World Service Fund to p. 289 of the Advance DCA following the Iglesia Metodista Autonoma Afiliada de Puerto Rico Block Grant paragraph:

**University/College Fund.** The General Board of Higher Education and Ministry makes grants from this fund to aid United Methodist educational institutions which could benefit from temporary assistance as they take steps to develop stable funding patterns and/or to reexamine their educational mission. The General Board of Higher Education and Ministry reports on the use of the fund to the General Council on Finance and Administsration annually.

## Higher Education and Chaplaincy

Concurred with petitions in DCA, volume 1, page 823, to amend par. 1511:

Number 21277. Standards for Endorsement for Ministry Settings. Amend the first sentence of par. 1511.2*g*.

Number 21274. The Division of Chaplains and Related Ministries. Amend par. 1511.1.

Number 21276. General Oversight for Clergy Members. Amend the last sentence of par. 1511.2*d*.

DCA, volume 1, page 821:

Number 21662 pertaining to the Annual Conference Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry. The committee rejected the deletion to *Discipline* paragraph 732. As a result, the committee then voted nonconcurrance with all other petitions dealing with the structure of the Annual Conference Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry.

Nonconcurred with petitions:

Number 20631 to delete words World Service from first sentence of par. 1512.

Number 21275 to change the language of par. 1511.2*c*.

Number 20479 to eliminate the Annual Conference Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry.

## Correction

The text of petition number 21549-GJ-2625.1-D printed on page 1492 of the Advance Edition of the *Daily Christian Advocate* is in error. The text should read as follows:

Delete ¶ 2625.1*(c)* and replace with new text:

**Respondent shall have the right to be present at all hearings to be conducted by the Committee on Investigation. Respondent shall have the right to confront and cross-examine witnesses, including the person or persons bringing the grievance or presenting evidence against the respondent. Respondent shall have the right to call and examine witnesses.**

Additional Petition

¶2626

Petition Number: 23077-GJ-2626.1-D; Ad. Board, St. Paul UMC, Coronado, CA

Trial Procedures

Delete the first sentence of 2626.1*f* and replace with new text:

**In all cases, a respondent shall be entitled to appear and to be represented by counsel, who shall be either a lay or clergy member of The United Methodist Church, at the option of the respondent.**

## A Night With Yellowstone

Do you have your ticket? Then get ready for an evening of satire, music and fun, beginning at 8 p.m. Sunday!

Members of the Blackfoot Native American community from Montana will open the program with traditional music and dance from their heritage.

From the heart of sky country and the Yellowstone Conference, you won't want to miss "The Montana Logging and Ballet Company (MLBC)," four talented performers who bring back the spontaneity, creativity and humor of the Marx Brothers.

"Comedy usually comes from tragedy," says MLBC member Bob Fitzgerald, "so we make mountains out of molehills and molehills out of mountains. Comedy is the way we get to the general message: hope. There's hope out there."

Also for your enjoyment, performer/artist Tim Holmes will exhibit his sculptures in the convention center lobby before the performance.

Each delegate received a complimentary ticket. Additional tickets may be purchased for $5 in the hotel lobby.

## Announcements

Rally on the Plaza, Saturday, April 20, 1996 at 11:00 a.m.—Convention Center East Plaza, youth, young adults, students and seminarians will gather in worship, singing and skits, calling on the United Methodist Church to open the door to lesbian, gay and bisexual persons.

BMCR Dinner Transportation, Sunday, April 21, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. Roundtrip transportation will be provided for everyone planning to attend the BMCR dinner. Persons planning to attend should be in their hotel lobby at 3:45 p.m. Buses will begin pickup at 4:00 p.m.

Mississippi Delegation and all former Mississippians get together, April 22, 5:45 p.m., Old Spaghetti Factory, 18th and Lawrence.

Bishop David and Martha Lawson will be honored with a dinner on Monday, April 22. This appreciation celebration will be held at the Crystal Ballroom of the Embassy Suite at 5:15 p.m. All delegates and friends of the Central and Southern Illinois areas are invited to attend. Please contact Cynthia Jones, Section A, Row 2, Seat 6 for reservations. A van will be at the entrance of the Convention Center to provide transportation and will return after the dinner.

Desert Southwest delegates and friends, please join us for dinner at The Broker Restaurant, 17th and Champs at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, April 22, 1996.

Philadelphia area delegates and friends are cordially invited to attend a dinner in honor of Bishop Susan M. Morrison at the Holiday Inn. Tuesday, April 23, 5:15 p.m. Cost $20. See Dale E. Owens or Keith Ladd for reservations.

The California-Pacific Conference will gather for dinner at La Bonne Soupe, 1512 Lasimer St., at 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 23. Reservations by 5 p.m. Monday to Marilyn Huntington, Holtze Hotel 607-0125.

Delegates and friends of the Central Pennsylvania Conference will hold a dinner in honor of Bishop and Mrs. Felton E. May on Wednesday, April 24, at 5:45 p.m., in the Gold Coin Room of the Marriott Hotel.

# Reports of Legislative Committees

**Church and Society** — (4/19/96, 5:00 p.m.)

*The committee recommended concurrence:* *Adding to the Social Principles para. 71 a new sub-paragraph on "Sexual Harassment," which "interferes with the moral mission of the church"; *Deleting from the Discipline paragraphs dealing with the General Board of Church and Society (GBCS) vacancies, officers, executive committee, meetings, responsibilities, staff, headquarters, and bylaws—all of which appear in the GB bylaws; *Revising Section III, para. 8, of the "Status and Role of Women" resolution on providing resources in the area of family planning and contraception; *Amending the Social Principles to: —add a new sentence to "Basic Rights"; —change those with "handicapping conditions" to "people with disabilities" in the Social Creed and para. 72G; —shorten and strengthen the paragraph on "Animal Life"; —add new text to para. 72M on "Rural Life"; —insert sentences on family violence and abuse to para. 71A; —amend para. 70A on "Water, Air, Soil, Minerals, Plants"; —substitute new text for para. 70D on "Space" and for 70E on "Science and Technology"; —add two new para. 72 sub-paragraphs on organ transplantation and organ donation and the "Right to Health Care"; —amend para. 72C to call for general and complete disarmament under strict international control; —change wording in para. 74E on civil obedience and civil disobedience. *Revising a number of resolutions in the current Book of Resolutions dealing with the United Nations' covenants and conventions, The United Methodist Church and peace, campaign finance reform, terrorism, and withdrawal of military bases from Okinawa. —*Lee Ranck and Shanta M. Bryant*

**Conferences** — (4/19/96)

*The committee recommended concurrence:* *To amend the Constitution to include the chair of the annual conference college student organization in the membership of the annual conference; *To renumber paragraph 604 as 604.1; *To amend so that the secretary of the General Conference determines how petitions should be sent to General Conference (Para. 608.1); *To add a new paragraph with information on how to send in petitions via fax or electronic mail (Para. 608.3); *To change dates for a) materials to be in hands of the petitions secretary, and b) time limitations (Para. 608.8); *To amend instructions on how much material a petition to General Conference may address (Para 697.2); *To amend paragraph to permit exception if changes are identical (Para. 608.2); *To amend paragraph to include individual members, clergy or lay, and local church groups (Para 608.7); *To add "persons from churches with small memberships" (Para. 707.4); *To add "the deaconesses" (Para. 35); *To edit for better understanding of the petitions in DCA (Para. 608.8); *To delete Para. 608.9, add new paragraph regarding electronic access to all General Conference material prior to publication of the new *Discipline*.

*The committee recommended concurrence with amendments:* *Requiring the Secretary-Designate to insure that all delegates receive the *DCA* in their native languages (Para. 605); *Providing a new formula to determine the numerical base for calculating the ratio of representatives from conferences to General, Central, Jurisdictional Conferences (Para. 14) *Allowing annual conferences to utilize structures unique to their mission (Para. 15.14); *Following Para. 703.3; deleted "and all conference meetings" and the Architectural Guidelines. —*Carolyn Simms and Ken Horn*

**Discipleship** (4/19/96)

*The committee recommended concurrence:* *Asking the Board of Discipleship to enable and encourage congregations to carry out discipleship; *Calling for revitalization of established congregations; *Changing certain *Discipline* language so as to make it more concise and precise; *Emphasizing training members as to responsibilities of the baptismal covenant; *Retaining current language regarding "Our Theological Task; *Adding editorial changes to "Ecumenical Interpretations of Doctrinal Standards"; *"Care of Youth" —adding language encouraging youth to participate in preparation for their profession of faith; *Shortening the time before removing inactive people from membership from three to two years; *Regarding membership reports and records. Includes members'addresses as part of church record keeping; *Adopting the "meaning of membership" vows for profession of faith *Amending the last paragraph of the proposed Para. 211 by making the last paragraph No. 7, and changing "may" to "shall" (7. Such persons "shall" also be asked to receive and profess the Christian faith . . .); *Explaining the process for admission into the church; *Adopting language explaining the church's responsibility for caring for children and youth; *Outlining the circumstances under which people can be removed from the rolls of both baptized and professing members.

*The committee recommended concurrence with amendments:* *Defining church membership, deleting the specific categories of people, but saying that "all persons" are eligible to attend worship, etc.; *Added clarifying words which emphasize one comes into membership on confirmation; *Regarding qualifications for membership by adding an additional statement of faith to highlight the importance of Scripture, and adding wording to emphasize the importance of the profession of faith; *Making the wording of certain worship services compatible with those in use by the Central Conferences; *Delineating local-church guidelines for keeping membership rolls and reporting membership.

*The committee recommended nonconcurrence:* *Making foot washing a sacrament; *Reaffirming Doctrinal Standards; *Proposing changes in the section on "Our Theological Task." —*Lynne deMichele and Garlinda Burton*

**Financial Administration** — (4/18/96)

*The committee recommended concurrence:* *Exempting the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits and the General Board of Publication from the audit and review by GCFA; *Allowing other structures to provide for the functions of the Council of Finance and Administration; *Reducing the size of the Executive Committee of the General Board of Publication; *Reducing the number of members required to call a meeting of the Executive

Committee of the General Board of Publications; *Changing the name of the General Board of Publication to United Methodist Publishing House; *Deleting Para. 906.12; *Adding new administrative responsibilities for the cross-and-flame United Methodist insignia to General Council on Finance and Administration; *Giving GCFA authority to gather salary equity information; *Ensuring that no apportioned general funds are expended for use of alcoholic beverages; *Adopting the Comprehensive Protection Plan; *Allowing transfers out of the Cumulative Pension and Benefit Fund; *Removing the South Africa ban in Cumulative Pension and Benefit Fund; *Adjusting actual contribution percentage tests for certain plan sponsors; *Adopting the Cumulative Pension and Benefit Fund Plan; *Clarifying definition of the word "compensation"; *Adding a new paragraph to allow transfers out of the Ministerial Pension Plan; *Removing the South Africa ban as of July 1, 1996 in the Ministerial Pension Plan; *Adopting the Ministerial Pension Plan.

*The committee recommended nonconcurrence:* *Deleting mandatory language in support of World Service and Conference Benevolences; *Giving an annual conference or local church the right to accept or refuse all or any portion of any apportionment; (there were 59 other petitions voted non-concurrence).

*The committee referred:* *To the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits a petition to consider raising disability benefits for disabled pastors; *To the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits a petition to amend the Ministerial Pension plan; *To the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits a petition on voluntary conversion program from MRPF to MPP; *To the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits adding a new paragraph to Plan Document of the Ministerial Pension Plan; *To the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits allowing people to leave money in the personal pension funds after age 70, if they wish; *Giving an annual conference or local church the right to accept or refuse all or any portion of any. —*Joretta Purdue, Erik Alsgaard*

**General/Judicial Administration** — (4/19/96, 4:00 p.m.)

*The committee recommended concurrence:* *On designating responsibilities for the Advance Special program; *On concerning evaluation process of General Agencies; *On providing for retirement of general agency staff personnel; *On nondiscrimination; *On conditions surrounding open and closed meetings; *On GCOM training of Conference Council on Ministries directors; *On policies for socially responsible investments; *On complaints of misconduct or unsatisfactory performance of a Bishop; *On fair process in judicial proceedings; *On guidelines for sexual misconduct policies.

*The committee recommended nonconcurrence:* *Deleting the conference Advance programs; *Changing language concerning inclusiveness in *Discipline* Para. 4; *Concerning amenability and program accountability; *Pertaining to health benefits plan of general agency staff personnel; *Requiring that associate general secretaries and assistant general secretaries be members of the UMC.

*The committee referred:* To GCOM — Granting Advance Special status to Appalachia Service Project, Inc. —*Tom Slack and Charlene Bailey*

**Global Ministries** — (4/19/96, 3:35 p.m.)

*The committee recommended concurrence:* *Condemning the use of rape as a weapon of war; *Registering opposition to Proposition 187 of California; *Supporting communications access for people with hearing and sight impairment; *Endorsing program recommendations from the National Committee on Deaf Ministries; *Opposing deportation of Salvadoran refugees from the United States; *Endorsing a statement on immigrants and refugees, "To Love the Sojourner"; *Recognizing "the many faces" of persons affected by HIV/AIDS; *Encouraging observance of World AIDS Day on December 1; *Offering recommendations from the Interagency Task Force on AIDS; *Evaluating the church's responsibilities in a mass media culture; *Calling for an end to abusive treatment methods for persons with mental disabilities; *Continuing the Hispanic Ministries and Native American Comprehensive plans; *Adopting "Holy Boldness" plan for urban ministry; *Providing quadrennial training for annual conference and district disaster response coordinators; *Adopting a special emphasis on the U.S. rural crisis and affirming rural chaplains; *Calling for the release of 14 Puerto Rican political prisoners; *Continuing the Communities of Shalom ministry and supporting a national plan for town and country ministry; *Supporting cooperative parish ministry, church and community workers and mission personnel in the United States; *Continuing the Special Program on Substance Abuse and Related Violence.

*The committee recommended concurrence with amendments:* *Providing for health and social care of the elderly; *Supporting mission work in Appalachia; *Assisting teens at risk; *Reducing the risk of child sexual abuse in the church. —*Cheryl Edwards and Linda Bloom*

**Higher Education and Chaplaincy** — (4/19/96, 3:45 p.m.)

*The committee recommended concurrence:* *To approve a resolution on incorporation (Pan Methodist) in order for the African Methodist Episcopal, African Methodist Episcopal Zion, and Christian Methodist Episcopal colleges and universities to establish eligibility for E.I.I.A.; *To affirm and encourage the UM-related precollegiate schools and to learn more about their mission and contributions; *To affirm the 11 historically Black colleges related to the UMC by establishing $46,708,480 as the Black College Fund goal for the 1997-2000 quadrennium (an increase of 12 percent from the 1992-1996 quadrennium) and that this resolution be recorded in The Book of Resolutions of the 1996 General Conference; *To amend Para. 1532 with the words "conference" and "and Diaconal Ministry"; *To add a new sub-paragraph after Para. 1514.3 regarding inquiries to UM-related schools, colleges, and universities; To ask 1996 General Conference to fund the National United Methodist Native American Center at $316,000 for 1997-2000 quadrennium.

*The committee recommended concurrence with amendments:* *Para. 1505 to include the words "and persons

with disabilities"; *Para. 1515 to read "persons with disabilities" instead of "people with disabilities"; *The last sentence of the Ministry Study's proposed substitute as pertains to the Divisions of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (section VIII, par. 1508.1); *Para. 1531 dealing with the UM schools of theology to read "with the dynamics of ministry in a multi-cultural society"; *To fund seminary education, amended to read 1) encourage increased funding for seminary students through endowment programs and/or capital fund drives for United Methodist student grants, loans, and scholarships; and 2) Develop and evaluate the feasibility of a plan for seminary student loan repayment by years of service in UM missional areas; *To fund the Evangelical Seminary of Puerto Rico to the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry as amended to read: GBHEM continue its financial support of the Evangelical Seminary of Puerto Rico through the year 2000. (Delete the words "at the 1992 level"). *To add a new sub-point after Para. 732.4d(11), adding the words "United Methodist college students as" after "election of" and before "lay members."

*The committee recommended nonconcurrence:* *To change the makeup of the membership of the University Senate. *To amend Para. 1506.2 dealing with election of the general secretary of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry; *To amend Para. 1503 to move the accountability of the GBHEM from the GCOM to the Council of Bishops; *To amend Para. 1509.2 to delete words "World Service moneys"; *—Dawn M. Hand and Terri Hiers*

**Independent Commissions** — (4/19/96, 4:45 p.m.)

*Concurred with the document "Churches in Covenant Communion," with the amendment that UMC may continue to maintain its own standards for ministerial training and ordination and apply those to the transfer of ministers from other denominations. This includes any prohibitions of the General Conference. *Concurred with a petition authorizing "historic" establishment of a Commission on Pan-Methodist Union; *Concurred with document, as amended, on Christian-Jewish Relations, "Building New Bridges in Hope"; *Concurred with mandating a Conference Commission on Small Membership Church or other body to care for those functions. *Concurred by allowing the Council of Bishops to name an Ecumenical Officer other than the council's secretary; *Concurred by mandating a Pan-Methodist approach to any event organized by a general agency of the UMC and Pan-Methodist approach to GCOM coordinating funcitons; Concurred by allowing functions of Conference Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns to be assigned to an alternative structure, either existing or newly-created; Concurred by adding sections to present resolution on Holy Land tours, especially urging that United Methodists enter partnership with indigenous Palestinian Christians, help to strengthen Christian witness in the Holy Land and consult with UM Liaison in Jerusalem about how to implement tour resolution; *Concurred by retaining membership in World Methodist Council and continuing membership in the NCC, updating present language in the Book of Resolutions; *Concurred by renaming Historic Shrines as Heritage Landmarks and recommended two new Heritage Landmarks: First UMC, Johnston, PA (site of merger of Evangelical and United Brethen in Christ Churches into EUB Church 50 years ago) and the Wesley Foundation at the University of Illinois, Champaign, first Wesley Foundation established by the Methodist Episcopal Church as a student organization in a secular university. *—Kristin Knudson Harris and Ann Whiting*

**Local Church** — (4/19/96, 3:30 p.m.)

*The committee recommended concurrence:* *Naming the local church as the "most significant arena through which disciple-making occurs;" *Eliminating named local church program agencies (Para. 264) other than the church school; *Youth ministries coordinator and council and United Methodist Women.

*The committee recommended concurrence with amendments:* *Stating the mission of the church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ, along with rationale and process to replace existing Paras. 101, 102 and 103; *Establishing the church council, amenable to the Charge Conference, as the basic organizational plan for the local church, mandating a comprehensive program of nurture, outreach and witness; *Naming the pastor as the chief administrative officer of the church and charge; *Urging use of appropriate district and annual conference relationships and resources; *Retaining first person language in the statement concerning "The Journey of a Connectional People;" *Mandating training in cooperative ministry for general board staff, bishops, district superintendents, and conference staff and mandating priority in appointment making to place directors and clergy staff trained in cooperative ministry in those settings;

*The committee recommended nonconcurrence:* Amending the present description of the mission and ministry statement of the church as submitted by the General Council on Ministries; *—Rayford Woodrick and Kathy Kruger Noble*

*Ordained and Diaconal Ministry* — (4/19/96)

The committee recommended changes to the Ministry Study that would eliminate sequential ordination for elders. They approved single ordination for both deacons and elders and consecration for probationary members who are working toward ordination. Following this decision, the committee returned to meeting in sub-committees until 4:00 p.m.

*—Judy Smith and Linda Green*

## Petitions Referred to New Legislative Committee

| Petition | From | To |
|---|---|---|
| 20697 | CS | GM |
| 20698 | CS | GM |
| 20746 | CS | GM |
| 20887 | CS | GJ |
| 22505 | CS | GM |
| 22545 | CS | GJ |
| 20822 | DI | MN |
| 22743 | DI | GJ |
| 22747 | DI | GJ |
| 20074 | GJ | FA |
| 20157 | GJ | CS |
| 20547 | GJ | CS |
| 20593 | GJ | FA |
| 20603 | GJ | FA |
| 20605 | GJ | FA |
| 20774 | GJ | FA |
| 20824 | GJ | MN |
| 21263 | GJ | MN |
| 21264 | GJ | MN |
| 21482 | GJ | FA |
| 21550 | GJ | MN |
| 21551 | GJ | MN |
| 21552 | GJ | MN |
| 21553 | GJ | MN |
| 21569 | GJ | FA |
| 21630 | GJ | FA |
| 22390 | GJ | MN |
| 22392 | GJ | MN |
| 22393 | GJ | MN |
| 22394 | GJ | MN |
| 22395 | GJ | MN |
| 22605 | GJ | MN |
| 23071 | GJ | FA |
| 22037 | GM | HE |
| 22486 | GM | CS |
| 22487 | GM | CS |
| 20247 | HE | GJ |
| 22101 | HE | MN |
| 20092 | LC | DI |
| 20094 | LC | DI |
| 20095 | LC | DI |
| 20096 | LC | DI |
| 20097 | LC | DI |
| 20224 | LC | DI |
| 20276 | LC | DI |
| 20277 | LC | DI |
| 20529 | LC | DI |
| 20554 | LC | DI |
| 21030 | LC | DI |
| 21442 | LC | DI |
| 21517 | LC | DI |
| 22107 | LC | DI |
| 22112 | LC | DI |
| 22528 | LC | DI |
| 22530 | LC | DI |
| 22571 | LC | DI |
| 22572 | LC | DI |
| 22720 | LC | DI |
| 20075 | MN | GJ |
| 20210 | MN | GJ |
| 20211 | MN | GJ |
| 20212 | MN | GJ |
| 20213 | MN | GJ |
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| 20216 | MN | GJ |
| 20217 | MN | GJ |
| 20218 | MN | GJ |
| 20375 | MN | GJ |
| 20376 | MN | GJ |
| 20377 | MN | GJ |
| 20722 | MN | GJ |
| 20803 | MN | GJ |
| 21266 | MN | GJ |
| 21267 | MN | GJ |
| 21268 | MN | GJ |
| 21269 | MN | GJ |
| 21270 | MN | GJ |
| 21543 | MN | GJ |
| 21544 | MN | GJ |
| 21546 | MN | GJ |
| 21547 | MN | GJ |
| 21548 | MN | GJ |
| 21549 | MN | GJ |
| 21732 | MN | GJ |
| 21893 | MN | LC |
| 21894 | MN | LC |
| 22391 | MN | GJ |
| 22396 | MN | GJ |
| 22606 | MN | GJ |
| 22607 | MN | GJ |
| 22608 | MN | GJ |
| 22609 | MN | GJ |
| 22699 | MN | GJ |
| 22852 | MN | GJ |
| 22853 | MN | GJ |
| 22854 | MN | GJ |
| 22855 | MN | GJ |
| 22856 | MN | GJ |
| 22857 | MN | GJ |

## Consent Calendar Explanation

There are three consent calendars: A) concurrence with proposed changes to the *Discipline*. B) concurrence with petitions on non-Disciplinary matters. C) non-concurrence on Disciplinary and non-Disciplinary items. The first day items will be listed as 01. The second day will be listed 02, and so forth. Items can be placed on the consent calendar if: 1) no more than five votes were cast against the prevailing position; 2) it has no financial implications; 3) the proposal does not require a constitutional amendment. Any five delegates may have a consent calendar item removed by signing the appropriate form found in Room 204. This form must be returned to the secretary by 3 p.m. on the day it appears in the *DCA*.

# Consent Calendar A02

### Correction:

**90-**2203.7

**The correct vote for this Calendar Item was: For: 65; Against: 0. This vote requires this calendar item to be placed on the Consent Calendar.**

**93**-604.1
**Subject: Election of Secretary-Designate**
Committee Item: CO23-604.1-C
Petition:
21610-CO-604.1-D, Pg. 180
Membership: 86; Present: 78;
For: 77; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**94**-605
**Subject: Responsibilities of the Secretary-Designate**
Committee Item: CO24-605-A
Petition:
21611-CO-605-D, Pg. 180
Membership: 86; Present: 79;
For: 78; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Renumber ¶ 605 as ¶ 604.2 and .3 and amend:

**2. Assumption of Office.**The secretary-designate shall assume the responsibilities of the office of secretary as soon after the adjournment of the General Conference as all work in connection with the session has been completed, including the corrections to the *Daily Christian Advocate*, which serves as the official journal of the General Conference. The exact date of the transfer of responsibility to the secretary-designate shall be determined by the Commission on the General Conference, but shall not be later than December 31, following the adjournment of the General Conference.

**3. Assigned Duties.**The secretary, ~~shall, at the request of he General Commission on the General Conference, assist in initiating procedures to inform delegates from outside the United States concerning both the operation of the General Conference and materials it will consider~~ **in cooperation with the General Commission on the General Conference, shall initiate proceedures to prepare delegates from Central Conferences for full participation in the General Conference by providing information concerning both the operation of the General Conference and materials it will consider. As far as possible, the materials should be provided in the languages of the delegates.**

After consultation with the Council of Bishops and the General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns the secretary shall issue invitations to ecumenical representatives.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**95**-608.2
**Subject: General Conference Petitions**
Committee Item: CO25-608.2-C
Petition:
20709-CO-608.2-D, Pg. 181
Membership: 86; Present: 82;
For: 79; Against: 0; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**96**-703
**Subject: Annual Conference Accessibility**
Committee Item: CO31-703-A
Petition:
20362-CO-703-D, Pg. 187
Membership: 86; Present: 82;
For: 78; Against: 1; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Insert a new sub-paragraph after ¶703.3 and renumber accordingly:

**The Annual Conference sessions** ~~and all conference meetings~~ **shall be held in places which are accessible to persons with disabilities.** ~~The following are guidelines as to what makes a place accessible:~~

~~Architectural Guidelines~~

~~a. All meeting rooms to be used are accessible to those in wheelchairs. Examples of things which may make a room accessible:~~

~~1) Everything is at ground level with no steps.~~

~~2) An elevator is available.~~

~~3) A ramp of size and maximum angle of 1/12 that wheelchairs can negotiate is available.~~

~~4) Door openings are at least 36 inches wide.~~

~~5. Pews or chairs are arranged to include space for wheelchairs.~~

~~b. Accessible washrooms.~~

~~c. Convenient parking for those with disabilities.~~

~~d. Curb cuts if curbs must be negotiated.~~

~~e. Adequate hand rails for safety.~~

~~f. Adequate lighting.~~

~~g. For overnight meetings, accessible lodging for participants.~~

~~Communications Guidelines~~

~~a. A loud speaker system.~~

~~b. Sound equipment for the more profoundly hearing impaired.~~

~~c. Signing for the deaf.~~

~~d. Large print program materials or tape recordings available.~~

~~e. Programs and directions making use of visuals, symbols, images, and sounds for persons who have difficulty communicating via the printed or spoken word.~~

~~Transportation Guidelines~~

~~If at all possible that Annual Conference and other major meetings be held at sites accessible by public or arranged transportation.~~

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**97**-707.4
**Subject: Membership on Annual Conference Councils, Boards & Agencies**
Committee Item: CO35-707.4-C
Petition:
22180-CO-707.4-D, Pg. 1268
Membership: 86; Present: 78;
For: 75; Against: 0; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**98**-608.6
**Subject: Petitions to General Conference**
Committee Item: CO42-608.6-C
Petition:
22168-CO-608.6-D, Pg. 1263
Membership: 86; Present: 82;
For: 79; Against: 0; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**99**-608.3
**Subject: Petitions to General Conference**
Committee Item: CO43-608.3-C
Petition:
22167-CO-608.3-D, Pg. 1263
Membership: 86; Present: 82;
For: 79; Against: 0; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**100**-608.1
**Subject: Petitions to General Conference**
Committee Item: CO45-608.1-C
Petition:
22166-CO-608.1-D, Pg. 1263
Membership: 86; Present: 82;
For: 79; Against: 0; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**101**-608.9
**Subject: Petitions to General Conference**
Committee Item: CO61-608.9-C
Petition:
22171-CO-608.9-D, Pg. 1264
Membership: 86; Present: 76;
For: 73; Against: 0; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**102**-608.8
**Subject: Petitions to General Conference**
Committee Item: CO62-608.8-C
Petition:
22170-CO-608.8-D, Pg. 1263
Membership: 86; Present: 76;
For: 73; Against: 0; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**103**-71
**Subject: An Amendment on Men and Women**
Committee Item: CS1-71-A
Petition:
20283-CS-71-D, Pg. 119
Membership: 102; Present: 95;
For: 89; Against: 4; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

(Additions added by the Legislative Committee are underlined)

Add a new sub-paragraph after ¶71*E*:

*Women and Men.*——**We affirm with scripture the basic similarity of the sexes and assert that it is human similarities and not differences that allow persons to find intimacy and partnership in accordance with Gods intention. We reject ~~the ancient dualism between male and female which has led to~~ the erroneous notion that one gender is superior to another, and that one gender must strive against another, and that members of one gender may receive love, power and esteem only at the expense of another. We especially reject the idea that God made individuals as incomplete fragments made whole only in ~~relationship to~~ union with another. We call upon women and men alike to share power and control, to learn to give freely and to receive freely, to be complete and to respect the wholeness of others. We seek for every individual opportunities and freedom to love and be loved, and to seek and receive justice and to practice ~~moral~~ ethical self-determination. We understand our gender diversity to be a gift from God, intended to add to the rich variety of human experience and perspective; and we guard against attitudes and traditions that would use this good gift to leave members of one sex more vulnerable in relationships than members of another.**

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**104**-71
**Subject: Divorce**
Committee Item: CS2-71-A
Petition:
20922-CS-71-D, Pg. 122
Membership: 102; Present: 95;
For: 91; Against: 3; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

(Legislative Committee additions are underlined. First para. was split into two parts)

Delete ¶71*D* and substitute new text:

*D) Divorce.* **When a married couple is estranged beyond reconciliation, even after thoughtful consideration and counsel, divorce is a regrettable alternative in the midst of broken-**

ness. It is recommended that methods of mediation be used to minimize the adversarial nature and fault finding that is often part of our current judicial processes.

Although divorce publicly declares that a marriage no longer exists, other covenantal relationships resulting from the marriage remain, such as the nurture and support of children and extended family ties. We urge respectful negotiations in deciding the custody of minor children, and support the consideration of either or both parents for this responsibility, in that custody not be reduced to financial support, control or manipulation and retaliation. The welfare of each child is the most important consideration.

Divorce does not preclude a new marriage. We encourage an intentional commitment of the church and society to minister compassionately to those in the process of divorce, as well as members of divorced and remarried families in a community of faith where Gods grace is shared by all.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 105-70
**Subject: Animal Life**
Committee Item: CS6-70-C
Petition:
20919-CS-70-D, Pg. 117
Membership: 102; Present: 92;
For: 90; Against: 0; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 106-70
**Subject: Space**
Committee Item: CS9-70-C
Petition:
20920-CS-70-D, Pg. 117
Membership: 102; Present: 88;
For: 84; Against: 3; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 107-72
**Subject: Right to Health Care**
Committee Item: CS23-72-C
Petition:
20927-CS-72-D, Pg. 124
Membership: 102; Present: 88;
For: 87; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 108-72
**Subject: Media Violence and Christian Values**
Committee Item: CS24-72-C
Petition:
20926-CS-72-D, Pg. 123
Membership: 102; Present: 92;
For: 92; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 109-72
**Subject: Rights of Religious Minorities**
Committee Item: CS27-72-C
Petition:
20924-CS-72-D, Pg. 123
Membership: 102; Present: 92;
For: 91; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 110-76
**Subject: Our Social Creed**
Committee Item: CS28-76-C
Petition:
20306-CS-76-D, Pg. 125
Membership: 102; Present: 92;
For: 92; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 111-72
**Subject: Rights of Persons with Handicapping Conditions**
Committee Item: CS31-72-C
Petition:
22317-CS-72-D, Pg. 1226
Membership: 102; Present: 91;
For: 91; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 112-72
**Subject: The Social Community: Rural Life**
Committee Item: CS32-72-C
Petition:
22319-CS-72-D, Pg. 1226
Membership: 102; Present: 91;
For: 89; Against: 1; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 113-72
**Subject: Basic Rights of all Persons**
Committee Item: CS33-72-C
Petition:
20023-CS-72-D, Pg. 123
Membership: 102; Present: 93;
For: 92; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 114-1115
**Subject: Bylaws**
Committee Item: CS63-1115-C
Petition:
20951-CS-1115-D, Pg. 129
Membership: 102; Present: 93;
For: 93; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**115**-1114
**Subject: Headquarters**
Committee Item: CS65-1114-C
Petition:
20950-CS-1114-D, Pg. 129
Membership: 102; Present: 93;
For: 92; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**116**-1113.1
**Subject: Staff**
Committee Item: CS68-1113.1-C
Petition:
20948-CS-1113.1-D, Pg. 129
Membership: 102; Present: 93;
For: 93; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**117**-1112
**Subject: Internal Organization**
Committee Item: CS69-1112-C
Petition:
20947-CS-1112-D, Pg. 128
Membership: 102; Present: 93;
For: 91; Against: 1; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**118**-1111.2
**Subject: Financial Support**
Committee Item: CS70-1111.2-C
Petition:
20946-CS-1111.2-D, Pg. 128
Membership: 102; Present: 93;
For: 93; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**119**-1111.1
**Subject: Financial Support**
Committee Item: CS71-1111.1-C
Petition:
20945-CS-1111.1-D, Pg. 128
Membership: 102; Present: 93;
For: 93; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**120**-74
**Subject: Civil Obedience and Civil Disobedience**
Committee Item: CS89-74-C
Petition:
20933-CS-74-D, Pg. 125
Membership: 102; Present: 88;
For: 85; Against: 1; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**121**-74
**Subject: Education**
Committee Item: CS90-74-C
Petition:
20932-CS-74-D, Pg. 125
Membership: 102; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**122**-68
**Subject: Our Theological Task**
Committee Item: DI7-68-C
Petition:
20267-DI-68-D, Pg. 236
Membership: 112; Present: 104;
For: 104; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**123**-67
**Subject: A Resolution of Intent**
Committee Item: DI18-67-C
Petition:
22865-DI-67-D, Pg. 1278
Membership: 112; Present: 104;
For: 103; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**124**-1216
**Subject: Ministry of the Laity**
Committee Item: DI27-1216-C
Petition:
21408-DI-1216-D, Pg. 251
Membership: 112; Present: 105;
For: 105; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**125**-1212
**Subject: Evangelism Responsibilities**
Committee Item: DI28-1212-C
Petition:
21406-DI-1212-D, Pg. 250
Membership: 112; Present: 105;
For: 105; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**126**-1210
**Subject: Cooperation**
Committee Item: DI30-1210-C
Petition:
21404-DI-1210-D, Pg. 249
Membership: 112; Present: 103;
For: 103; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**127**-1208.1
**Subject: Education Responsibilities**
Committee Item: DI31-1208.1-C
Petition:
21402-DI-1208.1-D, Pg. 249
Membership: 112; Present: 103;
For: 102; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 128-1208
**Subject: Education Responsibilities and Standards**
Committee Item: DI32-1208-C
Petition:
21401-DI-1208-D, Pg. 248
Membership: 112; Present: 105;
For: 105; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 129-1207
**Subject: Christian Education and Age-Level Ministries**
Committee Item: DI34-1207-C
Petition:
21400-DI-1207-D, Pg. 248
Membership: 112; Present: 105;
For: 105; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 130-1202.4
**Subject: Board of Discipleship Responsibilities**
Committee Item: DI35-1202.4-C
Petition:
22204-DI-1202.4-D, Pg. 1283
Membership: 112; Present: 105;
For: 105; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 131-1202
**Subject: Responsibilities of the General Board of Discipleship**
Committee Item: DI37-1202-C
Petition:
21398-DI-1202-D, Pg. 246
Membership: 112; Present: 105;
For: 105; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 132-1201
**Subject: Purpose of the General Board of Discipleship**
Committee Item: DI38-1201-C
Petition:
21397-DI-1201-D, Pg. 246
Membership: 112; Present: 105;
For: 105; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 133-216
**Subject: Admission into the Church**
Committee Item: DI39-216-A
Petition:
21430-DI-216-D, Pg. 946
Membership: 112; Present: 101;
For: 99; Against: 1; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Amend ¶ 216:

1. [Delete existing text.] **Christ constitutes the Church as his Body by the power of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:13, 27). The Church draws new persons into itself as it seeks to remain faithful to its commission to proclaim and exemplify the Gospel. Baptism is the sacrament of initiation and incorporation into the Body of Christ. An infant, child, or adult who is baptized becomes a member of the catholic (universal) Church, of the denomination, and a baptized member of the local congregation. (*See* ¶ 209.) After baptism, the Church provides the nurture which makes possible a comprehensive and lifelong process of growing in grace. Becoming a professing member requires the answer of faith of the baptized person made visible in a service of Profession of Christian Faith and Confirmation using the vows of the baptismal covenant (see ¶211).**

*a)* **Baptized infants and children are to be instructed and nurtured in the meaning of the faith, the rights and responsibilities of their baptism and in spiritual and moral formation, using materials approved by The United Methodist Church. Using the Services of the Baptismal Covenant youth will profess their faith, commit themselves to a life of discipleship and be confirmed. Confirmation is both a human act of commitment and the gracious action of the Holy Spirit strengthening and empowering discipleship.**

*b)* **Youth and adults who have not been baptized and who are seeking to be saved from their sins and profess Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior, are proper candidates for baptism in The United Methodist Church. It shall be the duty of the congregation, led by the pastor, to instruct them in the meaning of baptism, in the meaning of the Christian faith, and the history, organization, and teachings of The United Methodist Church, using materials approved by The United Methodist Church for that purpose. After the completion of the period of nurture and instruction, the sponsor(s) and pastor shall bring them before the congregation and administer the Services of Baptismal Covenant in which persons are baptized, confirmed and received into the Church.**

2. [Delete existing text.] *a)* **Formation in the baptismal covenant and in the call to ministry in daily life is a lifelong process and is carried on through all the activities which have educational value. The pastor gives specific leadership that prepares youth for their profession of faith and commitment to discipleship, and for the Holy Spirit s action confirming them in their faith and empowering their discipleship. This preparation focuses attention upon the meaning of discipleship and the need for professing members to be in mission in all of life s relationships.**

*b)* **There are many occasions as persons mature in the faith when the Holy Spirit s confirming action may be celebrated, such as in the reaffirmation of the baptismal covenant or other services related to life passages. Unlike baptism, which is a once-made covenant and can only be reaffirmed, not repeated, confirmation is a dynamic action of the Holy Spirit that can be repeated.**

3. Preparation for the experience of ~~confirmation~~ **profession of faith and confirmation** shall be provided for all ~~candidates for full membership~~ persons, including adults~~,~~. ~~but~~ ~~,~~Youth who are completing the sixth grade shall normally be the youngest persons recruited for ~~confirmation preparation and full membership~~ such preparation. When younger persons, of their own volition, seek enrollment in ~~confirmation~~ preparation **for profession of faith and confirmation**, such preparation shall be at the discretion of the pastor.

4. ~~Persons in preparation for full membership make up the preparatory roll of~~

~~the church.~~ All baptized persons, including infants, children, youth, and adults shall be listed on the ~~preparatory membership roll~~ Roll of Baptized Members. ~~and other persons who have declared their interest in church membership and have been rolled in confirmation preparation may be listed as preparatory members.~~ (*See also* ¶¶ 223, 232.2.)

5. ~~Statistics of church membership are counts of professing members rather than of all baptized members.~~ For statistical purposes church membership is equated to the roll of professing members.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 134-211
**Subject: The Meaning of Membership**
Committee Item: DI40-211-A
Petition:
21429-DI-211-D, Pg. 946
Membership: 112; Present: 102;
For: 99; Against: 3; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Change last sentence to read:

7. ~~Such persons may also be asked t~~To receive and profess the Christian faith as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 135-209
**Subject: Membership of a Local United Methodist Church**
Committee Item: DI41-209-A
Petition:
21427-DI-209-D, Pg. 945
Membership: 112; Present: 102;
For: 99; Against: 0; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Amend ¶ 209:

The membership of a local United Methodist church shall include all baptized persons.——1. **The baptized membership of a local United Methodist church shall include all baptized persons who have received Christian baptism in the local congregation or whose membership has been transferred to the local United Methodist church subsequent to baptism in some other congregation. In valid baptism, water is administered in the name of the Triune God (specified in the ritual as Father, Son and Holy Spirit) by an authorized person and the Holy Spirit is invoked with the laying on of hands, ordinarily in the presence of the congregation.**

2. **The professing membership of a local United Methodist church shall include all baptized persons** who have come into membership by ~~confession~~ profession of faith ~~at baptism or confirmation, or by transfer,~~ **as expressed in services of baptism, confirmation, Profession of Christian Faith, reaffirmation of baptismal vows or transfer. (See ¶¶ 230, 232, 236, 243).** ~~and whose names have not been removed from the membership rolls by reason of death, transfer, withdrawal, or removal for cause. (*See* ¶¶ 230, 232, 236-243.)~~

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 136-243
**Subject: Membership Rolls**
Committee Item: DI94-243-C
Petition:
21445-DI-243-D, Pg. 952
Membership: 112; Present: 104;
For: 103; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 137-221
**Subject: Care of Children and Youth**
Committee Item: DI95-221-C
Petition:
21433-DI-221-D, Pg. 947
Membership: 112; Present: 101;
For: 100; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 138-105
**Subject: The General Ministry of all Christian Believers**
Committee Item: DI98-105-C
Petition:
21425-DI-105-D, Pg. 942
Membership: 112; Present: 104;
For: 104; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 139-232
**Subject: Membership Records and Reports**
Committee Item: DI99-232-A
Petition:
21444-DI-232-D, Pg. 952
Membership: 112; Present: 101;
For: 100; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Add a new ¶ after current ¶ 232:

**For purpose of record, a permanent list of congregational baptisms with dates, birthdates, full names, addresses, full names of parents, godparents or sponsors, and officiating minister shall be kept by each local church. In the case of transfer to another congregation, death, or withdrawal notation of this shall be made in the baptismal record.**

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 140-243
**Subject: Transfer and Termination of Membership**
Committee Item: DI100-243-A
Petition:
21446-DI-243-D, Pg. 953
Membership: 112; Present: 103;
For: 103; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Add a second new ¶ following current ¶ 243:

**Persons may be removed from the roll of professing members by death, transfer, withdrawal, charge conference action or removal for cause (See ¶¶ 230, 232, 236-243, 2626.4.)**

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 141-230
**Subject: Care of Members**
Committee Item: DI102-230-A
Petition:
21441-DI-230-D, Pg. 950
Membership: 112; Present: 101;
For: 96; Against: 4; Not Voting: 1;

Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Renumber ¶ 230 as ¶ 228.2*b* and amend as follows:

2.*b)* While primary responsibility and initiative rests with each ~~individual~~ **professing** member faithfully to perform the vows of **the baptismal covenant** ~~membership~~ which have been solemnly assumed, if the **professed** member should be neglectful of that responsibility, these procedures shall be followed:

(1)~~.~~ If a **professed** member residing in the community...the membership secretary shall report that **professed** members name to the Administrative Council or the Council on Ministries, which shall do all in its power to reenlist the **professed** member in the active fellowship of the Church. It shall visit the **professed** member and make clear that, while the **professed** members name...and that, since the **professed** member is not attending the church where enrolled, the **professed** member is requested to do one of four things: *(a)* renew the vows and ~~become a regular worshiper~~ **return to living in the community of the baptismal covenant** in the church where the **professed** members name is recorded, *(b)* request transfer to another United Methodist church where the **professed** member will ~~be a regular worshiper~~ **return to living in the community of the baptismal covenant**, *(c)* arrange transfer to a particular church of another denomination, or *(d)* request withdrawal. If the **professed** member does not comply with any of the available alternatives over a period of ~~three~~**two** years, the **professed** members name may be removed. (*See* § (4).)

(2)~~.~~ If a **professed** member whose address is known...encourage a transfer of the **professed** membership shall be followed each year until that **professed** member joins another church or requests in writing that the name be removed from the **roll of professing members** ~~membership roll~~; *provided*, however, that if after ~~three~~**two** years the council has not been able to relate that **professed** member to the church at the new place of residence, the name may be removed **from the roll of professing members** by the procedure of § (4) below.

(3)~~.~~ If the address of a **professed** member is no longer known...If the **professed** member can be located, the directives of either § (1) or § (2) above shall be followed, but if after ~~three~~**two** years of such efforts the address is still unknown, the **professed** members name may be removed from the **roll of professing members** ~~membership roll~~ by the procedure of § 4 below.

(4)~~.~~ If the directives of §§ (1), (2), or (3) above have been followed for the specified number of years without success, the **professed** members name may be removed from the **roll of professing members** ~~membership roll~~ by vote of the Charge Conference...provided that the **professed** memberss name shall have been entered in the minutes of the annual Charge Conference for ~~three~~**two** consecutive years preceding removal. ...and if the action is on the basis of § (3), there shall be added: Reason: address unknown. ~~The membership of the person shall thereby be terminated, and~~ **However** the record ~~thereof~~ shall be retained;[4] ~~provided that upon request the member may be restored to membership by recommendation of the pastor;~~ **in order that upon reaffirmation of the baptismal covenant the person may be restored as a professing member.** ~~and provided further, that s~~Should a transfer of **professing** membership be requested, the pastor may, **after consultation with the person,** ~~restore the persons membership for this purpose and~~ issue the certificate of transfer.

(5)~~.~~ Recognizing that the Church has a continuing moral and spiritual obligation to nurture all persons, even those whose names have been removed from the **roll of professing members** ~~membership roll,~~ it is recommended....

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 142-232

**Subject: Local Church Membership Rolls**

Committee Item: DI103-232-A
Petition:
21443-DI-232-D, Pg. 951
Membership: 112; Present: 100;
For: 99; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Amend ¶ 232:

Each local church shall accurately maintain the following membership rolls:

[Delete existing 1-6.]

**1. Roll of Baptized Members (¶ 209).**

**2. Roll of Professing Members, containing all persons who have professed Christian faith ~~a~~in services of baptism, confirmation, Profession of Christian Faith, reaffirmation of baptismal vows, or by transfer.**

**3. Roll of Constituents, containing the names and addresses of such persons as are not members of the church concerned, including unbaptized children, church school members, and other non-members for whom the local church has pastoral responsibility.**

**4. Roll of Affiliate Members (¶ 227).**

**5. Roll of Associate Members (¶ 227).**

**6. Persons Removed From The Roll of Professing Members (*See* ¶ 230.4).**

**7. Persons Removed From The Roll of Baptized Members (See first new ¶ following current ¶ 243.)**

~~7~~8. In the case of a Union or Federated Church...may report an equal share of the total **professing** membership to each judicatory,...

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 143-1601

**Subject: Name**

Committee Item: FA1-1601-C
Petition:
21481-FA-1601-D, Pg. 374
Membership: 113; Present: 96;
For: 96; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 144-1603

**Subject: Legal Entities**

Committee Item: FA2-1603-C
Petition:
21483-FA-1603-D, Pg. 375
Membership: 113; Present: 98;
For: 97; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**145**-1604
**Subject: Authorizations**
Committee Item: FA3-1604-C
Petition:
21484-FA-1604-D, Pg. 376
Membership: 113; Present: 103;
For: 101; Against: 1; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**146**-1605
**Subject: Permanent Funds**
Committee Item: FA5-1605-A
Petition:
21485-FA-1605-D, Pg. 379
Membership: 113; Present: 98;
For: 97; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows: In the first sentence of petition 21485-FA-1605-D, replace the words World Service Fund, the General Administration Fund, the Episcopal Fund, or any authorized general benevolent or administrative fund with the words general church funds.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**147**-1606.1
**Subject: Powers, Duties, and Responsibilities**
Committee Item: FA6-1606.1-A
Petition:
21486-FA-1606.1-D, Pg. 379
Membership: 113; Present: 100;
For: 97; Against: 1; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

In Paragraph 7, line 7, following the word However insert: for plan years beginning after December 31, 1998.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**148**-2512
**Subject: The Methodist Corporation**
Committee Item: FA10-2512-C
Petition:
21591-FA-2512-D, Pg. 383
Membership: 113; Present: 96;
For: 96; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**149**-2519
**Subject: Board of Church Location and Building**
Committee Item: FA12-2519-C
Petition:
20318-FA-2519-D, Pg. 383
Membership: 113; Present: 97;
For: 97; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**150**-2521
**Subject: Approval of construction, purchase, or remodeling plans for local churches**
Committee Item: FA13-2521-C
Petition:
20319-FA-2521-D, Pg. 383
Membership: 113; Present: 97;
For: 97; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**151**-905.5
**Subject: Staff**
Committee Item: FA24-905.5-C
Petition:
21571-FA-905.5-D, Pg. 367
Membership: 113; Present: 98;
For: 98; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**152**-905.4
**Subject: Committee on Audit and Review**
Committee Item: FA25-905.4-C
Petition:
21570-FA-905.4-D, Pg. 366
Membership: 113; Present: 98;
For: 98; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**153**-907.7
**Subject: Other Administrative Responsibilities**
Committee Item: FA38-907.7-C
Petition:
21578-FA-907.7-D, Pg. 369
Membership: 113; Present: 102;
For: 102; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**154**-907
**Subject: Other Administrative Responsibilities**
Committee Item: FA39-907-C
Petition:
21577-FA-907-D, Pg. 369
Membership: 113; Present: 102;
For: 102; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**155**-907.15
**Subject: Other Administrative Responsibilities**
Committee Item: FA47-907.15-C
Petition:
21582-FA-907.15-D, Pg. 370
Membership: 113; Present: 101;
For: 101; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**156**-907.14
**Subject: Other Administrative Responsibilities**
Committee Item: FA48-907.14-C
Petition:
21581-FA-907.14-D, Pg. 370
Membership: 113; Present: 101;
For: 100; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**157**-907.13
**Subject: Other Administrative Responsibilities**
Committee Item: FA50-907.13-C
Petition:
21580-FA-907.13-D, Pg. 370
Membership: 113; Present: 102;
For: 101; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**158**-907.8
**Subject: Other Administrative Responsibilities**
Committee Item: FA51-907.8-C
Petition:
21579-FA-907.8-D, Pg. 370
Membership: 113; Present: 103;
For: 102; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**159**-909
**Subject: Responsibilities of the Treasurer**
Committee Item: FA52-909-C
Petition:
21583-FA-909-D, Pg. 370
Membership: 113; Present: 103;
For: 102; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**160**-911.1
**Subject: General Policies**
Committee Item: FA94-911.1-C
Petition:
21585-FA-911.1-D, Pg. 371
Membership: 113; Present: 103;
For: 103; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**161**-1706
**Subject: Reduction in size of the Executive Committee of the General Board of Publication**
Committee Item: FA111-1706-C
Petition:
20775-FA-1706-D, Pg. 382
Membership: 113; Present: 102;
For: 101; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**162**-1707
**Subject: Reduction in the number of members required to call a meeting of the Executive Committee**
Committee Item: FA112-1707-C
Petition:
20776-FA-1707-D, Pg. 382
Membership: 113; Present: 102;
For: 102; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**163**-915.4
**Subject: Advance Specials**
Committee Item: GJ12-915.4-C
Petition:
21305-GJ-915.4-D, Pg. 704
Membership: 98; Present: 92;
For: 92; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**164**-915.5
**Subject: Promotion of Advance Specials and One Great Hour of Sharing**
Committee Item: GJ13-915.5-C
Petition:
21306-GJ-915.5-D, Pg. 704
Membership: 98; Present: 92;
For: 92; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**165**-2622
**Subject: Fair Process**
Committee Item: GJ26-2622-C
Petition:
21265-GJ-2622-D, Pg. 1092
Membership: 98; Present: 87;
For: 87; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**166**-1007.1
**Subject: Length of Service on General Council on Ministries**
Committee Item: GJ30-1007.1-C
Petition:
21542-GJ-1007.1-D, Pg. 1332
Membership: 98; Present: 93;
For: 92; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**167**-1006.6
**Subject: Responsibilities of the General Council on Ministries**
Committee Item: GJ32-1006.6-C
Petition:
21658-GJ-1006.6-D, Pg. 706
Membership: 98; Present: 90;
For: 90; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**168**-1006.13
**Subject: Responsibilities of the General Council on Ministry**
Committee Item: GJ34-1006.13-C
Petition:
21262-GJ-1006.13-D, Pg. 707
Membership: 98; Present: 91;
For: 91; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**169**-821
**Subject: Closed Session**
Committee Item: GJ35-821-C
Petition:
21540-GJ-821-D, Pg. 1330
Membership: 98; Present: 92;
For: 92; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**170**-821
**Subject: Meetings**
Committee Item: GJ36-821-C
Petition:
21594-GJ-821-D, Pg. 703
Membership: 98; Present: 92;
For: 92; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**171**-814.5
**Subject: Provisions Pertaining to Staff**
Committee Item: GJ40-814.5-C
Petition:
21490-GJ-814.5-D, Pg. 702
Membership: 98; Present: 92;
For: 92; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**172**-814.3
**Subject: Provisions Pertaining to Staff**
Committee Item: GJ43-814.3-C
Petition:
21489-GJ-814.3-D, Pg. 701
Membership: 98; Present: 90;
For: 90; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**173**-802.4
**Subject: Amenability and Program Accountability**
Committee Item: GJ44-802.4-C
Petition:
21650-GJ-802.4-D, Pg. 695
Membership: 98; Present: 90;
For: 90; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**174**-815
**Subject: Policies relative to nondiscrimination**
Committee Item: GJ48-815-C
Petition:
20321-GJ-815-D, Pg. 702
Membership: 98; Present: 92;
For: 92; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**175**-814.10
**Subject: Provisions Pertaining to Staff**
Committee Item: GJ49-814.10-C
Petition:
21657-GJ-814.10-D, Pg. 702
Membership: 98; Present: 92;
For: 92; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**176**-816
**Subject: Policies Relative to Socially Responsible Investments**
Committee Item: GJ50-816-C
Petition:
21593-GJ-816-D, Pg. 702
Membership: 98; Present: 92;
For: 92; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**177**-1460
**Subject: Training of Disaster Response Coordinators: Responsibility of U.M.C.O.R.**
Committee Item: GM18-1460-C
Petition:
22282-GM-1460-D, Pg. 1359
Membership: 126; Present: 115;
For: 114; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**178**-1403.1
**Subject: Objectives of the General Board of Global Ministries**
Committee Item: GM49-1403.1-C
Petition:
22281-GM-1403.1-D, Pg. 1358
Membership: 126; Present: 116;
For: 116; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence.

Modify petition to read National United Methodist Native American Center

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**179**-1531
**Subject: Schools of Theology**
Committee Item: HE7-1531-C
Petition:
21338-HE-1531-D, Pg. 824
Membership: 86; Present: 80;
For: 80; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**180**-1515.3
**Subject: Responsibilities of the Board of Higher Education**

Committee Item: HE12-1515.3-A
Petition:
20326-HE-1515.-D, Pg. 824
Membership: 86; Present: 79;
For: 74; Against: 1; Not Voting: 4;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

In the second line, delete people with disabilities and insert persons with disabilities.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 181-1505.3
**Subject: Objectives of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry**
Committee Item: HE19-1505.3-C
Petition:
21273-HE-1505.3-D, Pg. 822
Membership: 86; Present: 79;
For: 78; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 182-1508.1
**Subject: Divisions of General Board of Higher Education and Ministry**
Committee Item: HE20-1508.1-C
Petition:
22946-HE-1508.1-D, Pg. 1508
Membership: 86; Present: 80;
For: 79; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 183-732
**Subject: Conference Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry**
Committee Item: HE49-732-A
Petition:
21662-HE-732-D, Pg. 821
Membership: 86; Present: 77;
For: 76; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

In the first sentence of petition 21662-HE-732-D, restore the word equivalent and delete the word other immediately before the phrase structure to provide...

At the end of subparagraph 2, add or equivalent structure, after the words Campus Minstry.

Also, retain subparagraph 3 with the insertion of the words or equivalent structure after the words Campus Ministry.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 184-1803
**Subject: Purpose of the General Commission on Archives and History**
Committee Item: IC27-1803-C
Petition:
20765-IC-1803-D, Pg. 906
Membership: 71; Present: 68;
For: 64; Against: 0; Not Voting: 4;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 185-1808
**Subject: Executive Committee**
Committee Item: IC28-1808-C
Petition:
20767-IC-1808-D, Pg. 907
Membership: 71; Present: 62;
For: 59; Against: 2; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 186-1812.1
**Subject: Historic Sites, Historic Shrines, and Historic Landmarks**
Committee Item: IC29-1812.1-C
Petition:
20769-IC-1812.1-D, Pg. 907
Membership: 71; Present: 68;
For: 67; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 187-1812.2
**Subject: Present Historic Shrines**
Committee Item: IC30-1812.2-C
Petition:
20770-IC-1812.2-D, Pg. 907
Membership: 71; Present: 68;
For: 64; Against: 0; Not Voting: 4;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 188-1812.3
**Subject: Present Historic Landmarks**
Committee Item: IC31-1812.3-C
Petition:
20771-IC-1812.3-D, Pg. 907
Membership: 71; Present: 68;
For: 66; Against: 0; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 189-1811.3
**Subject: Procedures**
Committee Item: IC51-1811.3-C
Petition:
20768-IC-1811.3-D, Pg. 907
Membership: 71; Present: 65;
For: 60; Against: 0; Not Voting: 5;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 190-2402.2
**Subject: Representatives to the National Council of the Council of the Church of Christ Governing Board**
Committee Item: IC70-2402.2-C
Petition:
21074-IC-2402.2-D, Pg. 914
Membership: 71; Present: 68;
For: 68; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 191-248
**Subject: The Local Church Historian**
Committee Item: LC50-248-C
Petition:
21644-LC-248-D, Pg. 954
Membership: 89; Present: 77;

For: 75; Against: 2; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 192-2525

**Subject: Local Church Board of Trustees—Qualifications**
Committee Item: LC55-2525-C
Petition:
21597-LC-2525-D, Pg. 965
Membership: 89; Present: 79;
For: 78; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 193-244

**Subject: Organization and administration of the local church**
Committee Item: LC101-244-A
Petition:
20342-LC-244-D, Pg. 953
Membership: 89; Present: 79;
For: 78; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Amend the first paragraph ¶244: Insert **growth in** in first sentence after strengthening and and before spiritual formation.

Amend the second paragraph of ¶244:

In carrying out its primary task, it shall be organized so that adequate provision is made for these basic responsibilities: (1) planning and implementing a program of nurture, outreach, and witness for persons and families within and without the congregation, ~~including ministries with children, youth, younger adults, adults, older adults, singles, families, church school, Christian unity, interfaith relations, social justice issues, education, evangelism, campus ministry, spiritual formation, religion and race, community, national and global missions, stewardship, worship, and communications;~~ (2) providing for effective pastoral and lay leadership; (3) providing for financial support, physical facilities, and the local obligations of the church; (4) **utilizing the appropriate relationships and resources of the district and annual conference;** (5) providing for the proper creation, maintenance, and disposition of documentary record material of the local church. ~~(See ¶1811,1b);~~ **and (6) seeking inclusiveness in all aspects of its life without regard to race, gender, age, national origin or ~~handicapping conditions~~ disabilities.**

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 194-245

**Subject: Basic Organizational Plan for the Local Church**
Committee Item: LC104-245-A
Petition:
20696-LC-245-D, Pg. 953
Membership: 89; Present: 79;
For: 76; Against: 3; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Amend Paragraph 1 of petition by adding as follows:

**Each local congregation shall provide a comprehensive program of nurture, outreach, and witness, along with leadership training, and the planning and administration of the congregations organizational and temporal life, in accordance with the mission of the United Methodist Church (*See* Paragraphs 101-114).**

Amend Paragraph 2 of petition as follows:

1. [Delete existing text.] **The Church Council and all other administrative and programmatic structures of the local church shall be amenable to the Charge Conference (*see* ¶247) The Church Council shall function as the executive agency of the Charge Conference.**

Amend Paragraph 3 of the petition by eliminating 245.2, as follows:

[Delete existing text.] ~~The pastor shall be the chief administrative officer of the local church and charge and shall be a member of the Charge Conference and an ex-officio member (with vote) of all boards, councils, commissions, committees, and task forces elected or appointed in the church/ charge, except as otherwise provided by the *Discipline*.~~

Amend Paragraph 4 of the petition:

~~[Delete existing text.]~~

**2. Alternative plans may be developed in accordance with the provisions of Paragraph 248.2. Such alternatives include: Nurture, Outreach, and Witness Ministries; Administrative Council; or Administrative Board/Council on Ministries.**

4. [Delete.]

The new Paragraph 245 would read as follows:

The basic organizational plan for the local church shall include provision for the following units: a Charge Conference, a Church Council, a Committee on Pastor-Parish Relations, a Board of Trustees, a Committee on Finance, a Committee on Nominations and Personnel, and such other elected leaders, commissions, councils, committees, and task forces as the Charge Conference may determine. Every local church shall develop a plan for organizing its administrative and programmatic responsibilities. Each local congregation shall provide a comprehensive program of nurture, outreach, and witness, along with leadership training, and the planning and administration of the congregations organizational and temporal life, in accordance with the mission of the United Methodist Church (*See* Paragraphs 101-114).

1. The Church Council and all other administrative and programmatic structures of the local church shall be amenable to the Charge Conference (*see* ¶247) The Church Council shall function as the executive agency of the Charge Conference.

2. Alternative plans may be developed in accordance with the provisions of Paragraph 248.2. Such alternatives include: Nurture, Outreach, and Witness Ministries; Administrative Council; or Administrative Board/Council on Ministries.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 195-101

**Subject: The Mission and Ministry of the Church**
Committee Item: LC105-101-A
Petition:
20244-LC-101-2, Pg. 941
Membership: 89; Present: 80;
For: 78; Against: 2; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Create a new ¶ 101:

Amend Section I, The Mission, by:

Substituting in Paragraph 2 of the Rationale for This mission...God intends. the sentence: **This mission is our grace-filled response to the Reign of God in the world announced by Jesus.**

Inserting at the front of Paragraph 3 the sentence: **John Wesley and our other spiritual forebears understood this mission in this way.**

Substituting, in The Process, bulleted item 4: **servants of Christ for disciples**

and adding after the oppressed, the phrase: **and working to have social structures consistent with the Gospel;**

Inserting after —continue...Body of Christ. a new subhead: **The Global Nature of Our Mission**

In last paragraph:

Substitute fulfill for fulfills.

Insert after The Church and before fulfills the words: **seeks to.**

Insert after Spirit-given the word: **servant.**

**I. The Mission**

**The mission of the Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ.**

**Rationale for Our Mission**

**Jesus' words in Matthew 28:19-20 provide the Church with our mission: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you."**

**This mission is our grace-filled response to the Reign of God in the world announced by Jesus. God's grace is active everywhere, at all times, carrying out this purpose as revealed in the Bible. It is *expressed* in God's covenant with Abraham and Sarah, in the Exodus of Israel from Egypt, and in the ministry of the prophets. It is fully *embodied* in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is *experienced* in the ongoing creation of a new people by the Holy Spirit.**

**John Wesley and our other spiritual forebears understood this mission in this way. Whenever United Methodism has had a clear sense of mission, God has used our Church to save persons, heal relationships, and transform social structures, thereby changing the world. In order to be truly alive, we embrace Jesus' mandate to make disciples of all peoples.**

**The Process for Carrying Out Our Mission**

**We make disciples as we:**

**— proclaim the gospel, seek, welcome and gather persons into the Body of Christ;**

**— lead persons to commit their lives to God through Jesus Christ;**

**— nurture persons in Christian living through worship, baptism, communion, Bible study, prayer, and other means of grace;**

**— send persons into the world to live lovingly and justly as servants of Christ by healing the sick, feeding the hungry, caring for the stranger, and freeing the oppressed; and working to have social structures consistent with the Gospel; and**

**— continue the mission of seeking, welcoming and gathering persons into the community of the Body of Christ.**

**The Global Nature of Our Mission**

**The Church seeks to fulfill its global mission through the Spirit-given servant ministries of all Christians, both lay and clergy. Faithfulness and effectiveness demand that all ministries in the Church be shaped by the mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ.**

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 196-101
**Subject: The Mission of the Church**
Committee Item: LC106-101-C
Petition:
20241-LC-101-D, Pg. 941
Membership: 89; Present: 81;
For: 81; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 197-103
**Subject: The Churches**
Committee Item: LC107-103-C
Petition:
20243-LC-103-D, Pg. 942
Membership: 89; Present: 81;
For: 81; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 198-102
**Subject: The Ministry of all Christians**
Committee Item: LC108-102-C
Petition:
20242-LC-102-D, Pg. 942
Membership: 89; Present: 81;
For: 81; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 199-112
**Subject: The Journey of a Connectional People**
Committee Item: LC114-112-A
Petition:
21641-LC-112-D, Pg. 943
Membership: 89; Present: 81;
For: 81; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Change language from third person to first person.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 200-206.2
**Subject: Cooperative Parish Ministries**
Committee Item: LC116-206.2-A
Petition:
20901-LC-206.2-D, Pg. 944
Membership: 89; Present: 81;
For: 80; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Amend ¶ 206:

2. [Next to last sentence] A ~~superintendent or~~ **conference** director of parish development ~~may~~ **shall** be appointed to work with the Cabinet(s) **and other appropriate agencies** in the implementation of ~~these~~ ministries in a conference ~~or an area~~. In addition, district superintendents shall submit **to the director of parish development** recommendations annually...

4. [Delete existing text.] **Each general board and agency shall arrange for its directors and staff to be trained in cooperative ministry concepts better to provide support resources for annual conferences and local churches.**

**5. Bishops, district superintendents, conference staff, and other leaders shall become familiar, through training, with the benefits of cooperative ministries. They shall provide leadership and training opportunities for pastors and local church leaders as to the value of co-**

operative ministries in moving toward excellence in nurture, outreach, and witness ministries. They are to explore and develop meaningful ministries to persons in congregations, communities, and the global community.

56. Cabinets shall ~~be urged to~~ give priority in the appointment process to appointing directors and clergy staff of cooperative parishes, especially cooperative parish ministries, who have been trained in cooperative ministry concepts and who have demonstrated effective ministries of nurture, outreach, and witness and to development and implementation. The Cabinet shall develop and implement ~~of~~ strategies designed to enable and equip pastors presently appointed to cooperative ~~parishes~~ parish ministries to provide...

7. Annual conferences and cabinets are urged to assist in the development and strengthening of cooperative ministries by pursuing funding assistance from general church, annual conference, and other sources for each cooperative ministry, including cooperative parish ministries.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 201-201
**Subject: The Mission of the Church**
Committee Item: LC119-201-C
Petition:
20223-LC-201-D, Pg. 944
Membership: 89; Present: 79;
For: 79; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

# Consent Calendar B02

## 202-R633
**Subject: Ratification of United Nations Covenants and Conventions by the United States**
Committee Item: CS44-R633-C
Petition:
21050-CS-R633-U, Pg. 159
Membership: 102; Present: 88;
For: 77; Against: 5; Not Voting: 6;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 203-R648
**Subject: In Support of the United Nations**
Committee Item: CS48-R648-C
Petition:
21052-CS-R648-U, Pg. 163
Membership: 102; Present: 88;
For: 82; Against: 2; Not Voting: 4;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 204-R561
**Subject: Peace, The United Methodist Church and**
Committee Item: CS50-R561-C
Petition:
21049-CS-R561-U, Pg. 157
Membership: 102; Present: 88;
For: 78; Against: 3; Not Voting: 7;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 205-R643
**Subject: Terrorism**
Committee Item: CS51-R643-C
Petition:
21051-CS-R643-U, Pg. 162
Membership: 102; Present: 88;
For: 87; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 206-NonDis
**Subject: Removal of reduction of U.S. military bases in Okinawa**
Committee Item: CS52-NonDis-C
Petition:
20361-CS-NonDis-O, Pg. 149
Membership: 102; Present: 88;
For: 80; Against: 5; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 207-NonDis
**Subject: Campaign Finance Reform in the United States**
Committee Item: CS92-NonDis-C
Petition:
22889-CS-NonDis-O, Pg. 1248
Membership: 102; Present: 88;
For: 83; Against: 2; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 208-R245
**Subject: Ecumenical Interpretations of Doctrinal Standards**
Committee Item: DI14-R245-C
Petition:
21056-DI-R245-U, Pg. 265
Membership: 112; Present: 104;
For: 101; Against: 0; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 209-NonDis
**Subject: Report Three: Petitions Referred By The 1992 General Conference**
Committee Item: FA8-NonDis-C
Petition:
21512-FA-NonDis-O, Pg. 532
Membership: 113; Present: 98;
For: 94; Against: 3; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**210**-NonDis
**Subject: Basic Protection Plan**
Committee Item: FA9-NonDis-A
Petition:
21493-FA-NonDis-O, Pg. 387
Membership: 113; Present: 97;
For: 96; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

2.06line 2; following and associate members, replace or for ~~and~~ a full-time . .

2.19bline 1: delete a ~~member in full connection, probationay member, or associate member~~; add **full participant in the itinerant system.**

3.04line 2: following requirement add **when**

6.03a(1)(A) One of the following amounts: $10,000, ~~or~~ $25,000, **or $50,000.**

8.06line 2: following by the Trustee, add **in order to comply with federal and state regulations**; Line 4: following agreement (or agreements) add **with due notice to the participants involved**

11.07Delete section.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**211**-NonDis
**Subject: Change Name of General Board of Publication**
Committee Item: FA117-NonDis-C
Petition:
20773-FA-NonDis-O, Pg. 385
Membership: 113; Present: 102;
For: 102; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**212**-NonDis
**Subject: The Book of Resolution**
Committee Item: GJ15-NonDis-C
Petition:
21683-GJ-NonDis-O, Pg. 629
Membership: 98; Present: 83;
For: 82; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**213**-NonDis
**Subject: Strengthening the Small Membership Church**
Committee Item: GJ16-NonDis-C
Petition:
21701-GJ-NonDis-O, Pg. 667
Membership: 98; Present: 92;
For: 92; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**214**-NonDis
**Subject: Advance for Christ and His Church**
Committee Item: GJ17-NonDis-C
Petition:
21690-GJ-NonDis-O, Pg. 647
Membership: 98; Present: 91;
For: 91; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**215**-NonDis
**Subject: The Natural World**
Committee Item: GJ18-NonDis-C
Petition:
21702-GJ-NonDis-O, Pg. 668
Membership: 98; Present: 92;
For: 90; Against: 1; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**216**-NonDis
**Subject: New Developments in Genetic Science**
Committee Item: GJ19-NonDis-C
Petition:
21703-GJ-NonDis-O, Pg. 668
Membership: 98; Present: 92;
For: 90; Against: 0; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**217**-NonDis
**Subject: Developing Congregations for Deaf Ministries**
Committee Item: GJ20-NonDis-C
Petition:
21704-GJ-NonDis-O, Pg. 669
Membership: 98; Present: 92;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 4;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**218**-NonDis
**Subject: Assessment of Sexual Harassment**
Committee Item: GJ21-NonDis-C
Petition:
21705-GJ-NonDis-O, Pg. 669
Membership: 98; Present: 92;
For: 92; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**219**-NonDis
**Subject: Biblical & Theological Language**
Committee Item: GJ22-NonDis-C
Petition:
21709-GJ-NonDis-O, Pg. 672
Membership: 98; Present: 92;
For: 92; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**220**-NonDis
**Subject: Native American Center**
Committee Item: GJ23-NonDis-C
Petition:
21711-GJ-NonDis-O, Pg. 673
Membership: 98; Present: 92;
For: 92; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**221**-NonDis
**Subject: Mission and Aging in a Global Population**
Committee Item: GJ24-NonDis-C
Petition:
21716-GJ-NonDis-O, Pg. 682
Membership: 98; Present: 91;
For: 91; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**222**-NonDis
**Subject: GCOM Requested World Service Allocations to Program Agencies**
Committee Item: GJ51-NonDis-C
Petition:
21715-GJ-NonDis-O, Pg. 680
Membership: 98; Present: 92;
For: 90; Against: 0; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**223**-NonDis
**Subject: Needs of the General Program Agencies from the World Service Fund**
Committee Item: GJ52-NonDis-C
Petition:
21714-GJ-NonDis-O, Pg. 676
Membership: 98; Present: 92;
For: 91; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**224**-NonDis
**Subject: Training of New District Superintendents and Conference Council Directors by GCOM**
Committee Item: GJ54-NonDis-C
Petition:
22482-GJ-NonDis-O, Pg. 1336
Membership: 98; Present: 92;
For: 92; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**225**-NonDis
**Subject: Guidelines for Sexual Misconduct Policies**
Committee Item: GJ73-NonDis-C
Petition:
20247-GJ-NonDis-O, Pg. 825
Membership: 98; Present: 87;
For: 86; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**226**-NonDis
**Subject: East Timor**
Committee Item: GM5-NonDis-A
Petition:
21359-GM-NonDis-O, Pg. 787
Membership: 126; Present: 114;
For: 114; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

East Timor is part of an island on the far eastern end of the Indonesian archipelago, only 300 miles from Darwin, Australia. It had been under Portuguese control for some three centuries, unlike the other islands of present day Indonesia which were all Dutch colonies. During 1974-1975, following a coup and change of government in Portugal, East Timor was in the process of decolonization. There was a brief civil war between the newly formed political parties, which was subsequently won by Fretilin, the party favoring independence. But hardly had Fretilin declared independence for East Timor when, on December 7, 1975, Indonesia launched a massive invasion and annexed the half island. (Ninety percent of the weapons used by Indonesian armed forces were US made weapons.) Twenty years later, Indonesia continues to occupy East Timor in spite of repeated United Nations Resolutions deploring the invasion, affirming the right of the East Timorese to self-determination and calling on the Indonesian government to withdraw its troops.

The events in East Timor went unnoticed and unreported in the outside world because it was closed off to foreign presence until 1989. However, during the invasion and subsequent occupation over a third of the population died from killing, starvation or disease. Timorese culture was suppressed, local languages were discouraged and the majority of population living in the mountains and forests were forced to come out and re-settle in planned villages built by the Indonesian army.

World attention was finally brought to the plight of East Timor when, on November 12, 1991, Indonesian troops massacred between 50 and 250 peaceful demonstrators at the Santa Cruz cemetery in Dili, East Timor. The number of dead has never been determined because many people who disappeared on that day have not been found. **This tragedy was witnessed by western journalists whose reports, especially videotape taken by British journalist Max Stahl, helped to stimulate international efforts to bring about a just resolution to the problem of East Timor. In protest of the massacre in 1992, the United States Congress eventually cut off military training (since reinstated by the Clinton administration in 1994), and instituted a ban on small arms sales to Indonesia.** ~~This tragedy was witnessed by western journalists whose reports helped to stimulate international efforts to bring about a just resolution to the problem in East Timor. The United States Congress authorized a moratorium on military training and small arms sales to Indonesia in protest of the massacre.~~

In January 1995, a delegation from the National Council of Churches of Christ, USA and a representative of the Canadian Council of Churches visited East Timor to express solidarity with the churches and people of East Timor. The region is 90% Christian, predominantly Catholic with a small Protestant minority. The population has come to identify being Catholic with being patriotic and supporting the East Timor cause. The Roman Catholic Bishop Carlos Ximenes Belo is recognized and respected as the leader and spokesperson of the East Timorese people. It has been said that relations between Catholic and Protestants have not been good. The National Council of Churches of Christ/Church World Service and Witness (CWS&W) delegation found this to be exaggerated, however, and witnessed many examples of Catholic/Protestant cooperation. The main Protestant church, the Christian Church of East Timor, has begun to find its voice and recently received membership in the World Council of Churches. Previously, it had been represented in religious fora only through the Indonesia Communion of Churches which always spoke on its behalf.

Human rights groups such as Amnesty International, as well as individual observers, have reported continued serious human rights abuses against the East Timorese, including beatings, abductions, torture, rape, extrajudicial killing, and im-

prisonment for any acts of political expression. In addition, the Indonesian government has encouraged thousands of Indonesians from more crowded islands to migrate to East Timor. These transmigrations have displaced many East Timorese from their traditional homes and land, taken over much of the trade and filled many of the civil service jobs. This has exacerbated the unemployment problem, particularly among the youth, and created social tension which has provided the military with justification for further repression.

Following its visit to East Timor, the NCCC/CWS&W delegation recommended an advocacy effort which calls for the demilitarization of East Timor and supports a process which would lead to the determination of the political status of East Timor, with the full participation of the East Timorese people.

Therefore, be it resolved, that The United Methodist Church, its members, local churches, annual conferences, central conferences and agencies:

*Deplore* the continuing occupation of East Timor and the resultant abuse of human rights and climate of oppression.

*Support* the witness of the Christian Church of East Timor and the Roman Catholic Church, and other groups in their commitment to human rights, peace and restoration of the East Timorese national identity.

*Support* the rights of the East Timorese to self-determination and calls for the full participation of the East Timorese people in the just resolution of the political status of East Timor.

*Urge* the United Nations to intensify efforts to resolve the political status of East Timor.

*Support* the East Timorese people and the East Timorese churches who struggle for justice, dignity, freedom from fear and the preservation of their ethnic and cultural identity.

*Celebrate* the membership of the Christian Church of East Timor in the World Council of Churches and its participation in ecumenical bodies in order that this East Timorese church may have an independent voice.

*Encourage* in the spirit of partnership, the Indonesian churches and the Communion of Churches in Indonesia to stand in solidarity with those who are oppressed in East Timor.

*Call* on the United States government to cease military aid, including military training, and the sale of arms to Indonesia as long as it continues its de facto military occupation of East Timor.

*Call* on the United Methodists to make efforts in mission, education, witness and advocacy to alleviate the plight of the East Timorese by:

1) Making available through general boards and agencies resources regarding East Timor to assist United Methodist congregations in initiating programs in education, mission, witness and advocacy;

2) Working to increase awareness of the on-going crisis in East Timor among US policy-makers, the general public, and United Methodist congregations through general boards and agencies and ecumenical bodies;

3) Supporting the East Timorese, both within East Timor and in exile, who are struggling to end the Indonesian occupation and attempting to achieve self-determination in their land.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we urge the United States government and other governments to:

1) Take legislative and administrative action to pressure Indonesia to comply with the United Nations resolutions on East Timor, to withdraw its military occupation forces from

East Timor, and to cooperate with the United Nations in a process bringing about self-determination for East Timor, and

2) Send copies of this resolution to the Secretary General of the United Nations, the President of the UN General Assembly, the President of the United States, all U.S. Senators and Representatives and all appropriate ecumenical colleagues.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 227-NonDis

**Subject: Africa Reconstruction and Development**

Committee Item: GM7-NonDis-A
Petition:
21357-GM-NonDis-O, Pg. 784
Membership: 126; Present: 115;
For: 115; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

*We applaud international efforts to develop a more just international economic order, in which the limited resources of the earth will be used to the maximum benefit of all nations and peoples. We urge Christians, in every society, to encourage the governments under which they live, and the economic entities within their societies, to aid and to work for the development of more just economic orders.*—from Social Principles, ¶ 75, *The Book of Discipline*.

The continent of Africa is in crisis. The international community singled out Africa as the area of greatest human suffering at the United Nations World Summit for Social Development held in Copenhagen, Denmark in March, 1995. **And more recently , the UN System-wide Special Initiative on Africa, jointly launched by the UN and the World Bank on March 15, 1996, has committed up to $25 billion over 10 years to respond to Africas developmental needs in a coordinated way, in the following sectors; basic education, basic health, governance, food security, water and sanitation, peace-building and informatics.**

A century of colonial rule, preceded by two centuries of a vicious slave trade and followed by a generation of neo-colonialism, has left much of Africas social, political and economic life in a shambles. The decade of the eighties was disastrous. Real wages for Africas workers fell by 30% in a decade, and unemployment quadrupled. Infant mortality rates, a powerful index of human well-being, are now more than three times the rate for Southeast Asia and over double the rate for Latin America and the Caribbean. A destructive combination of military dictatorship, apartheid, economic collapse, social unrest, civil war, and natural disasters created 7 million refugees, 50 million disabled persons, and 35 million displaced people. Armaments poured into Africa during and following the Cold War are now used by some governments to oppress their own people; by armed bands who enrich themselves at the point of a gun and in inter-ethnic conflicts.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu, President of the All Africa Conference of Churches, observes with alarm that: The magnitude of the economic crisis is manifest by rising cost of living, adverse commodity prices, a ruthless free market, the unfair and heavy debt burden, the falling prices of raw materials, the over-burdening of social services, rising unemployment, especially among women and young men, unacceptable high mortality and morbidity rates among children and women and noticeable increases in general abuse and violence.

Yet the continent is a place of hope and promise. Peace has been achieved in a number of nations which were wracked by civil war for years. Democratic reforms are being demanded by the people of those countries still suffering under military dictatorship and government corruption. Democracy is struggling into life in more than a dozen nations. The whole world is rejoicing at the miracle of liberation in

South Africa, as the old wine-skins of apartheid have been broken. New models of sustainable and equitable development are being created by the people of the continent, as they see the destructiveness of inappropriate Western and neo-colonial models. The continent is rich in natural resources needed by the entire world. Africa is blessed with people of remarkable energy, spirit and ingenuity. The United Methodist Church, continuing to grow rapidly, is a transforming presence in many countries, influential beyond its numbers, engaging in a holistic Wesleyan ministry of outreach evangelism and humanitarian service.

*The Copenhagen Commitment:*

In response to the crisis and mindful of the new possibilities emerging in Africa, governments and non-governmental organizations meeting at the United Nations World Summit for Social Development made a solemn pledge:

*We commit ourselves to accelerating the economic, social and human resource development of Africa and the least developed countries.*

*To this end, we will:*

*a. Implement, at the national level, structural adjustment policies, which should include social development goals, as well as effective development strategies that establish a more favourable climate for trade and investment, give priority to human resource development and further promote the development of democratic institutions;*

*b. Support the domestic efforts of Africa and the least developed countries to implement economic reforms, programmes to increase food security, and commodity diversification efforts through international cooperation, including South-South cooperation and technical and financial assistance, as well as trade and partnership;*

*c. Find effective, development-oriented and durable solutions to external debt problems, through the immediate implementation of the terms of debt forgiveness agreed upon in the Paris Club in December 1994, which encompass debt reduction, including cancellation or other debt-relief measures; invite the international financial institutions to examine innovative approaches to assist low-income countries with a high proportion of multilateral debt, with a view to alleviating their debt burdens; and develop techniques of debt conversion applied to social development programmes and projects in conformity with Summit priorities. These actions should take into account the mid-term review of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s[1] and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s[2], and should be implemented as soon as possible;*

*d. Ensure the implementation of the strategies and measures for the development of Africa decided by the international community, and support the reform efforts, development strategies and programmes decided by the African countries and the least developed countries;*

*e. Increase official development assistance, both overall and for social programmes, and improve its impact, consistent with countries economic circumstances and capacities to assist, and consistent with commitments in international agreements;*

*f. Consider ratifying the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa[3], and support African countries in the implementation of urgent action to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought;*

*g. Take all necessary measures to ensure that communicable diseases, particularly HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis, do not restrict or reverse the progress made in economic and social development.*

*United Methodist Response:*

As Christians, our faith is in the God of Jesus Christ, who stands with the most vulnerable and oppressed people in our societies. Their well-being must serve as a guidepost for justice. God, sovereign over all nations, had made of one blood all the peoples of the earth. United Methodists, therefore, remain ever-vigilant, listening more attentively than ever to churches and movements around the world, as they struggle for social, political, economic spiritual development. Therefore, we call upon the United Methodist people, local churches and agencies to:

1. Participate fully in the **Campaign for Africa** of the Council of Bishops and the General Board of Global Ministries and to urge the continuation of the Campaign; and urge the General Board of Church and Society to advocate for policies that address the economic crises, **peacemaking** ~~peacekeeping~~ and human rights concerns in Africa.

2. Encourage United Methodist churches to increase their participation in programs of emergency relief, aid to refugees, reconstruction and development through the appropriate units of the General Board of Global Ministries, regional councils of churches and the World Council of Churches.

3. Encourage United Methodists to participate in Volunteers in Mission programs and educate themselves (orientation, cultural sensitivity and contingency planning), for working alongside **and empowering** African brothers and sisters **and their institutions** in , e.g. reconstructing schools, clinics and churches. There is also a need to emphasize the importance of preparation for the cross-cultural experience **and mutuality of learning** for both the volunteer in mission and the receiving partner.

4. Be faithful witnesses to government leaders in every country to the need for concerted national and international efforts toward sustainable equitable development and reconstruction on the continent of Africa, guided by ~~the Copenhagen Commitment, World Summit for Social Development.~~ **the committment and other bilateral and multilateral initiatives - including the Special Program of Assistance to Africa (SPA), and the new UN System-wide Initiative on Africa.**

5. Urge United Methodists to persuade their governments to ratify the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and /or Desertification.

6. Press the World Bank and International Monetary Fund to reform its structural adjustment programs, which have contributed to debts, declining economic and health systems, and deteriorating education **and infrastructure** in African nations.

7. Urge an embargo on present and future arms sales to Africa, and measures to rid Africa of the weapons which were poured into the continent, including the land mines which kill innocent people, predominantly women and children.

8. Continue and further develop the General Board of Global Ministries commitment to comprehensive community-based primary health care, recognizing the role which poverty, poor sanitation, and polluted water play in the spread of communicable diseases across the continent; the collapse of the health care systems in many countries; and the ineffectiveness of Western medical models.

9. Monitor all programs of relief and development with special attention to these criteria:

a. Give priority to women and children, who suffer the most during times of social unrest and war.

b. Involve full participation of African United Methodists in setting priorities , designing, managing and coordinating projects, relying upon their experience, wisdom and resourcefulness.

c. Design programs to alleviate the root causes of poverty, oppression and social unrest.

d. Program for sustainability, both in terms of ecological integrity, and the avoidance of dependency by utilizing appropriate technologies which do not require continuing input of resources from other countries.

**Endnotes:**

1. General Assembly resolution 46/151, annex, sect.II

2. Report of the Second UN Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Paris, 3-14 September, 1990 (A/CONF:147/18), part one.

3. Ibid: A/49/84/Add.2, annex, appendix II

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 228-NonDis

**Subject: The Middle East and North Africa**

Committee Item: GM8-NonDis-A
Petition:
21360-GM-NonDis-O, Pg. 788
Membership: 126; Present: 115;
For: 114; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

*Introduction*

The Middle East and North Africa, the region of the world stretching from Mauritania on the west to Iran on the east and from Turkey on the north to Somalia on the south, holds a special place in the hearts and minds of United Methodists. The Methodist presence in the region dates back to 1887 when the Methodist Church in France answered a request for an organized Protestant church to be engaged in mission in North Africa. The Methodist Church responded by establishing a mission station in the Mountains of Kabylia in North Algeria. The mission station provided evangelistic, medical, educational and technical programs for the whole population. Methodist mission work later spread to other parts of Algeria and Tunisia.

The United Methodist connection to the region dates back to 1924 when United Methodists joined other Protestants in forming the International Missionary Council in North Africa. The Methodist Church in North Africa was also a founding member of the Near East Christian Council (NECC) in 1956. The United Methodist Church maintained its membership in the NECC when it became the Middle East Council of Churches in 1974. Following the 1948 War and the establishment of the state of Israel, The United Methodist Church began responding to the critical needs of hundreds of thousands of Palestinian refugees as well as the other human needs in the region caused by wars, invasions, liberation struggles, natural disasters and devastating economic and social conditions.

United Methodist engagement in mission in the Middle East and North Africa has challenged our understanding of the theological foundations for our presence there. **As we deepened our relationship with the Christians of the region, we gained an appreciation for the life and witness of the indigenous Christian churches there. This broadened our understanding of mission, enabling the United Methodist Church to develop partnerships based on respect and mutuality rather than parochial concerns.** For several quadrennia, the General Conference of The United Methodist Church has encouraged United Methodist members, local churches and agencies to pray for peace and become actively involved in justice and peacemaking efforts in the Middle East. The United Methodist Church has given special attention to the Arab-Israel conflict and the homelessness of the Palestinian people, with the hope that the

resolution of these long-standing conflicts would create the conditions for resolving other crises in the region.

Throughout our history of involvement in the Middle East and North Africa, we have gained a deeper understanding of the region in its full human and spiritual context. We join our Jewish and Muslim brothers and sisters in feeling a deep sense of rootedness to the land where our three religious traditions were born. We also celebrate the diversity of religious customs and traditions in the Middle East and North Africa which provide United Methodists with the opportunity to strengthen our understanding of and commitment to interfaith encounters and explorations. This challenge includes not only Islam and Judaism but the variety of Christian traditions indigenous to the region as well. Our United Methodist presence is primarily through our relationship with the Middle East Council of Churches (MECC). The MECC is an inclusive fellowship of churches from four Christian families: the Eastern Orthodox, the Oriental Orthodox, the Catholic and the Protestant.

Over the past four years, the Middle East and North Africa has experienced dramatic and profound political, civil, social, economic and religious developments. The strategic location of the region, its natural resources, ethnic richness and religious passions attract a variety of powerful influences and interests from around the world. The result has too often brought exploitation, violence and death to the peoples there. As we reflect upon these developments, in light of our Christian vocation, we are challenged to re-examine and reaffirm our United Methodist commitment to service and witness there.

*Sustainable Development*

The Middle East and North Africa is diverse in its topography, climate, physical and social environments, and covers an area approximately equal in size to the United States. The area is defined by a variety of independent states with diverse political systems, ethnic groups, languages, custom and traditions. These definitions join factors such as rapid population growth, increasing urbanization, scarcity of land, water and other economic resources, and limits on women's social and economic autonomy in playing a critical role in questions of sustainable development there.

Since the Gulf War of 1990, the social, economic and political situation has deteriorated drastically. Many countries are facing a major economic crisis which is rapidly getting worse. The struggles of people throughout the region are similar: an extremely high unemployment rate especially among the young population, falling per capita consumption, shortages of basic food commodities, no access to basic social services, high levels of illiteracy, an absence of accountable government, and governmental corruption.

Against this backdrop of deteriorating social, economic and political conditions, the region suffers from environmental degradation. Concentrations of air pollutants such as sulfur dioxide and lead are well above levels considered safe. The quality and productivity of agricultural land is threatened by salination. This limits the amount of land available for cultivation which is already threatened by dwindling sources of fresh water. The water needs of giant and overcrowded cities compete with agricultural methods demanding large amounts of water resulting in a water shortage of major proportions. Much of the water that is available is highly contaminated from industrial wastes, agricultural pesticides and other chemicals. While water shortage is a global problem, the political implications are most vulnerable in the Middle East and North Africa where a number of conflicts between states are rooted in dis-

agreements over gaining unrestricted access to sources of water. The results of this environmental crisis are poor health, inferior housing, and poor sanitation for both rural and urban populations, especially those who are marginalised.

As people begin to demand more equitable access to jobs, schooling, housing and health care, it becomes clear that questions of population and development must be framed within a context of equity. Governments will continue to be unsuccessful in their efforts to slow rates of population growth until policies designed to protect the lifestyles of wealthy elites while ignoring the basic needs of the majority population undergo drastic changes. Family planning strategies must become more holistic to include factors that influence women's reproductive choices such as women's other health needs, their education, job opportunities and overall status and the role that men play in reproductive behavior.

*Human Rights Concerns*

Over the past decade, the human rights movement in the Middle East and North Africa has expanded rapidly. We applaud the commitment and determination of thousands of individuals and groups dedicated to documenting and publishing information about human rights abuses in their countries. These efforts have enabled people in the West to gain a better understanding of human rights violations. Their work has also helped to challenge stereotypes about Middle Eastern and North African societies.

Perhaps the most destructive of these stereotypes is the notion that political absolutism is generic to the region. There is a pervasive sense that the problem in the region is an absence of civil society—networks of non-governmental institutions and civic culture to which the state is accountable. However, in fact there are vibrant and diverse communities and non-governmental organizations knowledgeable about and critical of structures of power in and among their own societies.

The commitment to reforming the political and economic problems of the region has been threatening to authoritarian governments bent on maintaining power in the Middle East and North Africa. Many states throughout the region have implemented restrictions on basic civil and political participation, including freedom of expression, freedom of peaceful assembly and freedom of association. Corrupt justice systems allow politically motivated killings, arbitrary arrest, torture and denial of fair public trials. The rights of minorities, such as the freedom of religious and ethnic groups to express their culture, practice their religion and even use their own language are restricted and denied in many states. Fundamentalist religious groups, intolerant of those who disagree with their vision of society, have used violence to challenge and destabilize existing political orders. The struggle for women's rights has also been long and hard in the region. Women in many countries suffer from restrictions on their movements, activities and personal freedoms from both the state and religious fundamentalist groups. Immigrant women working in the Middle East are especially vulnerable to human rights violations with little if any access to redress their oppression.

*Peace and Justice Concerns*

In recent years, The United Methodist Church has become more active in justice and peacemaking efforts in the Middle East and North Africa. The church has worked with ecumenical and interfaith bodies advocating self-determination for Palestinians, affirming Israel's right to exist within secure borders, calling for region-wide disarmament and urging the United States government to initiate a US embargo on arms to the entire region.

United Methodists are committed to the objective of a comprehensive Arab-Israeli peace agreement which would bring recognition and security to Israel and national and human rights to the Palestinians. We commend those who have actively worked to end the Israeli occupation of the West Bank, Gaza, Southern Lebanon and the Golan Heights, while seeking the revocation of those articles in the PLO covenant that call for the destruction of Israel. **We commend those who worked faithfully to uphold human dignity and resist dehumanization and demonization.** We are hopeful that the signing of the Israel-Palestinian Authority Interim Agreement will begin the long-awaited withdrawal of Israeli forces from the West Bank in partial compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 242, the release of Palestinian political prisoners and the initiation of democratic political rights for Palestinians. The most important issues have not been resolved: Israel's claim to exclusive sovereignty over all of Jerusalem, the presence of existing Israeli settlements and the construction of new ones, the future of the Palestinian refugees in the diaspora, and Palestinian national rights. Israelis and Palestinians, the peoples of the three Abrahamic religions, should shape the future status of Jerusalem.

In the aftermath of the Gulf War, we deeply grieve for the Iraqi people. Massive declines in levels of education, health, water purification, and sanitation have hit women, children, and the elderly particularly hard. The imposition of economic sanctions on Iraq following the devastating war compounded by the Iraqi government's abusive and divisive social and political policies have resulted in massive cases of malnutrition, illness and death.

We uplift those groups and individuals who have worked tirelessly to bring human dignity, reconciliation, justice and peace to the region. We are especially mindful of those committed to resolving the conflicts and injustices suffered by people in Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, Iraq, Kurdistan, Lebanon, Somalia, Sudan and the Western Sahara. We know that the interests of our governments, including the massive exportation of military weapons and technical assistance to the region, play a critical role in these conflicts. As citizens our responsibility is to stand with those laboring to redress all injustices in the Middle East and North Africa.

*Call to Action*

We call upon United Methodists individually, in their local churches, and through their boards and agencies to take the following actions:

1) to pray for all people in the region;

2) to continue United Methodist support, through the General Boards of Church and Society and Global Ministries, working with the people of the region to address their needs;

3) to strengthen our relationship with the Middle East Council of Churches and other indigenous partners in the region;

4) to seek a deeper understanding of the region and its peoples. We ask that leaders of Holy Land pilgrimages and volunteer in mission visits contact United Methodist missionaries, representatives of the Middle East Council of Churches, and other partner organizations in the region in planning their itineraries;

5) to urge governments to stop military assistance and arms exports to the region and to support sustainable development initiatives;

6) to urge the United States government to lead the United Nations Security Council in calling for a relaxation of UN economic sanctions against Iraq in order to end the cruel and devastating affect they are having on the Iraqi people, especially on the elderly, women and children;

7) to urge the Iraqi government to cease its abusive and divisive social and political policies and to encourage it to bring human dignity and justice to its people;

8) to provide a forum in United Methodist churches for voices of women, especially from Algeria, Egypt, Palestine, Tunisia, and the Western Sahara;

9) to support nongovernmental organizations dedicated to working for peace and justice, reconciliation, and human dignity in the Middle East and North Africa;

10) to urge the United States and other governments to support the internationalization of Jerusalem;

11) to urge the United States and other governments to encourage strongly the state of Israel to cease the confiscation of Palestinian lands; to cease the building of new, or the development of existing, settlements in Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem; **to lift all closures of Jerusalem to Palestinians; to cease the construction of by-pass roads connecting Israeli settlements which isolate Palestinian towns and villages; to cease the sealing and demolition of Palestinian homes; to cease administrative detention of men, women and minors without the right to a fair trial; to cease the torture of Palestinian prisoners, deportations and other human rights violations;** and to release Palestinian political prisoners;

12) to urge the United States and other governments to encourage strongly the Palestinian National Authority to cease human rights violations including extrajudicial punishment, abduction and torture, and call upon the Palestine National Authority to establish a civil and independent judiciary in the West Bank and Gaza;

13) to organize educational events and community prayers for peace in the Middle East, in order to bring together in each community Jews, Muslims, and Christians.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 229-NonDis

**Subject: Encounter with Christ Program**

Committee Item: GM10-NonDis-A
Petition:
20239-GM-NonDis-O, Pg. 763
Membership: 126; Present: 102;
For: 101; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

**Encounter With Christ in Latin America and the Carribean**

Whereas, colleague churches of Methodist heritage in Latin America and the Caribbean now have extraordinary new opportunities for mission and ministry, with many experiencing marked numerical growth and renewed vitality in witnessing to Gods redemptive work through Jesus Christ, our Lord; and

Whereas, many of these same churches are struggling with severe financial problems rooted in the massive poverty that besets the majority of peoples in this region of the world; and

Whereas, Methodist churches of the Caribbean and Latin America have made costly decisions in their history for self-determination, seeking to be more faithfully incarnate within the diversity of nations within this region; and

Whereas, the churches represented by the Council of Evangelical Methodist Churches in Latin America and the Caribbean (CIEMAL) and the Methodist Church of the Caribbean and the Americas (MCCA) urgently need sisters and brothers who will share with them in supporting new church development, evangelistic initiatives, and programs that nurture justice ministries and respect for all persons; and

Whereas, many of these colleague churches are being led to make costly new commitments in order to strengthen their solidarity and faithful ministry with children, women and youth;

Therefore, be it resolved, that we will encourage and invite support for the General Board of Global Ministries Permanent Fund entitled, Encounter with Christ in Latin America and the Caribbean (No. 025100), a designated giving channel that provides a special means for current and deferred giving in order to strengthen our shared ministries with the Methodist churches of Latin America and the Caribbean.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 230-NonDis

**Subject: The Search for Peace and Justice in Okinawa**

Committee Item: GM12-NonDis-A
Petition:
22348-GM-NonDis-O, Pg. 1363
Membership: 126; Present: 113;
For: 112; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

In recognition of the great investment that The United Methodist Church has made in the mission of the Church in Okinawa (Japan) since the turn of the century, with the arrival of the first Methodist missionary, this resolution is presented to request the support of United Methodist congregations for one of the urgent issues in mission of the Okinawa District of The United Methodist Church in Japan, the Christian body with which The United Methodist Church has a cooperative mission relationship.

With 1995 commemorating the 50th year since the end of the Battle of Okinawa, the long-term oppressive presence of U.S. military bases in Okinawa has become a critical issue for the entire Okinawan society. In accordance with the Japan-America Security Treaty, which grants the U.S. use of facilities and areas in Japan, the United States military forces occupy **a substantial amount** ~~20%~~ of the land area of Okinawa Island, in addition to having exclusive use of designated air and sea space for military training. This vast military presence greatly hinders the development of Okinawa and threatens the livelihood of Okinawan citizens.

Even after Allied occupation ended on the Japanese mainland in 1952, Okinawa remained under complete U.S. military administration for 20 years, until 1972, when the islands reverted to Japanese jurisdiction.

Private property requisitioned by the U.S. military to construct the vast military bases after the war is still held today, denying some 30,000 families the right to live on and utilize their own land. Military aircraft produce ear-splitting noise on a daily basis. Military drills endanger the lives of citizens and destroy the natural environment.

Since 1972, the date of Okinawas reversion to Japan, U.S. military personnel have committed 4,716 crimes. These crimes, which include robbery, murder, and rape, imperil the fundamental human rights of the Okinawan people.

The September 4, 1995, rape of an elementary school girl by three American military personnel is not an extraordinary case. **Such S**structural violence is inherent in the enforced presence of the U.S. military in Okinawa. The residents of Okinawa living around the bases become the primary targets of this violence, with women and children being especially vulnerable.

This latest rape is only the spark igniting the Okinawans anger over this and past crimes perpetuated upon them by the U.S. military. Okinawan citizens are demanding the reduction of U.S. military bases in Okinawa and also a reappraisal of the Status of Forces Agreement, the

document that governs the presence of U.S. military personnel in Japan.

The Okinawa District of the United Church of Christ in Japan considers the militarization of Okinawa to be an issue that the church is called on to address in its mission of peacemaking. Following the resolution acted on by the Okinawa District Executive Committee of the United Church of Christ in Japan, a letter was sent to partner church members in North America, including The United Methodist Church, in the name of the moderator of the United Church of Christ in Japan. This letter appealed for support of Okinawan Christians, who feel that it is no longer possible to coexist with military bases and personnel.

In light of the above, this resolution requests the General Conference of The United Methodist Church to join with Okinawan Christians in urging the following four appeals to the governments of the United States and Japan:

1. A thorough investigation of all crimes and acts of violence committed by U.S. military personnel stationed on U.S. military bases in Okinawa and an apology and compensation to the victims of the crimes;

2. An immediate cessation of all military exercises that destroy the environment and threaten the daily life of Okinawa citizens;

3. An immediate review of the Japan-America Security Treaty (AMPO) and the Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA), which completely ignores the laws of Japan, imposing great hardship on the people of Okinawa;

4. Establishment of a peace not based on military power, and the removal of all U.S. military bases from Okinawa.

~~(These four appeals were directed to President Bill Clinton by the Okinawa District of the United Church of Christ in Japan.)~~

~~We submit this resolution to the General Conference of The United Methodist Church, as missionaries of The United Methodist Church General Board of Global Ministries (World Division) assigned to the Untied Church of Christ in Japan, Okinawa District, with the full knowledge and support of the Okinawa District. Attached to this resolution are the signatures of other concerned United Methodists expressing their support of this resolution in the search for peace and justice in Okinawa.~~

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 231-NonDis

**Subject: Affirming Rural Chaplaincy**
Committee Item: GM13-NonDis-A
Petition:
22285-GM-NonDis-O, Pg. 1361
Membership: 126; Present: 115;
For: 115; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Whereas, rural communities continue to suffer from the loss of leadership; economic resources; jobs in agriculture, mining, timber, processing, and textiles; small, family-owned businesses; opportunities for youth; human service institutions; environmental quality; political strength; viable churches; and

Whereas, God continues to call both laity and clergy along with congregations and cooperative ministries to be responsive to the hurts of people who suffer from oppression, exploitation, and marginalization; and

Whereas, the General Board of Global Ministries Office of Town and Country Ministries has facilitated a grassroots effort to enable local rural community and church leaders to address the issues and concerns of the rural crisis; and

Whereas, over one hundred persons representing the diversity of The United Methodist Church have become certified rural chaplains related to the General Board of Global Ministries; and

Whereas, rural chaplains have received enthusiastic affirmation of the whole Church and have extended fellowship to include ecumenical and international partners in ministry;

Therefore, be it resolved, that The United Methodist Church celebrate and affirm Gods continued call of persons committed to serving as rural chaplains in difficult times and places; and

Be it further resolved, that The United Methodist Church reaffirm its commitment to rural community/church development and vigorously pursue rural chaplaincy as a significant part of resourcing renewal in rural churches/communities **throughout the world.**

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 232-R157

**Subject: An Affirmation of Basic Rural Worth**
Committee Item: GM14-R157-C
Petition:
22290-GM-R157-U, Pg. 1376
Membership: 126; Present: 115;
For: 115; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 233-NonDis

**Subject: Rural Crisis in the USA: Special Emphasis**
Committee Item: GM15-NonDis-C
Petition:
22289-GM-NonDis-O, Pg. 1362
Membership: 126; Present: 115;
For: 114; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 234-R204

**Subject: The Church's Response to Changing Rural Issues**
Committee Item: GM16-R204-C
Petition:
22288-GM-R204-U, Pg. 1376
Membership: 126; Present: 115;
For: 115; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 235-NonDis

**Subject: Office of Town and Country Ministries and Office of Urban Ministries**
Committee Item: GM17-NonDis-A
Petition:
22287-GM-NonDis-O, Pg. 1362
Membership: 126; Present: 115;
For: 115; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Whereas, the Office of Town and Country Ministries and the Office of Urban Ministries have been crucial to the implementation of ¶ 1414.13 and ¶ 1415.6, .7; and

Whereas, major economic and social problems such as unemployment, violence, substance abuse, and homelessness continue in rural areas and in the inner city; and

Whereas, the vast majority of small membership churches are located in rural areas and in the inner city; and

Whereas, there is a continuing demographic movement directly between rural areas and the inner city;

Therefore, be it resolved, that the work ~~Office~~ of Town and Country Ministries and the work ~~Office~~ of Urban Ministries be continued in the structure of the General Board of Global Ministries and/or its successor organizations.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 236-NonDis

**Subject: Holy Boldness: A National Plan for Urban Ministry**

Committee Item: GM19-NonDis-C
Petition:
21362-GM-NonDis-O, Pg. 792
Membership: 126; Present: 115;
For: 115; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 237-NonDis

**Subject: Rape in Times of Conflict and War**

Committee Item: GM25-NonDis-A
Petition:
21358-GM-NonDis-O, Pg. 786
Membership: 126; Present: 107;
For: 107; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Their little ones also will be dashed to pieces before their eyes; their houses will be plundered, and their wives ravished. (Isaiah 13:16)

They ravished the women in Zion, the virgins in the cities of Judah. (Lamentations 5:11)

For I will gather all the nations against Jerusalem to battle, and the city will be captured, the houses plundered, the women ravished, and half of the city exiled, but the rest of the people will not be cut off from the city. (Zechariah 14:2)

*We believe war is incompatible with the teachings and example of Christ. We therefore reject war as an instrument of national foreign policy and insist that the first moral duty of all nations is to resolve by peaceful means every dispute that rises between or amongst them; that human values must outweigh military claims as governments determine their priorities; that the militarization of society must be challenged and stopped; that the manufacture, sale and deployment of armaments must be reduced and controlled; and that the production, possession, or use of nuclear weapons be condemned.*—from Social Principles, ¶ 75, *The Book of Discipline*.

For centuries women have been raped as an act of violence and a demonstration of power—most especially in times of conflict and wars. Rape has been and is sanctioned by military organizations for the gratification of soldiers as was seen in several Asian countries during World War II. The Comfort Women of Korea are a most blatant example of this practice. Rape during wartime constitutes many individual and group acts of violence perpetrated by soldiers against girls and women of enemy countries or opposing sides, often under orders. Thus rape, in effect, is used as an extension of warfare. But rape is rarely mentioned in resolutions and statements on war and peace. And the conquest of women as spoils of war continues to be tolerated in times of conflict.

Mass rape is an increasingly sophisticated weapon of war, as it is being used in the Bosnia-Herzegovina conflict and in other conflicts—such as in Haiti, Georgia, (CIS) and Rwanda—in the world today.

Survivors of conflicts speak of rape on the front-line and third-party rape; these rapes are carried out publicly by soldiers to demoralize family members and opposition forces compelled to witness them.

Many stories refer to village communities being rounded up in camps—perhaps a school or community center—and that a space is cleared in the middle. It is in this space that public raping takes place. It is reported as repeated and violent and procedural. It is claimed that many of the victims and witnesses know the rapists.

~~The use of rape as a weapon of war is perceived as having its roots in patriarchal systems.~~—Destruction and violation of women is one way of attacking male opponents who regard the women as their property—and whose male identity is therefore bound to protection of their property.

The current tribunals against war crimes undertaken in Rwanda and Bosnia have acknowledged rape as a form of torture, since it is not specifically mentioned in existing international laws.

The United Methodist Church affirms the sacredness of all persons and their right to safety, nurture and care. And, together with the international community, it is challenged to respond to the rape of women in military conflicts. The extent and frequency of the violation of women in war must not be allowed to deaden sensitivity to this as gross injustice. There must be greater understanding of the use of rape in this manner (as a weapon of warfare) Documentation and analysis of such planned violations of human rights and its root causes must be developed. Strategizing to confront systems which give rise to it and the needs of those who are its victims must be undertaken.

International instruments such as Geneva Conventions must be strengthened to ensure condemnation of rape as a war-crime with appropriate enforcement and monitoring.

At local and regional levels, churches and concerned groups must pressure for legal and political decisions to protect victims of rape. It is not sufficient to articulate condemnations of crime; practical actions to effect change must follow.

As part of the overall humanitarian responses to physical and emotional needs, it is a matter of urgency that adequate and appropriate attention be given to the psychological needs of women raped in war.

The task of supporting these survivors—their children, families and communities—requires massive commitment, resources and expertise.

*We call on The United Methodist Church:*

1. To condemn all forms of rape as incompatible with the churchs understanding of the sacredness of life; and to affirm the right of all persons to safety, nurture and care.

2. To urge the United Methodist Office for the UN to work towards including the condemnation of rape as a war-crime in international instruments such as the Geneva Conventions.

3. To urge the General Board of Global Ministries to develop an anthology of theological and biblical perspectives of rape in times of war, written by survivors and other women who have observed and reflected on this grave concern.

4. To urge both the General Board of Global Ministries and the General Board of Church and Society to act as resources for churches who wish to pressure for legal and political decisions to protect victims of rape in times of war.

5. To urge UMCOR to continue developing assistance and support for women victims of war and their families, to meet their physical and emotional needs. This may mean supporting as wartime refugees, women who cannot return to their homes because of fear of rape, violence and condemnation.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 238-NonDis
**Subject: Proposition 187 of California**
Committee Item: GM26-NonDis-A
Petition:
22714-GM-NonDis-O, Pg. 1372
Membership: 126; Present: 108;
For: 108; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Whereas, Proposition 187 of California, approved by the electorate of this state in November 1994, is an attempt against the most elemental Christian moral and human principles that govern our life as a people, requiring even that schools and hospitals become branches of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, as they would be required under this proposition to report children and adults who are not legal citizens; and

Whereas, as Christians longing for a heavenly homeland, we are strangers in a foreign land but at the same time present in a world that demands Gods will and justice; and

Whereas, our holy Scriptures call us time and time again to the defense of the marginalized of our society, in particular, the poor, the orphans, the widows, and the strangers among us; and

Whereas, Proposition 187 of California represents a backwards step in our development as a nation seeking interracial harmony; and

Whereas, the spirit and intent of Proposition 187 goes against the Social Principles of our United Methodist Church, specifically ¶ 72A where it states: We reject racism in every form and affirm the ultimate and temporal worth of all persons...We assert the obligation of society, and groups within the society, to implement compensatory programs that redress long-standing systemic social deprivation of racial and ethnic minorities to equal opportunities...to education and training of the highest quality, to nondiscrimination in access to public accommodations...; and

Whereas, Proposition 187 is being challenged in the courts, and it has been found out of compliance with our constitutional rights;

Therefore, be it resolved **that the General Conference** ~~by MARCHA~~ to categorically, unequivocally, and totally repudiate Proposition 187 of California and the abusive and alienating spirit that it fosters and represents against Hispanic and other ethnic groups; and

Be it further resolved, that **the General Conference** ~~MARCHA~~ make a call to all churches to be witnesses against this and other forms of alienation ~~of our ethnic constituency; and~~

~~Be it further resolved that MARCHA present this Resolution for approval at the 1996 General Conference of our United Methodist Church.~~

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 239-R208
**Subject: Compliance with the American with Disabilities Act for Employers**
Committee Item: GM28-R208-C
Petition:
21350-GM-R208-U, Pg. 802
Membership: 126; Present: 108;
For: 108; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 240-NonDis
**Subject: Abusive Treatment Methods for Persons with Mental Disabilities**
Committee Item: GM31-NonDis-C
Petition:
22485-GM-NonDis-O, Pg. 1365
Membership: 126; Present: 108;
For: 108; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 241-R207
**Subject: Communications Access for People Who Have Hearing and Sight Impairment**
Committee Item: GM32-R207-C
Petition:
21349-GM-R207-U, Pg. 801
Membership: 126; Present: 108;
For: 107; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 242-NonDis
**Subject: Opposition to the Deportation of Salvadoran Refugees from the United States**
Committee Item: GM33-NonDis-C
Petition:
22488-GM-NonDis-O, Pg. 1367
Membership: 126; Present: 108;
For: 107; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 243-R507
**Subject: Immigrants and Refugees: To Love the Sojourner**
Committee Item: GM34-R507-C
Petition:
21353-GM-R507-U, Pg. 805
Membership: 126; Present: 108;
For: 108; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 244-R200
**Subject: The Church and People with Mental, Physical, and/ or Psychological Disabilities**
Committee Item: GM35-R200-C
Petition:
21348-GM-R200-U, Pg. 800
Membership: 126; Present: 108;
For: 108; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 245-NonDis
**Subject: World AIDS Day Observance**
Committee Item: GM38-NonDis-C

Petition:
21062-GM-NonDis-O, Pg. 766
Membership: 126; Present: 105;
For: 105; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 246-NonDis

**Subject: Recognizing and Responding to the Many Faces of HIV/AIDS in the USA**
Committee Item: GM39-NonDis-C
Petition:
21063-GM-NonDis-O, Pg. 766
Membership: 126; Present: 106;
For: 106; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 247-R484

**Subject: The Church in a Mass Media Culture**
Committee Item: GM41-R484-C
Petition:
21352-GM-R484-U, Pg. 802
Membership: 126; Present: 108;
For: 108; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 248-NonDis

**Subject: Liberia**
Committee Item: GM46-NonDis-A
Petition:
21066-GM-NonDis-O, Pg. 770
Membership: 126; Present: 115;
For: 115; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

The West African nation of Liberia **has** ~~been experiencing experienced~~ a brutal civil war **since 1989** ~~which lasted over five years~~. As a result, there **are** ~~were~~ hundreds of thousands of casualties in which one in 17 Liberians lost their lives. Over 150,000 people **have been** ~~were~~ displaced within the country, and more than 160,000 people **are** ~~were~~ forced to live as refugees in neighboring African countries.

**The** ~~Liberias~~ economic and social infrastructure of **Liberia is** ~~were~~ virtually destroyed, including the pertinent services of hospitals and schools. People have been dying on a daily basis from diseases and malnutrition. **And, with renewed fighting in Monrovia, the capital, cholera is claiming the lives of residents.** The closure of industries and business has led to high unemployment and, consequently, a lack of resources for families to buy food **and maintain basic life support.**

The lives of Liberias children have been disrupted. Often they were kidnapped and coerced into becoming soldiers. Children **participate** ~~participated~~ in and **view** ~~viewed~~ the grisly murders of relatives and friends. As the war **continues** ~~intensified~~, the bombing and destruction of school buildings **prevents** ~~prevented~~ students from continuing their education.

**Worship attendance** ~~Attendance~~ in **the Liberia Annual Conference has** ~~The United Methodist Church~~ gradually declined because members **are fearful to travel distances from their homes to attend services.** ~~in rebel-controlled areas were not able to travel to attend services.~~ Church leaders and members have been displaced or have become refugees. Many Church leaders **remain** ~~remained~~ in Liberia and **are ministering** ~~ministered~~ to the people during **this turbulent period.** ~~the war.~~ We commend Liberian Bishop Arthur Kulah, **Resident Bishop of the Liberia Annual Conference**, and other Church leaders for remaining in the country during **the times of heightened** ~~a heightened period of the~~ civil war and **commend their active participation** ~~actively participating~~ in the process of peace and national reconciliation.

**With** ~~Following~~ the signing of the August 1995 peace accord in Abuja, Nigeria,**there was great anticipation among** Liberians ~~continue to struggle~~ towards ~~healing and~~ reconstructing their broken nation, improving their standard of living, and maintaining lasting peace. **Unfortunately, the civil war resumed in March 1996, threatening the peace accord.**

The Social Principles of The United Methodist Church (¶ 74) state that the Church must commit itself to the achievement of a world community that is a fellowship of persons who honestly love one another. We pledge ourselves to seek the meaning of the gospel in all issues that divide people and threaten the growth of world community.

Such conditions call upon The United Methodist Church to pray, sympathize and stand in solidarity with over 70,000 Liberian United Methodists and the Liberian nation as a whole. We commit ourselves to:

**— Urge our governments to continue all humanitarian assistance, including medical services, food and water to the suffering population;**

**— Urge the Organization of African Unity and the United Nations to facilitate an immediate disarmament of the warring factions as called for in the Abuja peace accord;**

**—Provide financial assistance to pastors and their families;**

**—Rebuild churches, parsonages and church-related institutions;**

— Repatriate, resettle and provide shelter for refugees, displaced persons, and war victims;

— Rebuild homes through efforts by Volunteers in Mission and Habitat for Humanity;

— Assist the transition of soldiers into the civilian sector through counseling, vocational and general education;

— Engage in reconciliation and healing at a grassroots level between and among various ethnic groups;

— Train pastors to be agents of reconciliation, peace and healing;

— Set up counseling and educational programs to help children, women and others traumatized by war;

— Stabilize the countrys economic structure by:

a) calling on the governments and international lending agencies to provide development grants, loans, and to forgive debts;

b) encouraging private investment in the country;

c) encouraging United Nations agencies such as the World Health Organization, the United Nations Childrens Fund and the United Nations Development Program to generate programs in Liberia; and

d) helping Liberians establish and maintain their own businesses.

**The Liberia Annual Conference was founded by the Rev. Melville B. Cox in 1833. Liberia has maintained close historical ties to the United States and became the first independent republic in 1847.**

**The Liberia Annual Conference remains committed to finding peace and reconciliation in Liberia. We will advocate public policy, diplomatic relations, economic support and a**

**negotiated settlement of the Liberian civil war.**

~~United Methodists are urged to visit Liberia and identify with the people, especially through short term volunteer service. Teachers, doctors, writers, students all are needed and welcome.~~

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 249-NonDis

**Subject: Care of the Elderly**
Committee Item: GM47-NonDis-A
Petition:
22490-GM-NonDis-O, Pg. 1368
Membership: 126; Present: 109;
For: 109; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Whereas, the total number and percentage of the elderly of the population in **many countries** ~~the United States~~ will continue to increase into the next century; and

Whereas, the health care needs in the form of basic ~~custodial~~ care for some of these elderly citizens will likewise expand; and

**Whereas, all elderly persons, no matter how frail in body or mind, are persons of sacred worth to whom we owe a duty of care and respect; and**

Whereas, individuals, families, and governmental bodies all incur a great and growing expense for this basic care; and the continuing ability to provide such care cannot be taken for granted; and

Whereas, the ongoing expense for this type of care could potentially bankrupt individuals, families, and the nation as a whole; and

Whereas, there is potential for conflict in providing for the health care needs of the elderly and the available workers whose tax dollars will be used to pay for such services; and

Whereas, present cost-cutting proposals and measures could mean fewer services and poor quality of care for the elderly population; and

Whereas, the people providing **direct** ~~such~~ care in institutional settings like **long term care facilities** ~~nursing homes~~ are **very low paid** ~~among the lowest paid workers in America~~; and

Whereas, the profit margins of some institutions are razor thin; and the needs of elderly residents compete with the needs of investors for a profit; and

Whereas, many so-called **long term care facilities** ~~nursing homes~~ are no more than warehouses for large numbers of crippled bodies; and

Whereas, in many instances the elderly resident of such an institution has survived most family members and has only a church body to visit or to express concern on his or her behalf; and

Whereas, Jesus has called his church to action on behalf of the weakest members of society (Matthew 25:34-40); and

Whereas, faith without works is dead (James 2:14-18); and

Whereas, there are potential curses for a church body for not responding to a need that is within our ability to alleviate (Matthew 25:41-46; Revelation 3:15-16);

Therefore, be it resolved, that The United Methodist Church will endeavor to:

Pray for Gods guidance in this and all areas of ministry;

Undertake a timely, thorough study of the need for and provision of health **and social** care services to the growing elderly population;

Identify and publicize programs and institutions that seem to be successfully meeting the needs of elderly individuals and groups, with the idea that such successful approaches can be copied by others in their communities;

Focus locally upon the spiritual, physical, and emotional needs of **long term care facilities** ~~nursing home~~ residents and the home-bound elderly, encouraging new or expanded services at the local church level;

Explore the need for and development of new approaches in health **and social** care delivery that provide quality care **and fullness of life** at **affordable** ~~reasonable~~ cost for the elderly, their families and friends, and society as a whole;

Research the potential for and promote the development of new technologies to help debilitated elderly individuals meet their basic needs for cleanliness, safety, and comfort at a reasonable cost while promoting job security and enhanced status for the health care workers directly helping the elderly; **and**

Mobilize the **appropriate financial and personnel resources of the boards, agencies, and institutions of the church to address this pressing concern.** ~~vast resources of United Methodist individuals, groups, and institutions to this end.~~

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 250-NonDis

**Subject: The Sand Creek Apology**
Committee Item: GM50-NonDis-C
Petition:
22781-GM-NonDis-O, Pg. 1373
Membership: 126; Present: 115;
For: 110; Against: 4; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 251-NonDis

**Subject: Program of Church and Community Ministry**
Committee Item: GM64-NonDis-C
Petition:
22283-GM-NonDis-O, Pg. 1360
Membership: 126; Present: 109;
For: 109; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 252-NonDis

**Subject: Rural Life Regional Centers**
Committee Item: GM68-NonDis-C
Petition:
22284-GM-NonDis-O, Pg. 1360
Membership: 126; Present: 109;
For: 109; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 253-NonDis

**Subject: United Methodist-Related Precollegiate Schools**
Committee Item: HE15-NonDis-C
Petition:
21129-HE-NonDis-O, Pg. 825
Membership: 86; Present: 80;
For: 80; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**254**-NonDis
**Subject: Resolution on Incorporation (Pan-Methodist)**
Committee Item: HE16-NonDis-C
Petition:
21724-HE-NonDis-O, Pg. 827
Membership: 86; Present: 79;
For: 78; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**255**-NonDis
**Subject: Recommendation of new Heritage Landmark**
Committee Item: IC52-NonDis-C
Petition:
20764-IC-NonDis-O, Pg. 919
Membership: 71; Present: 68;
For: 65; Against: 0; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**256**-R217
**Subject: Continuing Membership in the National Council of Churches**
Committee Item: IC68-R217-C
Petition:
21076-IC-R217-U, Pg. 933
Membership: 71; Present: 68;
For: 67; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

# Consent Calendar C02

**257**-608.2
**Subject: Petitions to General Conference**
Committee Item: CO26-608.2-N
Petition:
21612-CO-608.2-D, Pg. 181
Membership: 86; Present: 82;
For: 76; Against: 2; Not Voting: 4;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**258**-703
**Subject: Accessibility of Annual Conference Meetings**
Committee Item: CO32-703-N
Petition:
21470-CO-703-D, Pg. 188
Membership: 86; Present: 82;
For: 78; Against: 0; Not Voting: 4;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**259**-707.4
**Subject: Annual Conference Agencies**
Committee Item: CO34-707.4-N
Petition:
21722-CO-707.4-D, Pg. 193
Membership: 86; Present: 79;
For: 76; Against: 0; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**260**-804.2
**Subject: Accountability of Receipts and Expenditures of Funds by all General Agencies**
Committee Item: CO36-804.2-N
Petition:
20411-CO-804.2-D, Pg. 202
Membership: 86; Present: 77;
For: 73; Against: 1; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**261**-25
**Subject: Power and Duties of Jurisdictional Conferences**
Committee Item: CO37-25-N
Petition:
20410-CO-25-C, Pg. 176
Membership: 86; Present: 77;
For: 74; Against: 0; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**262**-21
**Subject: Responsibility of General Conference**
Committee Item: CO38-21-N
Petition:
20409-CO-21-C, Pg. 176
Membership: 86; Present: 78;
For: 74; Against: 2; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**263**-15.15
**Subject: The Power of General Conference**
Committee Item: CO39-15.15-N
Petition:
20408-CO-15.15-C, Pg. 176
Membership: 86; Present: 77;
For: 72; Against: 0; Not Voting: 5;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**264**-608.7
**Subject: Petitions to General Conference**
Committee Item: CO40-608.7-N
Petition:
22169-CO-608.7-D, Pg. 1263
Membership: 86; Present: 83;
For: 77; Against: 2; Not Voting: 4;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**265**-608
**Subject: Printing of Petitions in the Advance DCA**
Committee Item: CO44-608-N
Petition:
22351-CO-608-D, Pg. 1263
Membership: 86; Present: 82;
For: 77; Against: 2; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**266**-35
**Subject: Composition of the Annual Conference**
Committee Item: CO46-35-N
Petition:
22432-CO-35-C, Pg. 1258
Membership: 86; Present: 77;
For: 76; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**267**-35
**Subject: Equalization of Clergy and Lay Members at Annual Conference**
Committee Item: CO47-35-N
Petition:
22155-CO-35-C, Pg. 1258
Membership: 86; Present: 77;
For: 76; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**268**-35
**Subject: Composition of Annual Conference**
Committee Item: CO48-35-N
Petition:
20780-CO-35-C, Pg. 1258
Membership: 86; Present: 77;
For: 76; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**269**-35
**Subject: Composition of the Annual Conference**
Committee Item: CO49-35-N
Petition:
21467-CO-35-C, Pg. 176
Membership: 86; Present: 77;
For: 75; Against: 0; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**270**-35
**Subject: Amendment to the Constitution**
Committee Item: CO51-35-N
Petition:
20198-CO-35-C, Pg. 176
Membership: 86; Present: 78;
For: 75; Against: 3; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**271**-610
**Subject: Speaking for the Church**
Committee Item: CO59-610-N
Petition:
22705-CO-610-D, Pg. 1264
Membership: 86; Present: 76;
For: 69; Against: 4; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**272**-505
**Subject: Number of Bishops**
Committee Item: CO75-505-N
Petition:
20200-CO-505-D, Pg. 177
Membership: 86; Present: 78;
For: 75; Against: 0; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**273**-505
**Subject: Number of Bishops in Jurisdictions**
Committee Item: CO76-505-N
Petition:
22159-CO-505-D, Pg. 1260
Membership: 86; Present: 78;
For: 74; Against: 1; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**274**-70
**Subject: The Natural World**
Committee Item: CS8-70-N
Petition:
22295-CS-70-D, Pg. 1211
Membership: 102; Present: 91;
For: 88; Against: 1; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**275**-70
**Subject: Social Principles**
Committee Item: CS10-70-N
Petition:
22534-CS-70-D, Pg. 1211
Membership: 102; Present: 91;
For: 91; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**276**-1102
**Subject: The Purpose of the General Board of Church and Society**
Committee Item: CS17-1102-N
Petition:
22542-CS-1102-D, Pg. 1231
Membership: 102; Present: 94;
For: 92; Against: 0; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**277**-1101
**Subject: General Board of Church and Society**
Committee Item: CS20-1101-N
Petitions:
22541-CS-1101-D, Pg. 1230;
22723-CS-1101-D, Pg. 1230
Membership: 102; Present: 93;
For: 92; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**278**-72
**Subject: Affirmative Action**
Committee Item: CS25-72-N
Petition:
22316-CS-72-D, Pg. 1225

Membership: 102; Present: 91;
For: 91; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 279-72
**Subject: Rights of Racial and Ethnic Persons**
Committee Item: CS26-72-N
Petition:
20981-CS-72-D, Pg. 1225
Membership: 102; Present: 92;
For: 92; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 280-72
**Subject: Rights of Persons with Special Needs**
Committee Item: CS29-72-N
Petition:
22318-CS-72-D, Pg. 1226
Membership: 102; Present: 91;
For: 91; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence in favor of Petition #22317 (Committee Item CS31).

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 281-72
**Subject: Rights of Persons with Handicapping Conditions**
Committee Item: CS30-72-N
Petitions:
20305-CS-72-D, Pg. 123;
20925-CS-72-D, Pg. 123
Membership: 102; Present: 91;
For: 91; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence in favor of Petition #22317 (Committee Item CS31).

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 282-72
**Subject: Basic Human Rights**
Committee Item: CS34-72-N
Petitions:
20868-CS-72-D, Pg. 123;
22445-CS-72-D, Pg. 1225
Membership: 102; Present: 93;
For: 92; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence in favor of Petition 20023 (CS33)..

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 283-72
**Subject: The Social Community**
Committee Item: CS35-72-N
Petition:
22536-CS-72-D, Pg. 1224
Membership: 102; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 284-NonDis
**Subject: A Religious Liberty Amendment**
Committee Item: CS47-NonDis-N
Petition:
22729-CS-NonDis-O, Pg. 1250
Membership: 102; Present: 88;
For: 83; Against: 1; Not Voting: 4;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 285-NonDis
**Subject: Calling for a Ban on Anti-Personnel Land Mines**
Committee Item: CS49-NonDis-N
Petition:
22890-CS-NonDis-O, Pg. 1252
Membership: 102; Present: 88;
For: 85; Against: 0; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence in favor of petition #21049 (CS 50).

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 286-1114
**Subject: Headquarters of the General Board of Church and Society**
Committee Item: CS64-1114-N
Petition:
22548-CS-1114-D, Pg. 1233
Membership: 102; Present: 93;
For: 92; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 287-1110
**Subject: Meetings of the General Board of Church and Society**
Committee Item: CS72-1110-N
Petition:
22547-CS-1110-D, Pg. 1233
Membership: 102; Present: 93;
For: 93; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 288-1105
**Subject: Incorporation of the General Board of Church and Society**
Committee Item: CS78-1105-N
Petition:
22727-CS-1105-D, Pg. 1232
Membership: 102; Present: 88;
For: 83; Against: 0; Not Voting: 5;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 289-1102
**Subject: Purpose of the General Board of Church and Society**
Committee Item: CS82-1102-N
Petition:
22724-CS-1102-D, Pg. 1231
Membership: 102; Present: 94;
For: 93; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 290-71
**Subject: Divorce**
Committee Item: CS116-71-N

Petition:
22722-CS-71-D, Pg. 1213
Membership: 102; Present: 95;
For: 95; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence in favor of Petition 20922 (Committee item CS2).

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 291-68
**Subject: The present challenge to Theology in the Church**
Committee Item: DI6-68-N
Petition:
20124-DI-68-D, Pg. 236
Membership: 112; Present: 104;
For: 102; Against: 1; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 292-68
**Subject: Christian Unity**
Committee Item: DI8-68-N
Petitions:
20048-DI-68-D, Pg. 236;
20268-DI-68-D, Pg. 236;
21054-DI-68-D, Pg. 236;
22511-DI-68-D, Pg. 1278;
22555-DI-68-D, Pg. 1278
Membership: 112; Present: 104;
For: 103; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 293-NonDis
**Subject: Re-Affirm the Historic Foundation of United Methodist**
Committee Item: DI10-NonDis-N
Petitions:
22514-DI-NonDis-O, Pg. 1301;
22628-DI-NonDis-O, Pg. 1302;
22867-DI-NonDis-O, Pg. 1307;
23070-DI-66-D, Pg. 1278
Membership: 112; Present: 104;
For: 103; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 294-NonDis
**Subject: Development of Bible Distribution Ministries within the United Methodist Church**
Committee Item: DI13-NonDis-N
Petitions:
20109-DI-NonDis-O, Pg. 1285;
20787-DI-NonDis-O, Pg. 1286;
22199-DI-66-D, Pg. 1278
Membership: 112; Present: 104;
For: 104; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 295-NonDis
**Subject: Affirming Our Theological Task**
Committee Item: DI19-NonDis-N
Petition:
20519-DI-NonDis-O, Pg. 263
Membership: 112; Present: 104;
For: 104; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 296-NonDis
**Subject: Affirming Our Theological Task**
Committee Item: DI20-NonDis-N
Petition:
20876-DI-NonDis-O, Pg. 264
Membership: 112; Present: 104;
For: 104; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 297-NonDis
**Subject: Reaffirm our "Doctrinal Standards and Our Theological Task"**
Committee Item: DI21-NonDis-N
Petition:
20370-DI-NonDis-O, Pg. 263
Membership: 112; Present: 104;
For: 104; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 298-1217.9
**Subject: Leadership and Ministry Development Responsibilities**
Committee Item: DI26-1217.9-N
Petition:
21250-DI-1217.9-D, Pg. 252
Membership: 112; Present: 105;
For: 103; Against: 1; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 299-1205.5
**Subject: Unit Staff**
Committee Item: DI33-1205.5-N
Petition:
20546-DI-1205.5-D, Pg. 248
Membership: 112; Present: 105;
For: 104; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 300-1202.10
**Subject: Responsibility of the General Board of Discipleship**
Committee Item: DI36-1202.10-N
Petition:
20879-DI-1202.10-D, Pg. 247
Membership: 112; Present: 105;
For: 105; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 301-208
**Subject: Church Membership**
Committee Item: DI93-208-N
Petitions:
20276-DI-208-D, Pg. 945;
21030-DI-208-D, Pg. 1406;
22107-DI-208-D, Pg. 1406
Membership: 112; Present: 105;
For: 104; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**302**-221
**Subject: Children and The Church**
Committee Item: DI96-221-N
Petitions:
22365-DI-221-D, Pg. 1407;
22718-DI-221-D, Pg. 1407
Membership: 112; Present: 101;
For: 98; Against: 1; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**303**-208
**Subject: Church Membership**
Committee Item: DI104-208-N
Petition:
22528-DI-208-D, Pg. 1407
Membership: 112; Present: 105;
For: 102; Against: 2; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**304**-1604.8
**Subject: Funding of General Board of Pension and Health Benefits**
Committee Item: FA4-1604.8-N
Petition:
20604-FA-1604.8-D, Pg. 379
Membership: 113; Present: 103;
For: 103; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**305**-2520.1
**Subject: Local Church Building Sites and Plans**
Committee Item: FA14-2520.1-N
Petition:
21057-FA-2520.1-D, Pg. 383
Membership: 113; Present: 97;
For: 95; Against: 2; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**306**-2554
**Subject: Trustees of Church Institutions**
Committee Item: FA15-2554-N
Petition:
21301-FA-2554-D, Pg. 383
Membership: 113; Present: 97;
For: 93; Against: 4; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**307**-2513
**Subject: Conference Trustees Energy Audits**
Committee Item: FA17-2513-N
Petition:
22472-FA-2513-D, Pg. 1316
Membership: 113; Present: 95;
For: 92; Against: 3; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**308**-2516
**Subject: Sale, Transfer, Lease or Mortgage of Annual Conference Property**
Committee Item: FA18-2516-N
Petition:
22560-FA-2516-D, Pg. 1316
Membership: 113; Present: 96;
For: 93; Against: 3; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**309**-NonDis-$
**Subject: Task Force to study Salary Equalization for Pastors**
Committee Item: FA19-NonDis-N$
Petition:
21037-FA-NonDis-O$, Pg. 386
Membership: 113; Present: 96;
For: 96; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**310**-2518.2
**Subject: Mortgage of Sale of Real Property by a District Board of Trustees**
Committee Item: FA21-2518.2-N
Petition:
22561-FA-2518.2-D, Pg. 1316
Membership: 113; Present: 96;
For: 94; Against: 2; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**311**-2518
**Subject: District Trustees Energy Audit**
Committee Item: FA22-2518-N
Petition:
22473-FA-2518-D, Pg. 1316
Membership: 113; Present: 96;
For: 96; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**312**-907.14
**Subject: Membership of the Historical Society of the United Methodist Church**
Committee Item: FA23-907.14-N
Petition:
20756-FA-907.14-D, Pg. 370
Membership: 113; Present: 98;
For: 98; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**313**-NonDis
**Subject: The Annual Salary of Bishops**
Committee Item: FA26-NonDis-N
Petition:
20823-FA-NonDis-O, Pg. 1317
Membership: 113; Present: 98;
For: 97; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**314**-NonDis
**Subject: Black College Fund**
Committee Item: FA27-NonDis-N
Petition:
20792-FA-NonDis-O, Pg. 1317
Membership: 113; Present: 101;
For: 101; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**315**-NonDis
**Subject: Concerning the Black College Line Item in the Annual Apportionment**
Committee Item: FA28-NonDis-N
Petition:
22250-FA-NonDis-O, Pg. 1318
Membership: 113; Present: 101;
For: 101; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**316**-NonDis
**Subject: Requesting the Church to Adopt a Balanced Budget for 1997-2000 Quadrennium**
Committee Item: FA29-NonDis-N
Petition:
22636-FA-NonDis-O, Pg. 1321
Membership: 113; Present: 101;
For: 101; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**317**-NonDis
**Subject: Organizational Accountability for Funds Apportioned**
Committee Item: FA30-NonDis-N
Petition:
22360-FA-NonDis-O, Pg. 1320
Membership: 113; Present: 101;
For: 101; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**318**-NonDis
**Subject: Restructure of the Language and Spirit of the World Service and Conference Benevolence**
Committee Item: FA31-NonDis-N
Petition:
22562-FA-NonDis-O, Pg. 1320
Membership: 113; Present: 101;
For: 99; Against: 2; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**319**-NonDis
**Subject: Adequate Funding for Racial/Ethnic Minority Programs**
Committee Item: FA32-NonDis-N
Petition:
22476-FA-NonDis-O, Pg. 1320
Membership: 113; Present: 101;
For: 98; Against: 2; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**320**-NonDis
**Subject: Regarding Funding of New Study Committees**
Committee Item: FA33-NonDis-N
Petition:
22635-FA-NonDis-O, Pg. 1321
Membership: 113; Present: 101;
For: 101; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**321**-NonDis
**Subject: Reporting of Funds of General Boards, Agencies and Committees**
Committee Item: FA34-NonDis-N
Petition:
22637-FA-NonDis-O, Pg. 1321
Membership: 113; Present: 101;
For: 101; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**322**-931
**Subject: Shared Salary Plan**
Committee Item: FA36-931-N
Petition:
20019-FA-931-D, Pg. 373
Membership: 113; Present: 101;
For: 100; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**323**-907.5
**Subject: Other Administrative Responsibilities**
Committee Item: FA40-907.5-N
Petition:
21372-FA-907.5-D, Pg. 369
Membership: 113; Present: 102;
For: 102; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**324**-907.3
**Subject: General Agency Energy Audits**
Committee Item: FA41-907.3-N
Petition:
22471-FA-907.3-D, Pg. 1313
Membership: 113; Present: 101;
For: 101; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**325**-907.2
**Subject: General Council on Ministry**
Committee Item: FA42-907.2-N
Petition:
21001-FA-907.2-D, Pg. 1313
Membership: 113; Present: 101;
For: 101; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**326**-903
**Subject: Incorporation of the General Council on Finance and Administration**
Committee Item: FA43-903-N
Petition:
22754-FA-903-D, Pg. 1311
Membership: 113; Present: 101;
For: 101; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**327**-902
**Subject: General Council on Finance and Administration**
Committee Item: FA44-902-N
Petition:
22753-FA-902-D, Pg. 1311
Membership: 113; Present: 101;
For: 101; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**328**-NonDis
**Subject: Reporting of Missions Support**
Committee Item: FA45-NonDis-N
Petition:
22761-FA-NonDis-O, Pg. 1322
Membership: 113; Present: 101;
For: 99; Against: 2; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**329**-NonDis-$
**Subject: Financial Policies and Practices of the United Methodist Church**
Committee Item: FA46-NonDis-N$
Petition:
22358-FA-NonDis-O$, Pg. 1319
Membership: 113; Present: 101;
For: 100; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**330**-913.4
**Subject: World Service/Conference Benevolence**
Committee Item: FA81-913.4-N
Petition:
20017-FA-913.4-D, Pg. 372
Membership: 113; Present: 103;
For: 103; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**331**-913
**Subject: Eliminate World Service Special Gifts**
Committee Item: FA82-913-N
Petition:
20600-FA-913-D, Pg. 372
Membership: 113; Present: 103;
For: 103; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**332**-922
**Subject: Missional Priority Fund**
Committee Item: FA83-922-N
Petition:
20171-FA-922-D, Pg. 373
Membership: 113; Present: 103;
For: 102; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**333**-911
**Subject: General Policies of General Council on Finance and Administration**
Committee Item: FA95-911-N
Petition:
20598-FA-911-D, Pg. 371
Membership: 113; Present: 103;
For: 101; Against: 2; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**334**-1701
**Subject: Publishing Interests**
Committee Item: FA114-1701-N
Petition:
22757-FA-1701-D, Pg. 1315
Membership: 113; Present: 102;
For: 102; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**335**-1702
**Subject: Organization of the General Board of Publication**
Committee Item: FA115-1702-N
Petition:
22758-FA-1702-D, Pg. 1315
Membership: 113; Present: 102;
For: 102; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**336**-NonDis
**Subject: The Book of Resolutions in Computer Readable Format**
Committee Item: FA116-NonDis-N
Petition:
22247-FA-NonDis-O, Pg. 1317
Membership: 113; Present: 102;
For: 102; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**337**-4
**Subject: Opening Our Church to Those Who Struggle with Homosexuality.**
Committee Item: GJ7-4-N
Petition:
22516-GJ-4-C, Pg. 1324
Membership: 98; Present: 92;
For: 92; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**338**-62
**Subject: Amendment to the Constitution**
Committee Item: GJ8-62-N
Petition:
20798-GJ-62-C, Pg. 1324
Membership: 98; Present: 92;
For: 91; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**339**-727
**Subject: Conference Advance Program**
Committee Item: GJ11-727-N
Petition:
20610-GJ-727-D, Pg. 693
Membership: 98; Present: 92;
For: 92; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**340**-NonDis
**Subject: Granting of Advance Special status to Applachia Service Project, Inc**
Committee Item: GJ25-NonDis-R
Petitions:
20795-GJ-NonDis-O, Pg. 1333;
20955-GJ-NonDis-O, Pg. 718
Membership: 98; Present: 91;
For: 90; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends referal to the General Council on Ministry.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**341**-816
**Subject: Policies Relative to Socially Responsible Investments**
Committee Item: GJ28-816-N
Petition:
21539-GJ-816-D, Pg. 1330
Membership: 98; Present: 91;
For: 90; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**342**-1006.2
**Subject: Funding of General Agencies**
Committee Item: GJ33-1006.2-N
Petition:
20621-GJ-1006.2-D, Pg. 706
Membership: 98; Present: 91;
For: 90; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**343**-818
**Subject: Consultation Concerning Use of General Church Programs and Funds**
Committee Item: GJ37-818-N
Petition:
20618-GJ-818-D, Pg. 702
Membership: 98; Present: 92;
For: 92; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**344**-814.7
**Subject: Provisions pertaining to Staff**
Committee Item: GJ39-814.7-N
Petition:
21061-GJ-814.7-D, Pg. 702
Membership: 98; Present: 92;
For: 92; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**345**-814.3
**Subject: Provisions Pertaining to Staff**
Committee Item: GJ41-814.3-N
Petitions:
21007-GJ-814.3-D, Pg. 1330;
22263-GJ-814.3-D, Pg. 1330
Membership: 98; Present: 92;
For: 90; Against: 2; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**346**-814.3
**Subject: Provisions Pertaining to Staff**
Committee Item: GJ42-814.3-N
Petition:
21592-GJ-814.3-D, Pg. 702
Membership: 98; Present: 90;
For: 90; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**347**-802.4
**Subject: Amenability and Program Accountability**
Committee Item: GJ45-802.4-N
Petition:
20209-GJ-802.4-D, Pg. 695
Membership: 98; Present: 90;
For: 90; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**348**-NonDis
**Subject: Responsibilities of the General Council on Ministries regarding Staff**
Committee Item: GJ55-NonDis-N
Petition:
22484-GJ-NonDis-O, Pg. 1336
Membership: 98; Present: 92;
For: 91; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**349**-4
**Subject: Inclusiveness of the Church**
Committee Item: GJ72-4-N
Petition:
20965-GJ-4-C, Pg. 691
Membership: 98; Present: 92;
For: 90; Against: 2; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**350**-NonDis
**Subject: Exit Procedures for Persons in Leadership Positions that Profess to be Homosexuals**
Committee Item: GJ90-NonDis-N
Petition:
22455-GJ-NonDis-O, Pg. 1335
Membership: 98; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**351**-4
**Subject: Inclusiveness of the Church**
Committee Item: GJ143-4-N
Petition:
20071-GJ-4-C, Pg. 691
Membership: 98; Present: 92;
For: 91; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**352**-4
**Subject: Inclusiveness of the Church**
Committee Item: GJ144-4-N
Petition:
22762-GJ-4-C, Pg. 1324
Membership: 98; Present: 91;
For: 90; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**353**-4
**Subject: Inclusiveness of the Church**
Committee Item: GJ170-4-N
Petition:
20797-GJ-4-C, Pg. 1324
Membership: 98; Present: 92;
For: 90; Against: 2; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**354**-802.3
**Subject: Evaluation of General Agencies**
Committee Item: GJ171-802.3-N
Petition:
20421-GJ-802.3-D, Pg. 695
Membership: 98; Present: 90;
For: 89; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**355**-NonDis
**Subject: Encounter with Christ in Latin America and the Caribbean**
Committee Item: GM1-NonDis-N
Petition:
22712-GM-NonDis-O, Pg. 1372
Membership: 126; Present: 108;
For: 107; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**356**-R653
**Subject: Regarding The Church In China**
Committee Item: GM2-R653-N
Petition:
22664-GM-R653-U, Pg. 1378
Membership: 126; Present: 113;
For: 112; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**357**-NonDis
**Subject: Reaffirming Shalom Zone Ministries**
Committee Item: GM20-NonDis-N
Petition:
20527-GM-NonDis-O, Pg. 764
Membership: 126; Present: 109;
For: 108; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**358**-NonDis-$
**Subject: Continuation of the Shalom Initiative**
Committee Item: GM21-NonDis-N$
Petition:
22294-GM-NonDis-O$, Pg. 1363
Membership: 126; Present: 109;
For: 107; Against: 2; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**359**-NonDis
**Subject: Holy Boldness: A National Plan for Urban Ministry**
Committee Item: GM22-NonDis-N
Petition:
22291-GM-NonDis-O, Pg. 1362
Membership: 126; Present: 115;
For: 115; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**360**-NonDis
**Subject: Continuation of the Shalom Initiative**
Committee Item: GM23-NonDis-N
Petition:
20917-GM-NonDis-O, Pg. 765
Membership: 126; Present: 109;
For: 109; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**361**-NonDis
**Subject: Holy Boldness and Urban Ministry**
Committee Item: GM24-NonDis-N
Petition:
20378-GM-NonDis-O, Pg. 764
Membership: 126; Present: 115;
For: 115; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**362**-NonDis
**Subject: The American Churches Service**
Committee Item: GM27-NonDis-N
Petition:

22710-GM-NonDis-O, Pg. 1371
Membership: 126; Present: 108;
For: 107; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**363**-NonDis
**Subject: Opposition to Abusive Treatment Methods of Persons with Mental Disabilities**
Committee Item: GM29-NonDis-N
Petition:
20860-GM-NonDis-O, Pg. 764
Membership: 126; Present: 108;
For: 108; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**364**-NonDis
**Subject: Opposition to Abusive Treatment Methods of Persons with Mental Disabilities**
Committee Item: GM30-NonDis-N
Petition:
22904-GM-NonDis-O, Pg. 1375
Membership: 126; Present: 108;
For: 108; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**365**-NonDis
**Subject: Continue Interagency Task Force on AIDS**
Committee Item: GM36-NonDis-N
Petition:
20956-GM-NonDis-O, Pg. 766
Membership: 126; Present: 108;
For: 108; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**366**-NonDis
**Subject: Media Education to Restore High Ideals and Values to the Entertainment Industry**
Committee Item: GM40-NonDis-N
Petition:
22364-GM-NonDis-O, Pg. 1364
Membership: 126; Present: 108;
For: 108; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**367**-NonDis
**Subject: Television Awareness and Evaluation**
Committee Item: GM42-NonDis-N
Petition:
22903-GM-NonDis-O, Pg. 1374
Membership: 126; Present: 108;
For: 108; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**368**-NonDis
**Subject: AIDS**
Committee Item: GM43-NonDis-N
Petition:
22491-GM-NonDis-O, Pg. 1368
Membership: 126; Present: 108;
For: 108; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**369**-NonDis-$
**Subject: Ministry to Persons Who have Mental Illness**
Committee Item: GM45-NonDis-N$
Petition:
22780-GM-NonDis-O$, Pg. 1373
Membership: 126; Present: 108;
For: 108; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**370**-NonDis-$
**Subject: Establish an Office on Hunger and a Hunger Challenge Fund**
Committee Item: GM48-NonDis-N$
Petition:
20183-GM-NonDis-O$, Pg. 763
Membership: 126; Present: 108;
For: 106; Against: 2; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**371**-NonDis-$
**Subject: National Plan for Hispanic Ministries**
Committee Item: GM51-NonDis-N$
Petition:
22293-GM-NonDis-O$, Pg. 1363
Membership: 126; Present: 116;
For: 116; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**372**-NonDis-$
**Subject: Native American Comprehesive Plan**
Committee Item: GM55-NonDis-N$
Petition:
22014-GM-NonDis-O$, Pg. 1356
Membership: 126; Present: 108;
For: 108; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**373**-NonDis
**Subject: Native American Comprehensive Plan Report and Recommendations**
Committee Item: GM56-NonDis-N
Petition:
22102-GM-NonDis-O, Pg. 1357
Membership: 126; Present: 108;
For: 108; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**374**-R204
**Subject: The Church's Response to Changing Rural Issues**
Committee Item: GM59-R204-N

Petition:
20894-GM-R204-U, Pg. 1360
Membership: 126; Present: 109;
For: 109; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 375-NonDis
**Subject: An Affirmation of Basic Rural Worth**
Committee Item: GM60-NonDis-N
Petition:
20077-GM-NonDis-O, Pg. 762
Membership: 126; Present: 109;
For: 109; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 376-R157
**Subject: Basic Rural Worth**
Committee Item: GM61-R157-N
Petition:
20893-GM-R157-U, Pg. 800
Membership: 126; Present: 109;
For: 109; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 377-731.5
**Subject: Membership of the Committee on Parish and Community Development**
Committee Item: GM63-731.5-N
Petition:
20456-GM-731.-D, Pg. 751
Membership: 126; Present: 109;
For: 105; Against: 2; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 378-1519
**Subject: Regarding Institutional Affiliation**
Committee Item: HE8-1519-N
Petition:
22273-HE-1519-D, Pg. 1381
Membership: 86; Present: 80;
For: 75; Against: 5; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 379-732
**Subject: Conference Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry**
Committee Item: HE11-732-N
Petitions:
20081-HE-732-D, Pg. 821;
20457-HE-732.1-D, Pg. 821;
20458-HE-732.3-D, Pg. 822;
20505-HE-732-D, Pg. 821;
22268-HE-732-D, Pg. 1379
Membership: 86; Present: 76;
For: 74; Against: 0; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 380-1505.3
**Subject: Objectives of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry**
Committee Item: HE17-1505.3-N
Petition:
22269-HE-1505.3-D, Pg. 1379
Membership: 86; Present: 79;
For: 78; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 381-1505.26
**Subject: Responsibilities of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry**
Committee Item: HE18-1505.26-N
Petition:
22270-HE-1505.26-D, Pg. 1379
Membership: 86; Present: 79;
For: 78; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 382-NonDis-$
**Subject: Historically Black Colleges Related to the United Methodist Church and the Black College Fund.**
Committee Item: HE21-NonDis-N$
Petition:
22666-HE-NonDis-O$, Pg. 1382
Membership: 86; Present: 80;
For: 80; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 383-NonDis
**Subject: Examination of Curricula in Seminaries and Eradication of False Doctrine being Taught**
Committee Item: HE41-NonDis-N
Petition:
22871-HE-NonDis-O, Pg. 1384
Membership: 86; Present: 75;
For: 72; Against: 1; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 384-NonDis-$
**Subject: Chair of Town and Country Ministries at Each Seminary**
Committee Item: HE48-NonDis-N$
Petition:
22276-HE-NonDis-O$, Pg. 1382
Membership: 86; Present: 77;
For: 75; Against: 2; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 385-738.1
**Subject: Flexibility in Annual Conference Structure**
Committee Item: IC32-738.1-N
Petition:
20085-IC-738.1-D, Pg. 901
Membership: 71; Present: 67;
For: 63; Against: 0; Not Voting: 4;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**386**-1812
**Subject: Historical Sites, Historical Shrines and Historical Landmarks**
Committee Item: IC45-1812-N
Petition:
23019-IC-1812-D, Pg. 1387
Membership: 71; Present: 68;
For: 66; Against: 0; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**387**-1812
**Subject: Historic Sites, Historic Shrines, and Historic Landmarks**
Committee Item: IC47-1812-N
Petition:
22801-IC-1812-D, Pg. 1387
Membership: 71; Present: 68;
For: 65; Against: 0; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**388**-738.1
**Subject: Commission on Archives and History**
Committee Item: IC48-738.1-N
Petition:
22015-IC-738.1-D, Pg. 1385
Membership: 71; Present: 67;
For: 63; Against: 0; Not Voting: 4;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**389**-742
**Subject: Eliminate Annual Conference Commission on the Small Membership Church**
Committee Item: IC79-742-N
Petition:
20484-IC-742-D, Pg. 906
Membership: 71; Present: 67;
For: 64; Against: 0; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**390**-742
**Subject: Responsibilities of a Commission on the Small Membership Church**
Committee Item: IC80-742-N
Petition:
20090-IC-742-D, Pg. 905
Membership: 71; Present: 67;
For: 64; Against: 0; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**391**-738
**Subject: Eliminate Annual Conference Commission on Archives and History**
Committee Item: IC83-738-N
Petition:
20480-IC-738-D, Pg. 901
Membership: 71; Present: 67;
For: 59; Against: 3; Not Voting: 5;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**392**-738.1
**Subject: Commission on Archives and History**
Committee Item: IC84-738.1-N
Petition:
20459-IC-738.1-D, Pg. 901
Membership: 71; Present: 67;
For: 63; Against: 0; Not Voting: 4;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**393**-248.5
**Subject: Powers and Duties**
Committee Item: LC51-248.5-N
Petition:
20760-LC-248.5-D, Pg. 955
Membership: 89; Present: 80;
For: 76; Against: 0; Not Voting: 4;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**394**-NonDis
**Subject: Compensation of Local Pastors**
Committee Item: LC52-NonDis-N
Petition:
22906-LC-NonDis-O, Pg. 1427
Membership: 89; Present: 80;
For: 76; Against: 3; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**395**-244
**Subject: Organization and Administration of the Local Church**
Committee Item: LC99-244-N
Petition:
21447-LC-244-D, Pg. 953
Membership: 89; Present: 79;
For: 79; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence in favor of Petition 20342-LC-244-D.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**396**-244
**Subject: Local Church Organization in Relationship to District and Annual Conference Structure**
Committee Item: LC100-244-N
Petition:
20656-LC-244-D, Pg. 953
Membership: 89; Present: 79;
For: 79; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence in favor of Petition 20342-LC-244-D.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**397**-245
**Subject: Basic organizing plan for the local church**
Committee Item: LC103-245-N
Petition:
20343-LC-245-D, Pg. 953
Membership: 89; Present: 79;
For: 72; Against: 1; Not Voting: 6;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence in favor of Petition 20696-LC-245-D as amended..

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**398**-101
**Subject: The Churches**
Committee Item: LC109-101-N
Petition:
21636-LC-101-D, Pg. 942
Membership: 89; Present: 81;
For: 81; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**399**-101
**Subject: The Churches**
Committee Item: LC110-101-N
Petition:
21081-LC-101-D, Pg. 941
Membership: 89; Present: 81;
For: 81; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**400**-102
**Subject: The Churches**
Committee Item: LC111-102-N
Petition:
21637-LC-102-D, Pg. 942
Membership: 89; Present: 81;
For: 81; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**401**-103
**Subject: The Churches**
Committee Item: LC112-103-N
Petition:
21638-LC-103-D, Pg. 942
Membership: 89; Present: 81;
For: 81; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**402**-101
**Subject: The Mission and Ministry of the Church**
Committee Item: LC113-101-N
Petition:
23072-LC-101-D
Membership: 89; Present: 81;
For: 80; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**403**-113
**Subject: Called to Inclusiveness**
Committee Item: LC115-113-N
Petition:
21642-LC-113-D, Pg. 943
Membership: 89; Present: 81;
For: 81; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**404**-206
**Subject: Strengthening Cooperative Ministries through Training and Funding**
Committee Item: LC117-206-N
Petition:
22436-LC-206-D, Pg. 1406
Membership: 89; Present: 79;
For: 78; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**405**-206.4
**Subject: Strengthening Cooperative Ministries through Training**
Committee Item: LC118-206.4-N
Petition:
22674-LC-206.4-D, Pg. 1406
Membership: 89; Present: 79;
For: 79; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

# Calendar Items

**406**-608.4
**Subject: Petitions to General Conference**
Committee Item: CO27-608.4-N
Petition:
21558-CO-608.4-D, Pg. 181
Membership: 86; Present: 83;
For: 67; Against: 11; Not Voting: 5;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**407**-15
**Subject: Legislative power of The General Conference**
Committee Item: CO28-15-A
Petition:
20063-CO-15-C, Pg. 175
Membership: 86; Present: 78;
For: 71; Against: 4; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows: by Amendment to the new sub-paragraph.

Add a new sub-paragraph after ¶ 15.14:

To allow the Annual Conferences to utilize structures unique to ~~regional aspects of~~ their mission, other mandated structures notwithstanding.

[Judicial Council Decision 680 ruled that the 1992 General Conference amendment on this subject was unconstitutional. To remedy such defect, amendments to Section II, §15, Article IV and to Section 707.1 are being proposed.]

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**408**-14
**Subject: Ratio of Representatives in General, Central, Jurisdictional Conferences from Conferences**
Committee Item: CO29-14-A
Petition:
20961-CO-14-C, Pg. 175

Membership: 86; Present: 78;
For: 45; Against: 29; Not Voting: 4;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

The General Conference shall fix the ratio of representation in the General, Jurisdictional, and Central Conferences from the Annual Conferences, Missionary Conferences, and the Provisional Annual Conferences computed on ~~two factor basis~~ **the total of the clergy members and the church members of the Annual Conferences and the Missionary Conferences,**

~~(1)The number of clergy members and the number of lay members of local churches in the Annual Conference and the Missionary Conference shall be added together as one body to form the sum total of the members of the Annual Conference and the Missionary Conference for the purpose of this article, and (2) one delegate shall be allotted for the first 10,000 members of the Annual Conference as computed in factor one, and one delegate for each additional 10,000 members of the Annual Conference or major fraction thereof. The number of delegates shall be one half~~*provided* ~~that each Annual Conference...~~**provided that each Annual Conference, Missionary Conference, or Provisional Annual Conference shall be entitled to at least one ministerial member and one lay delegate in the General Conference and also in the Jurisdictional or Central Conference.**

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 409-608.7
**Subject: Printing of petitions in the Advance Edition of the Daily Christian Advocate**
Committee Item: CO41-608.7-C
Petition:
20783-CO-608.7-D, Pg. 1263
Membership: 86; Present: 83;
For: 45; Against: 32; Not Voting: 6;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 410-35
**Subject: Amend The Constitution of The United Methodist Church**
Committee Item: CO50-35-C
Petition:
21127-CO-35-C, Pg. 176
Membership: 86; Present: 78;
For: 75; Against: 0; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 411-610.3
**Subject: Support for Programs Inconsistent with the Social Principles**
Committee Item: CO57-610.3-N
Petition:
22434-CO-610.3-D, Pg. 1264
Membership: 86; Present: 76;
For: 60; Against: 12; Not Voting: 4;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 412-610.1
**Subject: Accountability for United Methodist Agencies/ Officials**
Committee Item: CO58-610.1-N
Petition:
22172-CO-610.1-D, Pg. 1264
Membership: 86; Present: 76;
For: 60; Against: 12; Not Voting: 4;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 413-609
**Subject: Omission of Unconstitutional Clauses: Editing**
Committee Item: CO60-609-N
Petition:
20202-CO-609-D, Pg. 181
Membership: 86; Present: 76;
For: 64; Against: 8; Not Voting: 4;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 414-506
**Subject: Eliminate Nominations for Episcopal Elections**
Committee Item: CO73-506-N
Petition:
20558-CO-506-D, Pg. 178
Membership: 86; Present: 76;
For: 59; Against: 14; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 415-505
**Subject: President of Council of Bishops**
Committee Item: CO74-505-N
Petition:
20557-CO-505-D, Pg. 177
Membership: 86; Present: 78;
For: 64; Against: 11; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 416-35
**Subject: Lay Membership of Annual Conference for Deaconesses**
Committee Item: CO77-35-C
Petition:
22736-CO-35-C, Pg. 1259
Membership: 86; Present: 77;
For: 74; Against: 0; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 417-71
**Subject: Regarding Public Funding for Condom Distribution.**
Committee Item: CS3-71-A
Petition:
22655-CS-R375-U, Pg. 1247
Membership: 102; Present: 93;
For: 63; Against: 24; Not Voting: 6;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Delete the original petition and substitute:

Petition #22655, p. 1247 DCA

Regarding section III Para. 8 under Status of Women in the Book of Resolutions, p. 375.

Delete current paragraph and substitute the following text:

To support programs providing knowledge of the access to resources in the area of family planning and contraception, in-

cluding that which is Christian based, to encourage abstinence outside of marriage as a method of birth control, and to involve women in the preparation and distribution of these resources. Attention should particularly be given to ensuring access to safe, legal and non-coercive contraception, well-informed choice regarding abortion and its alternatives (adoptions, etc.), informed consent for sterilization procedures, and safe womens health care facitlities. We also oppose profit-making referral agencies, which charge fees for providing information freely available elsewhere.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 418-1110
**Subject: Meetings**
Committee Item: CS73-1110-C
Petition:
20944-CS-1110-D, Pg. 128
Membership: 102; Present: 93;
For: 80; Against: 10; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 419-208
**Subject: Church Membership**
Committee Item: DI92-208-A
Petition:
21426-DI-208-D, Pg. 945
Membership: 112; Present: 105;
For: 98; Against: 6; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Amend ¶ 208:

[Second sentence] Therefore all persons~~, without regard to race, color, national origin, disability, or economic condition, age or intellectual ability, race or nationality, gender or sexual identity, class or handicapping conditions~~ shall be eligible to attend its worship services, to participate in its programs, **to receive the sacraments,** and, ~~when they take appropriate vows, to~~ be admitted ~~into its~~ **as baptized or professing** membership in any local church in the connection. ~~(~~In the case of persons whose disabilities prevent them from assuming the vows **for baptized or professing membership**, their legal guardian(s) **or sponsor(s)**, themselves ...vows on their behalf.~~)~~

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 420-439.1-MR
**Subject: Responsibilities and Duties of a Pastor**
Committee Item: DI101-439.1-A
Petition:
21457-DI-439.1-D, Pg. 1058
Membership: 112; Present: 104;
For: 91; Against: 11; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Amend ¶ 439.1:

*b)* ...the responsibilities of **the** parent(s) and **the** sponsor(s) for the Christian training for the baptized child, and how these obligations may be properly discharged. **(See ¶ 224.)**

***c)* To encourage reaffirmation of the baptismal covenant and renewal of baptismal vows at different stages of life.** ~~The sacrament of baptism may not be repeated.~~ **The practice of re-baptism does not conform with Gods action in baptism and is not consistent with Wesleyan tradition and the historic teaching of the church. Therefore, the pastor should counsel any person seeking re-baptism to participate in a rite of re-affirmation of baptismal vows.**

**MINORITY REPORT**

Whereas there is pastoral confusion in some segments of the United Methodist Church on the issue of rebaptism;

and, whereas, the doctrine of our church unequivocally affirms only one baptism;

Therefore, be it resolved that ¶ 439.1.c shall be worded as originally proposed by the General Board of Discipleship (DCA, Vol. I, p. 1058, Petition #21457).

Charles W. Brockwell, Jr.
J. Philip Wogaman
Duane V. Sarazin
Shirley D. Beyers
Robert E. Stillwell
Chester Jones
Valerie W. Stultz
Penelope V. Eberhart
Malone Dodson
Ward Jackson

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 421-NonDis
**Subject: Expand Options of the Health Flex Insurance Program**
Committee Item: FA7-NonDis-N
Petition:
22760-FA-NonDis-O, Pg. 1322
Membership: 113; Present: 98;
For: 87; Against: 7; Not Voting: 4;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 422-2501
**Subject: Property used as Fulfilling the Mission of the Church**
Committee Item: FA11-2501-N
Petition:
20020-FA-2501-D, Pg. 382
Membership: 113; Present: 97;
For: 63; Against: 34; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 423-736.2
**Subject: Episcopal Residence Committee**
Committee Item: FA16-736.2-C
Petition:
21627-FA-736.2-D, Pg. 364
Membership: 113; Present: 95;
For: 71; Against: 24; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 424-NonDis
**Subject: Establishing a Relationship with a Major Credit Card Company**
Committee Item: FA20-NonDis-R
Petition:
22251-FA-NonDis-O, Pg. 1318
Membership: 113; Present: 96;
For: 88; Against: 8; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends referral to GCFA

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 425-904
**Subject: Amenability of General Council on Finance and Administration**
Committee Item: FA35-904-N

Petition:
20592-FA-904-D, Pg. 365
Membership: 113; Present: 101;
For: 94; Against: 7; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 426-908
**Subject: General Program Agency Funds**
Committee Item: FA54-908-N
Petition:
20596-FA-908-D, Pg. 370
Membership: 113; Present: 103;
For: 94; Against: 9; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 427-913.4
**Subject: Support of World Service and Conference Benevolence**
Committee Item: FA80-913.4-N
Petition:
20420-FA-913.4-D, Pg. 372
Membership: 113; Present: 103;
For: 95; Against: 8; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 428-922
**Subject: Eliminate General Council on Ministries**
Committee Item: FA84-922-N
Petition:
20602-FA-922-D, Pg. 373
Membership: 113; Present: 103;
For: 94; Against: 9; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 429-916.1
**Subject: Eliminate General Council on Ministries**
Committee Item: FA85-916.1-N
Petition:
20601-FA-916.1-D, Pg. 373
Membership: 113; Present: 103;
For: 91; Against: 12; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 430-911.5
**Subject: General Policies**
Committee Item: FA89-911.5-N
Petition:
20418-FA-911.5-D, Pg. 372
Membership: 113; Present: 103;
For: 84; Against: 19; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 431-911.5
**Subject: Annual Conference apportionments**
Committee Item: FA92-911.5-N
Petition:
20016-FA-911.5-D, Pg. 372
Membership: 113; Present: 103;
For: 80; Against: 23; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 432-1737
**Subject: Elimination General Council on Ministries**
Committee Item: FA113-1737-N
Petition:
20606-FA-1737-D, Pg. 382
Membership: 113; Present: 102;
For: 92; Against: 10; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 433-802
**Subject: Amenability and Program Accountability**
Committee Item: GJ46-802-N
Petition:
21534-GJ-802-D, Pg. 1327
Membership: 98; Present: 90;
For: 80; Against: 9; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 434-NonDis
**Subject: Scheduling Board and Agency Meetings**
Committee Item: GJ53-NonDis-C
Petition:
22660-GJ-NonDis-O, Pg. 1338
Membership: 98; Present: 92;
For: 48; Against: 40; Not Voting: 4;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 435-NonDis-$
**Subject: Programs of the United Methodist Church**
Committee Item: GJ56-NonDis-N$
Petition:
22362-GJ-NonDis-O$, Pg. 1335
Membership: 98; Present: 92;
For: 86; Against: 6; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 436-4
**Subject: The Inclusiveness of the Church**
Committee Item: GJ145-4-N
Petition:
22707-GJ-4-C, Pg. 1324
Membership: 98; Present: 92;
For: 83; Against: 8; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 437-4
**Subject: The Inclusiveness of the Church**
Committee Item: GJ146-4-N
Petition:
22869-GJ-4-C, Pg. 1324
Membership: 98; Present: 92;
For: 73; Against: 19; Not Voting: 0;

Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 438-4

**Subject: Inclusiveness of the Church**
Committee Item: GJ147-4-N
Petition:
21003-GJ-4-C, Pg. 1324
Membership: 98; Present: 89;
For: 67; Against: 22; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 439-NonDis-$

**Subject: Report and Recommendation of the Interagency Task Force on AIDS**
Committee Item: GM37-NonDis-C$
Petition:
21674-GM-NonDis-O$, Pg. 735
Membership: 126; Present: 107;
For: 107; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 440-NonDis-$

**Subject: National Committee on Deaf Ministries**
Committee Item: GM44-NonDis-A$
Petition:
21346-GM-NonDis-O$, Pg. 779
Membership: 126; Present: 108;
For: 107; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

*The National Committee on Deaf Ministries recommends the following program for the quadrennium 1997-2000:*

I. All areas of the church need to be accessible.

*We recommend that:*

A. All annual conference sessions and conference events become accessible to persons with hearing loss, by making every reasonable effort to provide the following services; interpreters with American Sign Language skills, interpreters with skills in Conceptually Signed English, oral interpreters, sign/voice interpreters, real-time captioning, listening devices, telephone devices for the deaf, Computer Assisted Note Takers; and FM systems.

B. All United Methodist seminaries and educational institutions voluntarily move toward full accessibility as exemplified by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 by the next general conference and to provide reasonable accommodations for deaf, deafened, and hard-of-hearing persons who desire to pursue deaf ministry as a vocation.

II. Qualified persons need to be invited and encouraged in the vocation of ordained or diaconal ministry and other lay persons should be provided with ways of offering their gifts to deaf ministry.

*We recommend that:*

A. Each bishop and district superintendent in their respective annual conferences reach out to churches to encourage deaf, deafened, and hard-of-hearing persons to consider ministry as a vocation;

B. Each annual conference board of ordained ministry and board of diaconal ministry **encourage** ~~adopt a policy that requires~~ candidates for ordination and consecration to have educational preparation in ministry to persons who are deaf, deafened, and hard-of-hearing.

C. Every annual conference recruit, train, and deploy deaf, deafened and hard-of-hearing persons as lay pastors and lay speakers.

III. The church must equip persons for ministry to persons who are deaf, deafened, and hard of hearing.

*We recommend that:*

A. Annual conferences have available to hearing people brochures containing information concerning ministry with persons who are deaf, deafened and hard-of-hearing.

B. Each annual conference offer, at least biennially, continuing education and formation training events for ordained and diaconal ministers in the area of ministry with persons who are deaf, deafened, and hard-of-hearing.

C. Each annual conference provide workshops in their area that will prepare local church laity and clergy to work with persons who are deaf, deafened, and hard-of-hearing.

D. United Methodist seminaries include education for ministry to person who are deaf, deafened, and hard-of-hearing within their curriculum. We further ask the University Senate to advise the approved schools of theology of our concern for education for ministry with these persons.

E. The General Board of Discipleship develop training programs and resources with the assistance of the United Methodist Congress of the Deaf to assist local churches with such training.

IV. The United Methodist *Book of Discipline* language should reflect the current language and descriptive preferences of persons who are deaf, deafened, and hard-of-hearing. (In accordance with ¶ 608 of *The Book of Discipline*, two petitions asking for a change in the wording of *The Book of Discipline* have been forwarded to the 1996 General Conference. The first asks to change the term handicapping conditions to special needs in ¶ 72G; the second asks to insert the following as the second sentence in ¶ 530.2: This is especially important for congregations and ministries having special language and cultural needs.)

V. Proposal to General Conference From the National Committee on Deaf Ministries

*We recommend the continuation of the National Committee on Deaf Ministries for the 1997-2000 quadrennium to be accountable to the General Board of Global Ministries and to work in cooperation with the other general boards and agencies.*

**Description of the National Committee**

A. Purpose and Organization of the Committee:

The National Committee on Deaf Ministries shall be accountable to the General Board of Global Ministries to ensure coordination among general program boards. This Committee shall provide an arena for networking, cooperative planning, and implementation of programs designed to empower and enable a ministry by, with, and for deaf, deafened, and hard-of-hearing persons. The Committee shall serve as an advocate for deaf ministries with all general agencies of The United Methodist Church.

B. Responsibilities of the Committee:

The responsibilities of the Committee shall include, but not be limited to the following:

1. Identifying the needs and concerns of deaf, deafened and hard-of-hearing individuals.

2. Collecting and disseminating information on successful models, programs, and resources that will inform the work of all boards, agencies, and annual conferences to strengthen, enrich, and enable individual family living consistent with Christian teaching and practice.

3. Encouraging exploration of the biblical, theological, and experimental understandings of family living and the churchs role in ministry by, with, and for deaf, deafened, and hard-of-hearing persons.

4. Advocating for the development and implementation of programs, policies, and services by general agencies of The United Methodist Church that are designed to have an impact on those systems and concepts that adversely affect persons with hearing loss.

5. Assisting in the recruitment, training, and deployment of diaconal and ordained deaf, deafened, and hard-of-hearing ministers.

6. Advocating for the accessibility potential for annual conference sessions and programs as models for local churches.

C. Membership of the Committee and Organizing for Ministry:

Each member of the Committee, as designated below, shall have voice and vote.

1. The Committee shall consist of one bishop, 15 members of the United Methodist Congress of the Deaf, and a representative from each of the general boards and agencies listed below in item 4.

2. The bishop shall be selected by the Council of Bishops and shall have experience in deaf ministry within his/her annual conference.

3. There shall be fifteen members elected from the United Methodist Congress of the Deaf. Of those members, there will be six deaf and two deafened persons; two professional interpreters; one educator; one deaf institutional ministry professional; one mental health professional who has experience in the deaf and deafened community; and two ordained ministers, at least one of whom is deaf or hard-of-hearing.

4. There shall be either a staff person or a voting member from the General Council on Ministries, the General Board of Discipleship, the United Methodist Publishing House, the General Board of Church and Society, the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, United Methodist Communications, and the General Board of Global Ministries. (If the GBGM member is a director of the Board, a staff member shall also serve with the understanding that the staff member will serve as executive director of NCOD.) Each agency will pay the expenses of its staff representatives.

5. Representatives from other general agencies or groups may be invited to be present as observers or consultants without vote. Their expenses will be paid by their agencies.

6. It is strongly urged that the Committee be inclusive with regard to gender, ethnicity, jurisdictions, and different sign languages and hearing abilities.

7. The Committee shall be convened by the bishop and shall have its organizational meeting no later than July 1, 1997. The members shall elect their own officers.

**Objectives of the National Committee of Deaf Ministries**

The objectives of the National Committee on Deaf Ministries shall be as follows:

A. To facilitate training programs for the development of deaf ministries in local churches, districts, annual conferences, and general church.

B. To serve as an advocacy group against the stigma and fear of having hearing loss and against those policies and practices in church and society that discriminate against deaf, deafened, and hard-of-hearing persons.

C. To identify critical issues and program implications of the gifts of deaf, deafened, and hard-of-hearing persons with special attention to the needs of all deaf, deafened, and hard-of-hearing persons; racial and ethnic constituencies; and persons with handicapping conditions; as well as to address issues such as abuse, care giving, poverty, legal rights, and ethical choices facing deaf and hard-of-hearing persons.

D. To rally deaf, deafened, and hard-of-hearing persons to a new consciousness of their potential and power in church and society.

E. To share in the initiation and planning of events for deaf, deafened, and hard-of-hearing persons to be conducted at all levels of the church (including the United Methodist Congress of the Deaf).

F. To coordinate information and to make referrals of requests and proposals to the appropriate agencies.

G. To advocate for the purchase and use (including training) of various communication technologies and methods including, but not limited to, telecommunication devices for the deaf (TDD), assistive listening devices and captioning services, and interpreters for more effective communications with and among deaf, deafened, and hard-of-hearing persons.

H. To keep abreast of technological developments in communications devices and update those services and training for those services.

**Recommendations to General Agencies**

A. We *recommend* that the General Council on Ministries give priority to the development of coordinated research at all levels of the church to provide demographic information concerning programs, needs, and opportunities by, with, and for deaf, deafened, and hard-of-hearing persons in The United Methodist Church.

B. We *recommend* that the General Board of Discipleship give priority to ministry by, with, and for deaf, deafened, and hard-of-hearing persons by:

1. Continuing the development of guidelines for the Council on Ministries/Administrative Council and the adult ministries work areas that significantly address issues and needs for ministry by, with, and for deaf, deafened, and hard-of-hearing persons in local congregations.

2. Identifying effective lay leadership models for deaf ministry for deaf, deafened, and hard-of-hearing persons.

3. Continuing and increasing the involvement and training of deaf, deafened, hard-of-hearing, and hearing persons in the leadership of the local church, such as lay leadership, lay speaking, teaching ministries, and evangelism and outreach.

C. We *recommend* that the United Methodist Publishing House give priority to ministry by, with, and for deaf, deafened, and hard-of-hearing persons by:

1. Producing curriculum resources in American Sign Language (ASL) for all age levels.

2. Adapting existing print or visual curriculum for use by, with, and for deaf and hard-of-hearing persons.

3. Cooperating ecumenically in the production of curriculum and other resources by, with, and for deaf, deafened, and hard-of-hearing persons.

4. Including deaf and hard-of-hearing persons in the planning, writing, signing, and testing of curriculum resources for deaf and hard-of-hearing persons.

5. Having a deaf, deafened or hard-of-hearing editor(s) on staff or on contract who is fully knowledgeable about the needs of culturally deaf, deafened, and hard-of-hearing persons to work on curriculum prepared for deaf and hard-of-hearing persons.

6. Researching within the deaf community the needs for curriculum and the appropriate design of curriculum resources for the different age levels and language abilities of deaf and hard-of-hearing persons.

D. We *recommend* that the General Board of Global Ministries give priority to ministry by, with, and for deaf, deafened, and hard- of-hearing persons by:

1. Holding yearly meetings with program-related general agencies to monitor progress and to receive progress reports. The General Board of Global Ministries will have responsibility for leading the denomination toward greater sensitivity to the deaf community and will also stress the importance and monitor the presence of interpreters at all national and international events.

2. Continuing and encouraging the inclusion of deaf, deafened, and hard-of-hearing persons in mission education and outreach.

3. Identifying and supporting effective models for deaf ministries in urban and rural settings, large and small membership churches, and among racial and ethnic groups.

4. Supporting the involvement of deaf, deafened, and hard-of- hearing persons in education and action in national and international affairs.

5. Planning and implementing programs that significantly include racial and ethnic deaf, deafened, and hard-of-hearing persons.

6. Initiating consultations with churches in other countries to identify concerns and needs of deaf, deafened, and hard-of- hearing persons, with follow-up outreach and ministry.

7. Including residents of United Methodist related retirement homes in decision-making on programs affecting deaf and hard-of- hearing residents.

8. Continuing to maintain a mailing list and disseminating a semi-annual newsletter in consultation with the United Methodist Congress of the Deaf.

9. Relating to and providing liaison services for interdenominational and ecumenical agencies in the area of deaf ministries, including the United Methodist Congress of the Deaf.

E. We *recommend* that the General Board of Church and Society give priority to the ministry by, with, and for deaf, deafened, and hard-of-hearing persons by:

1. Monitoring and supporting local, state, and federal legislation that has an impact on deaf, deafened, and hard-of-hearing persons.

2. Developing a network of deaf, deafened, and hard-of-hearing advocates for public policy issues, working in conjunction with the National Association of the Deaf, Self-Help for Hard-of-Hearing (SHHH), and the Association of Late Deafened Adults (ALDA), when appropriate.

3. Planning and implementing programs and resources that significantly include racial and ethnic deaf, deafened, and hard- of-hearing persons.

4. Providing financial assistance through the Office of Loans and Scholarships for persons preparing for deaf ministry.

G. We *recommend* that United Methodist Communications give priority to ministry by, with, and for deaf, deafened, and hard- of-hearing persons by:

1. Continuing to advocate open and closed captioned video from their constituents as well as with their own resources.

2. Purchasing and using appropriate technology to communicate with deaf, deafened, and hard-of-hearing persons through its various media.

3. Considering use of computer bulletin boards to facilitate contact between deaf and hearing leaders.

4. Providing information and education about the technology of assistive listening devices (such as, but not linked to, audio loop and FM infrared systems), captioned video, and real-time computer assisted captioning for use in local churches and at meetings beyond the local church.

5. Helping spread the word through various media about successful models for deaf ministry and the necessary conditions supporting such effective models.

6. Continuing to develop and provide educational resources for deaf and hard-of-hearing persons (such as access to TDDs and computers).

7. Employing deaf and hard of hearing person in all phases of media production, including on-camera talent, that is relevant to deaf and hard-of-hearing persons.

H. We *recommend* that all general agencies:

1. Evaluate all programs related specifically to deaf, deafened, and hard-of-hearing persons to identify whether these programs are by, with, and for deaf and hard-of-hearing persons and to what extent the programs enable the deaf and hard-of-hearing person to be participating, contributing and resourceful persons in church and society.

2. Develop deaf ministries that recognize the particular diverse needs of various groups of deaf and hard-of-hearing persons (age, gender, race, language, culture, geographic location, and handicapping conditions).

3. Provide regular board and staff training on deafness and hearing loss and support groups for both.

4. Allocate staff time and other resources to increase their effectiveness in ministry by, with, and for deaf, deafened, and hard-of-hearing persons. Resources include, but are not limited to, interpreters, real-time computer assisted captioning, TDDs, and budget for captioning video materials.

5. Voluntarily comply with federal or state legislation that has a positive impact on the lives of deaf, deafened, and hard-of-hearing persons.

6. Develop affirmative action goals for the employment of persons with handicapping conditions including persons who are deaf, deafened and hard-of-hearing.

I. We *recommend* that each annual conference:

1. Purchase a TDD for the conference office, train responsible staff to use it, and publicize the TDD number whenever the conference office telephone number is publicized.

2. Provide sign language interpreters at annual conference and other events within the conference.

3. Elect deaf, deafened, and hard-of-hearing persons as members to annual conference and as elected members to jurisdictional and general conference meetings, recognizing that adaptations to facilitate communications must be made.

4. Support, through its program agencies, education and awareness building about the varieties of ministry with deaf, deafened, and hard-of-hearing persons.

5. Set goals for new congregational formation and transformation with deaf persons; involve church development and redevelopment committees to find vacant churches or to build churches for deaf ministries.

6. Develop and maintain a census of deaf ministries within the annual conference.

7. Evaluate all programs related specifically to deaf, deafened, and hard-of-hearing persons to identify whether these programs are by, with, and for deaf, deafened, and hard-of-hearing persons and to what extent the programs enable the deaf and hard-of-hearing persons to be participating, contributing, and resourceful within their annual conferences, districts, and local churches.

**Budget and Administrative Responsibility**

The budget for the National Committee on Deaf Ministry shall be for the 1997-2000 quadrennium.

A. The budget for the Committee shall include expenses for members named in section V.C.3 and an adequate program budge to include identification of models and coordinating strategies for deaf ministry in The United Methodist Church.

B. The budget shall be $26,125 per year in the quadrennium.

C. It is recommended that funds be allocated for this budget to the National Committee on Deaf Ministries by the General Council on Finance and Administration, included as a line item in World Service, and administered by the General Board of Global Ministries.

Proposed Budget - 1997-2000

**Meeting of members** (15 members, 4 meetings)$ 50,000

**Subcommittee meetings25,000**

**Consultants** (Research and other services)10,000

**Printing/mailing10,000**

**Literature5,000**

**Contingencies4,500**

**Total$ 104,500**

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**441**-NonDis-$
**Subject: Asian-American Language Ministry Study**
Committee Item: GM52-NonDis-C$
Petition:
21344-GM-NonDis-O$, Pg. 777
Membership: 126; Present: 108;
For: 107; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**442**-NonDis-$
**Subject: National Plan for Hispanic Ministry**
Committee Item: GM53-NonDis-C$
Petition:
21343-GM-NonDis-O$, Pg. 771
Membership: 126; Present: 108;
For: 107; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**443**-NonDis-$
**Subject: Continue Emphasis on the Implementation of the National Plan for Hispanic-American Ministries**
Committee Item: GM54-NonDis-C$
Petition:
20078-GM-NonDis-O$, Pg. 762
Membership: 126; Present: 104;
For: 104; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**444**-NonDis-$
**Subject: Native American Comprehensive Plan**
Committee Item: GM57-NonDis-C$
Petition:
21345-GM-NonDis-O$, Pg. 778
Membership: 126; Present: 114;
For: 113; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**445**-NonDis-$
**Subject: Cooperative Parish Ministry**
Committee Item: GM65-NonDis-C$
Petition:
22661-GM-NonDis-O$, Pg. 1370
Membership: 126; Present: 108;
For: 108; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**446**-NonDis-$
**Subject: Funding Seminary Education**
Committee Item: HE1-NonDis-A$
Petition:
22275-HE-NonDis-O$, Pg. 1382
Membership: 86; Present: 81;
For: 62; Against: 16; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

In the fifth paragraph, marked 1), delete Increase the amount of funding available to and insert instead, Encourage increased funding for.

In the sixth paragraph, marked 2), after Develop insert and evaluate the feasibility of.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**447**-1518
**Subject: Purposes and Objectives**
Committee Item: HE2-1518-N
Petition:
20724-HE-1518-D, Pg. 824
Membership: 86; Present: 80;
For: 71; Against: 6; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**448**-1517.2
**Subject: Membership in the University Senate**
Committee Item: HE3-1517.2-N
Petition:
22271-HE-1517.2-D, Pg. 1380
Membership: 86; Present: 80;
For: 73; Against: 7; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**449**-1518.5
**Subject: Purposes and Objectives of the University Senate**
Committee Item: HE4-1518.5-N
Petition:
22568-HE-1518.5-D, Pg. 1381
Membership: 86; Present: 79;
For: 73; Against: 6; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**450**-1518
**Subject: Regarding University Senate Purposes**
Committee Item: HE5-1518-N
Petition:
22272-HE-1518-D, Pg. 1381
Membership: 86; Present: 80;
For: 71; Against: 8; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**451**-1517.2
**Subject: Membership of the University Senate**
Committee Item: HE6-1517.2-N
Petition:
20723-HE-1517.2-D, Pg. 824
Membership: 86; Present: 80;
For: 74; Against: 6; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**452**-NonDis-$
**Subject: Historically Black Colleges and Universities Related to The UMC and the Black College Fund**
Committee Item: HE22-NonDis-C$
Petition:
21280-HE-NonDis-O$, Pg. 826
Membership: 86; Present: 80;
For: 70; Against: 8; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**453**-NonDis
**Subject: Consistency in Language in The Book of Discipline Regarding Pastors/Clergy Members**
Committee Item: HE44-NonDis-N
Petition:
22277-HE-NonDis-O, Pg. 1382
Membership: 86; Present: 77;
For: 69; Against: 7; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**454**-1531
**Subject: Schools of Theology and Small Membership Churches**
Committee Item: HE45-1531-N
Petition:
22523-HE-1531-D, Pg. 1381
Membership: 86; Present: 77;
For: 69; Against: 8; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**455**-1519.3
**Subject: Purposes and Objectives of the University Senate**
Committee Item: HE47-1519.3-N
Petition:
22569-HE-1519.3-D, Pg. 1381
Membership: 86; Present: 80;
For: 67; Against: 12; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**456**-738
**Subject: Conference Commission on Archives and History**
Committee Item: IC26-738-N
Petition:
20507-IC-738-D, Pg. 901
Membership: 71; Present: 67;
For: 49; Against: 15; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**457**-1803.2
**Subject: Accountability of General Commission on Archives and History**
Committee Item: IC34-1803.2-N
Petition:
20635-IC-1803.2-D, Pg. 906
Membership: 71; Present: 62;
For: 52; Against: 6; Not Voting: 4;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**458**-738
**Subject: The Commission on Archives and History**
Committee Item: IC46-738-N
Petition:
20240-IC-738-D, Pg. 901
Membership: 71; Present: 67;
For: 44; Against: 16; Not Voting: 7;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**459**-NonDis-$
**Subject: General Commission on Inclusiveness of Persons with Handicapping Conditions**
Committee Item: IC49-NonDis-N$
Petition:
20772-IC-NonDis-O$, Pg. 920
Membership: 71; Present: 68;
For: 56; Against: 7; Not Voting: 5;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**460**-1810.1
**Subject: Historical Society**
Committee Item: IC50-1810.1-C
Petition:
20758-IC-1810.1-D, Pg. 907
Membership: 71; Present: 65;
For: 35; Against: 25; Not Voting: 5;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**461**-245
**Subject: Local Church Organization and Administration**
Committee Item: LC102-245-N
Petition:
21643-LC-245-D, Pg. 954
Membership: 89; Present: 79;
For: 53; Against: 24; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence in favor of Pet. 20696-LC-245-D as adopted.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## Removed from the Consent Calendar

**2**-12.3

**This was incorrectly placed on Consent Calendar A01 and has been removed by the Coordinator of the Calendar.**

**49**-14

Removed from Consent Calendar C01 by the following delegates:

Dodson, E. Malone;
Buskirk, James B.;
Knight, Margaret F.;
Mooneyhan, James B.;
Brantley, Douglas 'Mac'.


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# Proceedings of the 1996 General Conference of The United Methodist Church

## Committee On Journal Report

The Committee On Journal hereby certifies as accurate the proceedings as printed in the *Daily Christian Advocate* for Friday April 19, 1996.

**William Reasner,**
**Chair, Committee On Journal**
(C13, seat 2)

## Friday Morning

*Bishop Ann Sherer, presiding*

BISHOP SHERER: Could we be in order, please? As we move to our seats and begin our business session for this day, we begin with great appreciation. We thank Bishop Sharon Zimmerman-Rader for the way in which she shared the Word with us. And we thank the Sanctuary Choir of First United Methodist Church, Peoria, Ill., Timothy Corday, director.

*(applause)*

BISHOP SHERER: We have once again begun our day with extraordinary worship, and we thank God. I see a card. Microphone eight, please.

TAL ODEN (Oklahoma Conference): Bishop, we ask for a moment of personal group privilege from the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference and the Oklahoma Annual Conference for a moment of witness and silent prayer on this anniversary of the Oklahoma City tragedy. May we have three minutes for that purpose?

BISHOP SHERER: Yes, you may.

ODEN: We would like to be led by the Rev. Phil Fenn, clergy leader of our delegation and the witness, and by Ann Saunkeah, chair of the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference delegation for our prayer.

*Tribute to Oklahoma City Bombing Victims*

PHILIP FENN: Thank you. We are one year removed from the bombing in Oklahoma City which took the lives of 149 adults and 19 children. That was an explosion which created a crater of grief in the lives of many people and sent shock throughout the nation. Though the distance of time from this event has diminished some of the anguish, this first anniversary date of April 19 causes the pain to renew itself in all who were jolted by the blast, and causes many of us to remember in a special way, to remember the experience, to think in a particular and special way about our neighbors and friends who were touched by the tragedy. And also those of us—especially in Oklahoma recall with great gratitude the marvelous outpouring of love and concern that came in all around from the world, including service and help from our own great Methodist Church. We were assisted by UMCOR and other agencies. In addition to that, there were individuals and congregations and annual conferences which sent gifts of money and supplies and assistance.

Earlier this morning, precisely at 9:02, which was the moment of the blast, citizens throughout Oklahoma paused wherever they were for just a few moments of silence. And it was a loud silence. It was a silence that articulated a message of judgment upon the bombing, but more importantly, it also was a way of honoring the memory of those who died, the grief of those who survived, and the service of those who helped. We wish to invite the General Conference to join Oklahomans and, indeed, many people elsewhere in the country and the world, in standing for just a moment of silent tribute which will be followed by a prayer by Ann Saunkeah. Let us stand for a few moments of silence.

*(audience stands in silence)*

ANN SAUNKEAH: Father God, we acknowledge you as the one who is bountiful in love and quick to feel the pain of the world. Look upon all who suffer this day and so enfold them with your love that in the midst of their anguish they might find the company of your helping and healing spirit. We thank you for all who by their presence and assistance in time of need have given help; and we acknowledge with grateful reverence all who by their brave endurance have hallowed suffering stemmed by the cruelty of others. We commit ourselves again to the message of love, to the end that we might hasten the day when the neighborly concern will conquer the malice of conflict and hate. Amen.

FENN: Thank you.

BISHOP SHERER: Microphone six. Microphone one. That will be fine.

RANDY DAY (New York Conference): Randy Day, New York Conference. Bishop and members of the Conference, yesterday as we worshipped and worked, bombs fell on villages and also a UN peacekeeping camp in Lebanon where many people had taken refuge; and more than 100 people died there yesterday, mostly women and children. This civilian massacre is just another of a cycle of violence in a land that is so hungry for peace. Doctors who served many of those people yesterday, who had also been there during the invasion in 1982, said they had never seen suffering like this. And one woman who survived was 22 years old, lost 12 members of her family: her parents, her grandparents, her uncles. And she said, "I saw my sister burning with

her child in her arms." And that seems to summarize the suffering of Oklahoma, of Liberia, and what happened yesterday in Lebanon. I do have a motion to make, but first I would request that the conference extend an invitation to Bishop Judith Craig to share a moment with us.

BISHOP SHERER: If you extend an invitation to Bishop Judith Craig to speak to us, you would indicate that when the light appears, please vote. [vote approved] Bishop Craig.

*Call for Peace in the Middle East*

BISHOP JUDITH CRAIG: Thank you for the privilege of this moment to speak. In November of 1994, it was my high honor to represent the Council of Bishops of The United Methodist Church by visiting the constituency of the Middle East Council of Churches' communions. The visit included extensive time in Israel, Palestine. There I met with officials of the Israeli government, members of Christian communions, Mr. Arafat, and other Palestinian leaders.

I was privileged to hear stories and experience reality in a way that taught me how very difficult it is for any of us to come to understand the complexity of centuries-old enmities still raging across that little land we call holy.

Yet, though not fully able to understand, I join with many in believing that we must continue to be a voice that cries for a just peace. And, therefore, I am privileged to read a statement that has been prepared by more than myself. But on behalf of those who have asked me to read this, I am pleased to do so.

"General Conference, after General Conference has condemned the ever-increasing cycles of violence in the Middle East, the current violence around south Lebanon has surged to heartbreaking levels. We are appalled by the scale of the Israeli assault upon the people of Lebanon. The extensive damage and many casualties that Israel has inflicted upon Lebanon far exceed a proportionate response to the Katyusha rocket attacks against Israel.

Self-defense is not a legitimate justification for so massive and calculated an effort to drive up to 400,000 civilians from their homes, or to stage direct attacks upon power plants and civilian infrastructure far from the border.

The Israeli campaign against Lebanon has led to a severe, premeditated humanitarian crisis intended to bring political pressure on the governments of Lebanon and of Syria who are viewed as supporting. A strategy that holds an entire population hostage to armed attack must be condemned as totally unacceptable and in grave violation of international standards for the protection of citizens in times of conflict.

Innocent people are being punished in a massive reprisal for attacks on Israeli civilians by Hezbollah. We condemn the attacks by Hezbollah. We believe the reprisals do not act as a deterrent to more violence, but only escalates it further. In like manner, we cannot remain silent about Palestine while that community struggles to survive in the midst of such inhuman violations as:

—ongoing confiscation of Palestinian lands;

—the continued growth of Israeli settlement communities in the West Bank and East Jerusalem linked by bypass roads which isolate Palestinian towns and villages;

—the sealing and demolition of Palestinian homes;

—the administrative detention of men, women and minors without the right to fair trial;

—and continuing imprisonment of thousands of Palestinians in Israeli prisons. All these sufferings during 50 years of Israeli occupation of Palestine have been made more acute since the suicide bombings in Jerusalem, Ashkelon, and Tel Aviv. It is as if the Oslo Peace Accords had never been signed.

We call for the protection of children, youth, and other civilians.

We call for a return to normalcy for people who have been refugees or subjugated in their own land for the past three generations.

We call for Christians, Jews, and Muslims to be able to practice their faiths in the city which is holy to the three major monotheistic religions of the world.

Lastly, we call for increased efforts to assure geographic security, economic security, and political security—all of which are necessary for Israelis, Palestinians, and Lebanese to coexist.

In these calls, we join our Christian sisters and brothers of faith who are indiginous to Palestine, Lebanon, and Israel. We join with annual conferences of our denomination, with our United Methodist missionaries in the Holy Land, and with the Middle East Council of Churches in our call for a just peace and a free life for all residents and those who govern them in the Middle East." Thank you.

BISHOP SHERER: Mr. Day, microphone one. Would you repeat your name again?

RANDY DAY (New York): Randy Day, New York Conference. Bishop, I move that the 1996 General Conference send a delegation to the White House to meet with President Clinton or Vice-President Gore to express our deep desire as United Methodists, for peace with justice in the Middle East, and to share the statement just read to us by Bishop Craig, and to report back to this General Conference. I also request that Bishop Woodie White, the president of the Council of Bishops, lead this delegation of bishops and General Conference delegates.

BISHOP SHERER: Is there a second to this motion? [Second from the floor] Is there any discussion? If not, please vote when the light appears. [Results: yes, 678; no, 220; abstained, 19] The motion is sustained, and we will make that request. Thank you. Microphone four.

CHESTER JONES (Little Rock): If I could have a moment of special privilege to give support to our brothers

and sisters in Oklahoma. That in light of the tragic bombing, I would move that we ask the secretary of the General Conference to fax some words of comfort to the mayor and the people of Oklahoma City, expressing, on behalf of all United Methodists, members and delegates of the 1996 General Conference, our thoughts and prayers for them in the process of healing.

BISHOP SHERER: Is there a second? Is there any discussion? Please vote when the light appears. [Results: yes, 887; no, 18; abstained, 17] We have confirmed our desire for that message to be sent. Thank you. Microphone eight.

JOY MOORE (West Michigan): Respecting the work of the agenda committee, but in light of the morning message, the remembrance of the Oklahoma bombing, and the events of yesterday in Lebanon, it seems now is an appropriate time to hear of the crisis in Nigeria. And so I would request of the conference, to ask Bishop Peter Dabale to speak about that crisis at this time.

BISHOP SHERER: If you would grant Bishop Dabale permission to speak, would you please vote when the light appears? [Results: yes, 789; no, 114; abstained, 11] You have granted that permission. Bishop Dabale.

*Report on Strife Nigeria*

BISHOP PETER DABALE: A brief account of the massacre of innocent people in Karim Lamido local government of Taraba state of Nigeria, a brief account. History: It may interest you to note that United Methodism in Nigeria started in Karim Lamido local government in 1923.

It is therefore an area where the missionaries sponsored by Evangelical United Brethren spent most of their lives. Many missionaries from Germany are still there. Many primary schools, dispensaries, and a hospital were built in the local government area in Bambur, a town near the area, serving as the headquarters of the church. Then, before it was finally moved to Jalingo in the early 1970's, the first Christians of the Evangelical United Brethren were converted in the area. It is therefore an area which is predominant in Methodism.

What has happened in Karim Lamido therefore is of great concern to all United Methodists worldwide.

Background: I would like you to note that any social upheaval in Nigeria is associated to religion (in this case, between *Muslims* and Christians). The area in question is 90 percent Christians and 10 percent *Muslims*. The *Muslims* happened to be like...I want to call this what happens in Rwanda and Burundi: like the Tutsis in the area, with deep apologies to my friends in Burundi and Rwanda. They, however, do not succeed there, for the Christians are now more enlightened. What happened, therefore, is more or less a question of assertion.

Remote and Immediate Cause: As could be noted in the background, the remote cause is a usual showdown between Christians and *Muslims*. The immediate cause is a local misunderstanding between a Christian woman and a *Muslim*. The *Muslim* attempted and raped a woman under threat of death. After raping her, he severed her hand, cut off [her left hand]. As a result of this, fighting broke out between the local people and the *Muslims*, in which some damages were really bad. The *Muslims* did not take it kindly and blamed everything on Christians.

Matters came to the worst on the last Easter Sunday, when the *Muslims* hired their fellow kindred and burned houses, churches, and killed people indiscriminately. Before the government could intervene, a lot of damage had been done. A whole village was completely burned down—10,000 people including churches and schools. A total of 15 churches were burned, all belonging to the United Methodist Church. Top government functionaries of Taraba State, who incidentally are *Muslims*, were aware, but decided to intervene too late after the massacre.

It is early to know and state what the situation is now. But what is clear and certain is that a lot of damage has been done to lives. Eighty lives were laid down; 50 children; totalling 130 people were killed. Some have been missing in the society. This morning he told me that some of the family has not yet been found. Brothers and sisters, thank you for concern, not only for Nigeria, but Africa and the world. God bless us.

BISHOP SHERER: Thank you, Bishop Dabale. [applause] Special privilege, Kansas Area. Microphone three.

JAMES R. REID (Kansas West): Bishop Sherer, members of the General Conference.

BISHOP SHERER: Your name, please.

REID: I rise to point of personal privilege to ask for your prayers for lay delegate, Barbara Rose, who late last night learned of the death of her husband, Bill. We're in the same community, and I serve as her district superintendent, and she is a vital member of our delegation. She has returned to Hutchison, Kansas, where she is joining her family. We ask for your prayers.

BISHOP SHERER: Thank you, Mr. Reid. We have heard many voices of pain and hurt throughout our world. In Liberia, in Nigeria, in the Middle East, in Oklahoma, in the midst of this community. I would ask Mr. Kimbrough to come and lead us in a song as we hold all of these persons in our prayers.

STEVE KIMBROUGH: On page 55 in this green book, *Global Praise*, you will find Jesus' words, "Peace, I leave with you. My own peace I now leave with you. It is not the peace of the world, but it is the peace I leave." Jesus has left that peace that we might be the bearers of that peace to the world. Join me in this simple melody in the three languages, for we are a people of many languages. Be it "peace", "freiden", "pace", "paix".

*(song)*

KIMBROUGH: Amen.

BISHOP SHERER: I see a card. Thirteen. Microphone 13.

*Call for "Silent" Bishops' Word on Homosexuality*

BILL HINSON (Texas Conference): On this somber day when our grief turns green remembering all the pain which has been described, it's important, I believe, that we be honest as our speaker of the morning has suggested and share all of our pain with this General Conference. I rise, then, to a moment of personal privilege. And I wish to share my pain as a member of this covenant community upon learning through a public newscast that the conscience of 15 of our bishops will not allow them to affirm the doctrine and *Discipline* of our church. They have, indeed, broken their silence and much, much more. Now I plead with our remaining bishops to break their silence. Tell us in a clear, convincing way of your support of our *Discipline*, our laws. Assure us that our standards are based on scripture and majority rule. Tell us. Tell a shaken, hurting church. Please, tell us.

BISHOP SHERER: Thank you Mr. Hinson.

*(applause)*

BISHOP SHERER: And now. And now we turn to our time of prayer. As we prepare for that, I would like for us to hear the words from the letter to the Phillipians, the first chapter, verses nine through 11.

*(reading of scripture)*

BISHOP SHERER: I invite us now to look again at the two questions: What is my most earnest hope for these next few hours of the General Conference? What do I believe is God's most fervent hope for these next few hours? Would you turn now to the person next to you and share those questions, and after five minutes, we will invite you to pray with that conversation partner, beseeching God to bring the two hopes into one. Let us turn now and share with the person next to us.

*(group sharing)*

BISHOP SHERER: Would you share in prayer with your conversation partner, beseeching God to bring your hopes and God's hopes into one? Let us pray.

*(prayer)*

BISHOP SHERER: We move now from prayer into our business session, hopeful people. Yesterday morning as I looked out over this General Conference and saw us in pairs and triads praying, I have great confidence about the ways in which God can work through us to achieve God's own purposes. We begin first with a report from GCOM, Bishop Bill Dew. You will remember according to paragraph 803 in the *Discipline* both the General Council on Ministries and the General Council on Finance and Administration report directly to the General Conference. Bishop Dew.

BISHOP WILLIAM W. DEW JR.: Thank you. Good morning delegates and colleagues, visitors and friends. As Bishop Sherer has just indicated, we of the General Council on Ministries have the privilege of reporting directly to the General Conference early in each session. We see this as an opportunity to report to you on the various ministry and mission proposals that are being presented to us here at the General Conference. But first, I want to say a word of appreciation to you as delegates for your leadership. For you, as our leaders, shape the future of the church.

Under our rules, this report is designed to place before you significant ministry thrusts of the general agencies of the church as they assist local churches and annual conferences in their mission and ministries. It will identify ways that your General Council on Ministries has facilitated the development of various proposals and collaborated in the development of many program-related items that you are going to be considering this week.

*Quadrennium of Many Studies*

It's clear to us that this has been a quadrennium of studies. The General Council on Finance and Administration has conducted a listening project with annual conference, finance, and other invited leaders. Our Council of Bishops has been involved with studies on the ministry and a study on the global nature of the church, which have provided extensive opportunities for us to listen to local people and other church leaders. In addition, our General Board of Global Ministries has been conducting extensive annual conference dialogues, and many of you were invited to those dialogues. The seminaries of our denomination held Agenda 21 consultation to discuss the future of theological education in the preparation of future leadership. The GCOM Connectional Issues Study has involved extensive listening across the church, perhaps the most extensive listening to the church in recent history.

These and other studies were facilitated when the General Council on Ministries initiated consultations to bring leaders of the various study groups together for communication and coordination so that each effort would not have unnecessary duplication. In addition, you will be considering proposals from the *Study of Baptism* and from the *Study of the Relocation of the General Board of Global Ministries*. These were begun eight years ago. Indeed, it has been a time of study and reflection.

In addition, the General Conference has before it at least five proposals to enhance our ethnic ministries. And we encourage you to think of these as ministries of The United Methodist Church with significant constituency groups. So often we hear that these are ministries for the Hispanics or for Native Americans, but

we need to understand that these are ministries of the entire church, and they are for the entire church. GCOM has played important roles in the development of the *National Plan for Hispanic Ministries* and the proposal for *Strengthening the Black Church for the 21st Century*. These were based on referrals to GCOM from previous General Conference action.

GCOM, through its Native American Concerns Committee, has supported the development of the Native American Comprehensive Plan. We've received frequent reports on the Asian American Language Ministry Study, and the Korean American Missionary Conference proposal. We commend all of these emphases for your consideration.

*GCOM Works with Program Agencies*

As a part of each General Council on Ministries meeting this quadrennium, we received reports from each of the program-related general agencies. These were very useful in helping annual conference leaders understand the various ministries each agency provides to better resource our local churches and our annual conferences and our missionary conferences as well.

In the GCOM, we work closely with general secretaries. They're members of the GCOM, and they are leaders of our combined programmatic life. Working with the General Council on Finance and Administration, GCOM has developed recommendations for the ministry needs of the general agencies. This is an extensive process where each agency's needs are assessed and funding recommendations are made based on resources available. We have also evaluated the ministries of each of the program agencies, and in this way we provide mutual accountability for the church.

We have also heard from our advocacy commissions about significant initiatives which need our attention. The Commission on the Status and Role of Women is to be commended for the assistance and training they have provided across the church on issues related to sexual misconduct. They have been effective resources for our church in dealing with these issues. The efforts of the Commission on Religion and Race related to hate groups, such as the ones in rural America, is as timely as today's news. We benefited from the commission leadership on this issue *before* it was front page news.

The initiative on "Quest" by our General Board of Discipleship has helped the church direct its attention to our primary focus for ministry. We know annual conferences and their leaders have found these directions useful as we focus on our purpose as God's people.

We also commend the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry for their study on the reclaiming of our Wesleyan commitment to education and the efforts to involve local congregations in study and action. These efforts and the GCOM-shared mission for young people are crucial initiatives for our times.

The ability of our church to begin the initiative in Russia between sessions of the General Conference has provided a timely response; and we appreciate the leadership of the General Board of Global Ministries in this initiative. And we could only begin to imagine the impact of these efforts. The Peace With Justice special program of the Board of Church and Society keeps this effective witness before our churches and demonstrates our witness in the world.

And our church's response to the *Advance for Christ and His Church* continues to be one of our greatest success stories. We continue to encourage our people in choosing projects for support across the church.

We remind you of the covenanting proposal that is presented by the Council of Bishops, "Churches in Covenant Communion: The Church of Christ Uniting." And we commend the General Commission on Christian Unity for their continued support for all of our ecumenical involvements.

The General Council on Ministry also works collaboratively with our agencies and several inter-agency task forces. One such project is the Interagency Task Force on AIDS. Now I'd like to introduce the Rev. Paul Dirdak, chair of the task force, for a special presentation.

*Inter-agency Task Force on AIDS*

PAUL DIRDAK: Thank you. It is my privilege to chair the Interagency Task Force on AIDS. It is a task force which assembles the general program agencies of the church as well as the Commissions on Religion and Race and the Status and Role of Women and United Methodist Communications. All of these agencies meet regularly to consider the way in which they will support one another and encourage one another in the face of the epidemic that confronts us all.

One of the practices of the commission is that we have three members whose presence is made possible by the General Council on Ministries. One is a person with AIDS; another is a person who is a parent of someone with AIDS; and a third is a caregiver for someone with AIDS. These people join us in all that we do as full members of the task force. As we have worked in these last two quadrennia, we have encountered a delightful, lovely, United Methodist person who has become an inspiration to us; and in the course of our deliberations we believed that you would want to know her. She is a precious member of this church, and we love her very much. She comes from a small town near Buffalo, N.Y., where she has been a United Methodist nearly all her life. We would like you to know her now. Her name is Helen Worth.

*Worth Tells of Living With AIDS*

HELEN WORTH: Thank you, Paul. I have prayed long and hard about what I want to say to you. God has been preparing me for this moment for eight years. Please listen

with an open mind and loving heart to my message this morning.

I have been a United Methodist since I was 13. I attend the same church now. I am 62 years old. I still am proud to be an active member of The United Methodist Church.

However, I have undergone a transformation. My spiritual awakening began in 1988. Although I didn't know it at the time, I was teaching English (I didn't know at the time that my spiritual awakening had begun)... I was teaching English at the local school. And the hot topics of the '80s was AIDS and I wanted to be a "with it" teacher. I involved my students in research and, to keep abreast of what was happening and to understand better how one could end up with this dread disease.

*Fear of AIDS*

Neither my students nor I felt threatened by the disease, really, because we felt where we lived in a small town in Western New York (population 2,000), really didn't put us at risk. Besides, at the time, we felt that this was a "gay disease." I didn't know very many gay people or lesbians then. I did have one gay friend who was a former student and had "come out," as they say. When we saw each other, we always hugged, and I had not seen him for awhile. And at a funeral, we happened to meet again, and he came up, and he grabbed me, and he hugged me, and he gave me a big kiss. I was not prepared for my reaction. It was instantaneous. I forgot about my AIDS education. I forgot about my Christianity. I simply stiffened, backed away, and fled. I held my mouth just so, and went home and gargled with Listerine. Little did I know then that Craig was the one that probably should have gone home and gargled, if in fact, you could have spread AIDS that way, and of course, you could not.

The following year my students talked me into donating blood to the American Red Cross, and I did. And when I came back from a summer vacation, one of those, I was told in a letter from the Red Cross that I was HIV positive. Impossible, I said. I had done nothing risky. Then I remembered in '81 I had had an operation, and during that surgery, I received four units of blood, one of which was found out to be contaminated.

What do I do now, says I? One of the first persons I told was my local pastor, and I was teaching Sunday school then. I had 20 students, ages 18 to 80, and I told them. And I fully expected when I came back the following Sunday morning that it would be the news of the church, and nobody looked at me strangely or said a word. They had held my secret. I thought, "Whoa!" I was pretty much treated that way, I think from the time, in my home town, from the time I first found out I was infected.

But then, I remembered the Craig incident, and I thought, "Oh, my gosh. I'm going to call him." So I did, and I said, "Remember when we met at the funeral home. Remember that I backed away and left? Craig, I'm sorry." And I told him about my infection. The next day, roses arrived and a note. And the note said, "Mrs. Worth, I love you, and I will pray for you. Craig." Wow! A seed had been planted.

However, I still felt resentment and anger to all homosexuals and drug addicts. I thought, *They are the ones who have brought me to this point.* I had been going to the infectious disease unit in Rochester, N.Y. And when I went into the waiting room, it was filled with mostly young men, and I thought most of them must be gay or drug addicts. I would sit myself somewhere where I wouldn't have to sit by them. I'd put my coat on one side of me and my purse on the other, give them my best teacher glare, and hope that I wouldn't have to talk to them.

*Spiritual Transformation*

This went on for several visits until one morning I was there, and a young man walked in, very emaciated, looked around, and there were no seats except where my coat and purse sat. I thought, "Oh, no. He's going to sit by me." As he came closer, he held his arms out, and he said, "I'm dying with AIDS. My family have kicked me out. Before I die, I'd like the arms of a woman around me one more time. Please, will you hold me?" "Oh, God." That was my full transition. I jumped to my feet. I grabbed him. I patted him on the back like I would my son. This could be my son. He could be my neighbor. He could be someone sitting in the pew next to me in church. And I cried. The other men that were in there all got up, and we formed a circle, and we all cried. And when the receptionist comes out and said, she usually said, "Next," but she said, "what's going on here?"

That was a major breakthrough for me. God has opened my eyes even more. Because of the Inter-Agency Task Force, I have had the opportunity to travel, and now my husband joins me. We are a unit now. He's here. And what we do is we think it's very important to go out and to educate about AIDS.

I was in Brazil and listened to the women there who told of their sexual problems and what was happening to them. And just recently returned, my husband and I returned from Vellore, India with the World Council of Churches, where I represented Women and AIDS for the United States of America.

I'd like to close my remarks with this: If I had the opportunity to go back and not have AIDS, it's been 15 years now, and yes, I have been ill, would I do that? No. Because I would never go back and be the person that I was in terms of the way I related to my fellow man. I have heard this issue here now for the two days I have been here, and I know it's a big issue. But I implore you, let God do the judging. All we have to do is love our fellow man. Thank you.

*(applause)*

BISHOP DEW: As I come to the end of this report, I want to take a

moment to say a word of appreciation to all of those persons, directors, members of the staff our general agencies, for we are truly blessed to have dedicated volunteers who give so unselfishly of their time as they serve God's mission through the ministry of our agencies. And all of the staff of our agencies are also dedicated Christian leaders who seek to assist our churches in so many ways to be faithful to God's vision for the church. Our opportunity to work in cooperative and collaborative relationships with these colleagues is a great privilege for the members of the General Council on Ministries, and we appreciate their leadership, as we all work together to enable God's mission. And the General Conference, perhaps more than some in recent history, this General Conference has the opportunity to set the direction for the church's future. And we know you will do your work prayerfully and carefully as you consider all the proposals and then take action.

Our specific legislative proposals will be presented later in the General Conference. Today we simply wanted to give you a quick overview, a context, as you do your work. And we offer you these and other ministry initiatives so that we might lead our church in the 21st Century. May God bless all our journey together. Thank you.

BISHOP SHERER: Thank you, Bishop Dew. *(applause)* And now we will hear from the Committee on Courtesies and Privileges, William Cook. I guess not. The Committee on Presiding Officers Report, Rex Bevins.

REX BEVINS (Nebraska): The presiding officer for tomorrow morning will be Bishop Bruce Blake of the Dallas Area.

BISHOP SHERER: Thank you. The Committee on Calendar, Sarah Miller.

SARAH MILLER: Thank you. On the second page of your *DCA* which you received this morning, right here, is the agenda for the remainder of today. You'll notice that the majority of our time for this day will be given to the work of our legislative committees. You need that time. A preview of tomorrow: We'll be doing more legislative committee work. We'll be having a report from the Committee on Hispanic Ministries; presentation of the Hispanic hymnal, and we'll be voting on some items that are printed in today's *DCA*.

Our rules keep us on track by not allowing us to vote in plenary until items have been presented in the *DCA* on the previous day. So tomorrow we'll deal with calendar items that are printed in today's *DCA*. I hope you'll be familiar with those and be prepared tomorrow to vote. Thank you.

BISHOP SHERER: Thank you, Ms. Miller. The Committee on the General Conference, John J. Thomas. Microphone three.

*Hillary Clinton to Visit General Conference*

JOHN J. THOMAS (South Indiana): Bishop Sherer, members of the Council of Bishops, delegates, friends, guests: As chair of the Commission on General Conference, I have an announcement to make on behalf of that commission. Back some time ago, we were advised that the President of the United States might be willing to accept an invitation to come and bring greetings. An invitation was extended to him to attend. Just recently we received information from his office that he would not be able to attend, but that his wife, the First Lady, would be able to come. *(applause)* Accordingly, an invitation was extended by the commission to our First Lady, Hillary Clinton. Acceptance has been received, and she will be here to bring greetings next Wednesday, April 24th, at 2 p.m. *(applause)*

BISHOP SHERER: Thank you, Mr. Thomas. And now we will hear from Mr. Brawn. Mr. Brawn.

JOHN BRAWN: I'm sorry, Bishop, I didn't hear my name being called. I'm a lay delegate, not a delegate, but a lay person from the California-Nevada Annual Conference who's been working with the secretary of the General Conference on the computer system. We've had great fortune to change the way that the computer systems work compared to four years ago. Now, I'd like to introduce the two Susans who have put us on the Internet. Susan Peek and Susan Brumbaugh. And I'm going to disappear like in the Wizard of Oz behind the curtain and pull the levers.

Lookin' Good at 40!

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*Daily Report*

# Daily Christian Advocate

THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**Denver, Colorado** **Monday, April 22, 1996** **Vol. 3 No. 6**

## Day Five Highlights Hispanic Plan, Hispanic Hymnal, Word from Liberia

The General Conference enthusiastically welcomed expressions of inclusiveness and the worldwide nature of the church on the morning of day five.

As delegates and visitors arrived, many were caught up in the rhythmic exuberance of music by an African-American intergenerational choir from St. Luke Community United Methodist Church, Dallas. Led by Monya Logan, the 70 musicians had many participants swaying, clapping and singing along. During worship their special arrangement of "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing" was especially stirring.

In a report that featured a mariachi band and a 12-voice Hispanic choir recruited from several churches, delegates learned that the National Plan for Hispanic Ministries had made significant progress during the quadrennium.

As the morning session closed, they applauded Council of Bishops President Woodie W. White's announcement that Bishop Arthur F. Kulah was on his way from Liberia and that a lay delegate from that country had already arrived. On day one there had been grave concern for the bishop's safety and the delegate's ability to leave that violence-torn country.

### Morning Worship

Led by Arkansas Area Bishop Richard B. Wilke, morning worship included Scripture reading by Mary Miller, South Indiana Conference, and a sermon by Bishop Joseph Christian Humper of Sierra Leone. Quoting texts from Romans, the bishop asked: "If God is with us, who

(continued on page 186)

### Agenda

**Monday, April 22**

| | |
|---|---|
| **8:15 a.m.** | **Choral Music** |
| **8:30 a.m.** | **Worship** |
| **9:00 a.m.** | **Call to Order and Discernment** |
| | **Consent Calendar** |
| **9:15 a.m.** | **Native American Ministries Report** |
| **9:45 a.m.** | **Calendar Items** |
| **10:15 a.m.** | **Break** |
| **10:30 a.m.** | **Baptism Study Report** |
| | **Calendar Items** |
| **12:30 p.m.** | **Lunch Recess** |
| **2:00 p.m.** | **Call to Order** |
| **2:05 p.m.** | **Shared Mission Focus on Young People** |
| **2:30 p.m.** | **Black Church Study** |
| **3:00 p.m.** | **Calendar Items** |
| **3:30 p.m.** | **Legislative Committees as Needed** |
| **5:00 p.m.** | **Dinner Recess** |
| **7:30 p.m.** | **Call to Order** |
| **7:35 p.m.** | **The Advance** |
| **8:00 p.m.** | **Calendar Items** |
| **9:50 p.m.** | **Committee on Presiding Officers Report** |
| | **Committee on Agenda and Calendar Report** |
| | **Announcements** |
| **10:00 p.m.** | **Adjournment** |

### A Conference Moment



**General Conference is a time to celebrate our successful ministries. The joy of Africa University should be in the hearts of all delegates. The joy of being United Methodist rests not in issues, but in our ability to put our faith into action.**

*—photo by Mike DuBose*

(continued from front page)

is against us?"

"From this text," he said, "we find the indisputable truth and undeniable fact established: that God has, over the centuries, been and always is with us, even in the midst of our trials and tribulations, frustrations and despair in a world that appears to be unpredictable and challenging. . . . Take your part with Christ and his despised, misplaced and misguided people, for your recompense will be duly acknowledged, not only by God but with the angels in heaven."

### Business Session

Presiding Bishop Bruce P. Blake, Dallas Area, led delegates in the now familiar "time of discernment." A special resolution honoring the "visionary leadership" of Robert K. Feaster, was read by Committee on Courtesies chair Bill Cook. The full resolution appears on page 189.

Mississippi Area Bishop Marshall L. Meadors Jr. introduced Richard Wilson Riley, U.S. Secretary of Education. A lifelong United Methodist, Mr. Riley had addressed the higher education banquet the night before. Bishop Meadors and Roger Ireson, general secretary, General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, presented Mr. Riley with a copy of *Education, the Gift of Hope* to carry personally to President Bill Clinton.


## Daily Christian Advocate

**Editorial Offices - Ballroom 2**
**Denver Convention Center**
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Distribution Manager ..... Cedric Foley
Office Manager ..... Mochell Hughes
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### National Plan for Hispanic Ministry

Bishop Blake called on Nebraska Area Bishop Joel Martinez, chair of the National Plan for Hispanic Ministries, adopted by the 1992 conference.

Celebratory in nature, the report began with delegates singing "Decolores." Vice chair Rebecca Youngblood of Mississippi detailed many successes of the past four years. Fifty-six annual conferences participate in some form of Hispanic ministry (up from 38 last quadrennium). Reports indicate:

- 494 faith communities in 40 conferences;
- 199 church-school extension programs in 19 conferences;
- 66 new congregations started and 59 revitalized;
- 799 outreach ministries;
- 550 lay missioners recruited and trained.

To give life to the statistics, Ms. Youngblood introduced "three persons whose lives have been impacted by the plan": Ana Velasquez Stone, a lay missioner from Kansas City; Mel Manchinski, a pastor from Phoenix; and Lavinia Lavoy, a lay woman from Orlando. Their moving testimonies brought rounds of applause.

Concluding the report, Bishop Martinez said: "The plan is first and foremost about people and congregations responding to God's purpose. Much is still to be done." The committee is proposing a budget of $1 million through the new quadrennium as seed money to go to conferences and local churches as development grants.

### New Spanish Hymnal

Bishop Elias Galvan, Phoenix Area, introduced "for the first time in the history of our church, an official Spanish hymnal for the use of the entire church." He praised the General Board of Discipleship and The United Methodist Publishing House for accepting the publishing challenge.

Delegates joined the Hispanic choir to sing selections from the new hymnal and participated in a formal liturgy giving their unanimous approval. That action and the recognition of hymnal editor Raquel Martinez drew a standing ovation.

### Nominations

Floor nominations were received for University Senate and Judicial Council to be added to those already listed by the Council of Bishops (*DCA*, p. 86).

Delegate Richard Reeves of Central Illinois asked prayers for congregations in Illinois affected by tornadoes. Three churches and parsonages plus many homes were destroyed.

Delegates were invited to participate in the Native American Awareness Sunday offering, which will be

(continued on page 189)

## Top 10 Reasons to Volunteer as a Legislative Committee Reporter

10. It improves your coordination skills: three *DCA*s, two knees, one lap-top computer.
9. Cookies, cookies, cookies.
8. You get to walk past the pages and marshals, and they don't ask any questions.
7. *DCA* editor Rich Peck will owe you big time.
6. You can prove to your council director that you really were working.
5. Immortality—bylines that last forever.
4. Great is your reward in heaven—in other words, no pay.
3. It's a fabulous job in a glamorous industry.
2. You never have to worry about getting a seat in legislative committee.
1. Three words: snappy purple ribbons.

*—Kristin Knudson Harris, Ann Whiting, Erik Alsgaard*

## Joys

William C. Crouch, North Texas Conference clergy delegate, has a new granddaughter, Claire Elizabeth Crouch, born April 19. Her proud uncle is North Texas lay reserve Tim Crouch.

Richard Street, *DCA* composition manager of news and features, is the beaming grandfather of Conner James Gleaves, born April 16.

### Button Success Inspires New Project

Yes, the issues of this General Conference have been pinned "close to the heart" of many delegates. Thank you to everyone who answered my appeal on Wednesday for buttons. Many people came by with a sample. Keep those buttons coming.

My next project is to collect dollar bills from every delegate and visitor. I will take a picture of the bills I receive and they will appear in a future issue of the *DCA*. Unfortunately, I will not be able to return the bills after the photograph. Bring your bills to the *DCA* office, attention Brad Motta.

*—Brad Motta*

## Corrections

"Cuban Bishop Describes Suffering in Wake of U.S. Embargo" has two errors. The first two sentences should be replaced by: Poor people in Cuba die for lack of medicine, children are hungry, and people come to church in tattered clothes and shoes that are falling apart, said Cuban Methodist Bishop Gustavo Cruz.

In the fifth paragraph, the second sentence should read: Both the United States and the Cuban governments are responsible.

## *Now Signing*

*Monday, April 22*

*ST Kimbrough*
*1:30 - 2:30 p.m.*
*A Heart to Praise My God*

*Will Willimon and Andy Langford*
*1:30 - 2:30 p.m.*
*A New Connection*

*Michael Sanders*
*1:45 - 2:30 and 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.*
*Pastors Unauthorized Instruction Book*

*Bruce Hilton*
*1:45 - 2:30 p.m.*
*Can Homophobia be Cured?*

*and releasing August 1996*
*Words of My Mouth*

*Michael Slaughter*
*12:30 - 1:30 p.m.*
*Spiritual Entrepreneurs*

*William Hinson*
*12:30 - 1:30 p.m.*
*Triumphant Living in Turbulant Times*

*Deborah Cronin*
*12:30 - 1:30 p.m.*
*O For a Dozen Tongues to Sing*

*Lovett Weems*
*12:30 - 1:30 p.m.*
*Church Leadership*

# Can You Top This?

What a competitive bunch of United Methodists! The April 20 *DCA* asked for contributions to the "Can You Top This?" hall of fame, and respond you did!

## A FAMILY AFFAIR

Since 1968, says Rebecca Carver, clergy delegate, "at least one member of my family or my husband's family [has served] on the Iowa delegation. At times there were three!" They've included: Donald Carver, her father-in-law (1968-92); Arthur Campney, her father (1976-84); Philip Carver, her husband (1984-92); JoAnne Campney, her mother (1988); and Rebecca herself (1996). She added that her son, Joel Benjamin Carver, was born during the 1992 General Conference. Someone to carry on the tradition?

## SPOUSES

Robert "Bob" and Elizabeth "Betty" Sweet, New England delegates, like to confuse people when they vote on opposite sides of issues, and they've had lots of practice. In 1980, Betty was an alternate lay delegate. Every General Conference since then, both Bob and Betty have been delegates or reserves.

## FATHER AND SON

North Texas boasts a father-son team of delegates: William C. Crouch, who is clergy, and his son, Tim Crouch, a lay reserve.

## GRANDMOTHER AND GRANDDAUGHTER

Elizabeth "Libby" A.S. Wright, clergy delegate, is the grandmother of Elizabeth "Betsy" C. Hulick, 17, lay delegate. Both hail from the Virginia Conference. Libby serves Aldersgate United Methodist Church, Hampton, Va. Betsy is a senior at Warwick High School.

## COUSINS

John "Jack" McCabe, Northern Illinois lay delegate, and Merlin Ackerson, Iowa clergy delegate, are first cousins. They have been elected to the past four General Conferences (1984, 1988, 1992, 1996).

## FIRST A LAY DELEGATE, THEN A CLERGY DELEGATE

Beverly Shamana, California-Pacific Conference, has worn both lay and clergy hats at General Conference. She was a lay delegate in 1976 and a clergy delegate in 1992 and 1996.

## FREQUENT GENERAL CONFERENCE ATTENDEE

The Rev. Winslow Wilson, Wisconsin Conference, attended the 1936 General Conference, voting on the union of the Methodist Episcopal Church; the Methodist Episcopal Church, South; and the Methodist Protestant Church. He subsequently attended 13 General Conferences.

## MOST DELEGATES FROM ONE CHURCH

Buncombe Street United Methodist Church, Greenville, S.C., has four persons attending General Conference in official capacities. They include clergy delegates William C. Reid and William H. Willimon, lay delegate John A. Redmond, and Clelia D. Hendrix, a member of the Committee on Correlation and Editorial Revisions. By the way, Ms. Hendrix is Mr. Redmond's mother-in-law.

Buncombe Street Church is also proud to claim Bishop Jack Meadors, Mississippi Area; Susan Henry-Crowe, Judicial Council; and education secretary Richard W. Riley, General Board of Higher Education and Ministry keynote speaker—all of whom have roots there.

First Church, Tulsa, Okla., boasts two delegates—James Buskirk, clergy, and Tom Junk, lay—and two reserves—Jessica Moffatt, clergy, and Bob Parker, lay.

From First Church, Dyersburg, Tenn., come delegates Dossie F. Wheatley and Susan M. Sharpe, both clergy, and R.H. Bond, lay reserve.

Keep those "Can You Top This?" stories coming to Barbara Dunlap-Berg at the *DCA* office.

*—Barbara Dunlap-Berg*

(continued from page 186)

taken in local churches this Sunday since the conference will not be in session that day.

### First Calendar Items

Delegates were given their first opportunity to consider calendar items coming from committees. Two items were lifted from consent calendars to be considered later. Delegates approved committee reports which rejected changes proposed for General Board of Church and Society responsibilities, rejected by a 75 percent vote margin a proposal to eliminate conference commissions on the status and role of women, and approved a resolution asking Gideon International to open membership to women. They delayed consideration of a General Conference "mission statement" until other committees could report.

Veteran conference watchers observed a small miracle. No committee recommendations were overturned, and the conference recessed the calendar session early. Such an experience is not anticipated in the second week, when the race to adjournment begins to accelerate.

*—Roger Burgess*

## Taking General Conference Home

General Conference opened with the celebration of the Lord's Supper. The chalice and patens used will travel to various places across the United States. Paula Watson, Pearl River, N.Y., encouraged her pastor to purchase the set so that her congregation could experience a spiritual link with the events of this conference.

Dick Vreeland will give the communion set to Genesis United Methodist Church in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The church had its first worship service in March 1996.

Fred Royer, a pastor of a two-point charge, will use the set at both churches May 5. The set will then travel to the meeting of the National Fellowship of Associate Members and Local Pastors in Colorado Springs next September.

Whether you have purchased a communion set or not, the challenge of each delegate is: "How do I take this experience home?" Each of us will do it differently. May each of us return with an experience to share with the people of God.

*—Brad Motta*

## Resolution Honors Retiring Publisher

Whereas Robert K. Feaster was named president and publisher of The United Methodist Publishing House on June 1, 1983, and led the publishing ministry of The United Methodist Church in its celebration of 200 years of service, while providing visionary leadership to undertake significant changes to make the publishing house an effective agent for advancing the cause of Christianity now and in the 21st century.

And whereas his commitment to assuring the highest quality in services and resources inspired and motivated major attention by the staff to share with more people in more places the will to know God through Jesus Christ, love God, serve God, and their neighbor.

Now therefore, be it resolved that we, the delegates of the 1996 General Conference of The United Methodist Church, meeting in Denver, Colorado, April 16 -26, 1996, do hereby express our heartfelt gratitude and sincere appreciation for the dedicated leadership, exceptional competence, and abiding vision of Robert K. Feaster, as he has led The United Methodist Publishing House in its service to the church and to the world.

On the occasion of his retirement, we give thanks for all that he has contributed, and pray God's continued blessings on him, his wife, Barbara, and their family in the years to come.

### ♀♀ *Blessed Be the Women: Be Counted!* ♀♀

Observations in Legislative Committees:

- Conferences - Full com action on Korean American Missionary Conf: Women were 30% of group and made 19% of comments.
- Finance - Full com action on the Budget: Men are 79% of group and made 77% of comments.
- Global Ministries - Full com action on Shalom Zones and the Native American Plan: Men are 50% of group and made 68% of comments. Laity are 23% of group and made 15% of comments.

Troubling Observations: Men as chairs may rescue women speakers to help them finish their speeches; may scold women, but not men, who challenge rulings of the chair; may give female committee/subcommittee vice chairs a chance to preside/present when the issue involves women, or racial/ethnic minority vice chairs when the issue involves racial/ethnic minority persons.

Information provided by the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women

## Advance Hospitality Tent, Suite Recognize U.M. Missionaries

During General Conference, the Advance for Christ and His Church is launching a special recognition of United Methodist missionaries who have answered God's call to mission.

Delegates and visitors are invited to visit the Advance tent, which features a fascinating photo exhibition of missionaries from 1833 to the present, as well as colorful displays and free souvenirs (while supplies last). Located directly across from the convention center, the tent is open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. April 22-24.

Another attraction is the new, interactive, multimedia "Whom Shall I Send?" CD-ROM, demonstrated in the Advance hospitality suite, also open from 8 to 8 April 22-24, Suite 2031, Marriott Hotel. The CD, which also focuses on General Board of Global Ministries missionaries supported through the Advance, will run on several CD-ROM "stations," for individual exploration. The CD features video clips, missionary photos and biographical sketches, and other information.

*—Russell H. Scott*

## Council of Bishops Nomination

The Council of Bishops nominates Rodolfo Beltran of the Philippines to fill the unexpired term of Maximo Dizon on the Commission on the General Conference. Mr. Dizon must resign due to illness.

## *Prayer List*

On Tuesday, Bishop Judith Craig, on behalf of the bishops, requested that the General Conference be wrapped in a "mantle of prayer." Prayer has become a part of every aspect of our gathering. The prayer chapel, subcommittees, legislative committees, worship and other events have been filled with the prayers of the people. When we pray for each other, we show our care and responsibility for each other. When we share our burdens, we share ourselves.

We invite you to come by the *DCA* and write down your prayer concerns, which we will publish in future issues of the *DCA*. Print the name of the person or group that you would like raised in prayer. We ask that delegates read the requests and offer prayer as part of their daily devotion. (We are busy, but not THAT BUSY!) Prayer requests need only include a first name or a request of several words. (We will not identify the persons requesting prayer.)

*—Brad Motta*

### Prayers for Liberia

A delegate from Liberia urged General Conference to request U.S. government intervention in that war-torn African nation. During a press conference, Lamark J. Cox Sr., lay leader of Liberia, said anarchy now reigns in his country. "Gangs roam the capital of Monrovia, indiscriminately killing and destroying property," he said. Cox said he was packing for General Conference when 15 to 20 men held his family at gun point and stole suitcases they had been packing for Denver. Mr. Cox, his wife and his daughter managed to get out of Monrovia the following day on a U.S. military flight. Liberia Area Bishop Arthur F. Kulah was scheduled to arrive during the second week of the conference. This tragic situation is in our thoughts and prayers.

## U.S. Secretary of Education Addresses United Methodists

John Wesley's passion for education once again needs to be the center of the work of The United Methodist Church, according to U.S. Secretary of Education Richard W. Riley.

Mr. Riley, a United Methodist, delivered that message as the keynote speaker for Higher Education Night April 19. He will deliver the 75-page *Education: the Gift of Hope* to President Clinton. The document will be considered by General Conference later this week.

The education secretary urged delegates "to fulfill this powerful document" by:

—preparing new generations of teachers to work with parents;

—reaching out to local public schools and working to sustain them in their attempts to prepare students for college;

—responding to the shrill voices of divisions, wedge issues and cynicism with positive options.

He said teachers who graduate from college today are not given the skills needed to encourage parents to be full partners in the learning process. "We . . . . need to overcome this gap, and now is the time to do it," he said.

The Africa University Choir, a product of mission and labor by The United Methodist Church, sang at the dinner. The choir will sing to the entire General Conference tomorrow





These are the people who put the presenters names up in lights! It takes a crew to make the visuals of the conference come alive.

*photos Mike Dobsac*

## Judical Council Identification

| | Class of 1996 | Class of 2000 | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| Lay | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| Clergy | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| Male | 3 | 3 | 6 |
| Female | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| White | 3 | 4 | 7 |
| African American | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| North Central | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Northeastern | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| South Central | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Southeastern | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| Western | 0 | 0 | 0 |

## DCA Hits Bottom...

...the bottom floor of the convention center, that is. The *DCA* press office is now in the Ballroom. We hope this new larger area will allow more space for dancing and partying which the former location did not accommodate. Most parties begin after 1 a.m. It is at that time we go into "Executive Session," and we are not open to the public.

*—Brad Motta*

## Host Families Open Homes to Observers, Pages, Marshals

"The biggest surprise is how little we see him!" Connie Cornelius said of the Drew University seminarian staying at her home. Ms. Cornelius and her husband, David Ashby, are one of more than 25 families in the Denver area who volunteered to open their homes to observers, pages and marshals during General Conference.

Linda Gertenback, a diaconal minister, could add "hotel management" to her Christian education duties at Mountain View United Methodist Church, Boulder. She chaired the local committee that secured host families for the U.S. visitors to General Conference. In addition, she and her committee coordinated more than 20 area churches that volunteered to host the choirs who are participating in the General Conference worship services. International guests were placed by another committee.

"We have people who are staying two weeks and some who are only staying two to three days," Ms. Gertenback said. All have been welcomed to the Denver area and are staying with families as far away as Littleton and Bloomfield. The committee also arranged for a low-cost housing option at Loretto Heights College.

Ms. Cornelius decided to serve as a host when she found herself between jobs. "Our financial giving to the church is limited, and we thought we could give back in a different way." While their guest has been leaving early in the morning and returning late at night, the Cornelius/Ashby family has had a few minutes to talk with him. "It's fun to be updated on all the goings on," she said, adding that their guest showed them how to retrieve the daily proceedings from the Internet.

"We had a surplus of families who volunteered to serve as hosts," Ms. Gertenback said. "It's a wonderful sign of hospitality.

*—Kristin Knudson Harris*

## Additional Petition

Petition Number 21516-MN-426.2-D:MNN

AMEND Paragraph 426.2 Ministers from other denominations.

On recommendation of the Board of Ordained Ministry, the clergy members in full connection may approve annually clergy in good standing in other Christian denominations to serve ~~appointments~~ United Methodist congregations or ecumenical shared ministries within the bounds of the Annual Conference while retaining their denominational affiliation; provided they present suitable credentials, give assurance of their Christian faith and experience, and other qualifications expected of a United Methodist clergy. They shall give evidence of their ~~agreement with and~~ willingness to support and maintain United Methodist doctrine, discipline, and polity. Their ordination credentials and other appropriate qualifications shall be examined by the bishop and the Board of Ordained Ministry, and upon ~~its~~ the Board's recommendation may be recognized as valid in The United Methodist Church while they are under appointment. When the Board of Ordained Ministry certifies that their credentials ~~are at least equal to those of associate members, although they are not associate members, they may be accorded all the rights and privileges of associate membership in the Annual Conference (Para. 419.2,.3).~~ and other qualification are in order, and when they are recommended by the Board to and elected by the executive session of the Annual Conference, ordained ministers from other denominations shall be clergy members in full connection with the Annual Conference during the time the person is appointed to a United Methodist congregation or an ecumenical shared ministry in which The United Methodist Church is a participant. They shall not have security of appointment, nor shall they itinerate.

Carol J. Noren, Secretary
Minnesota Annual Conference




**The Mass Choir of St. Luke Community United Methodist Church, Dallas, performed.**

*—photo by Mike DuBose*

## Announcements

The Committee on Credentials will meet at 7:45 a.m. Tuesday, April 23, in room A-105.

Anyone who picked up a woman's all-weather London Fog dark green coat from Room A-113, please return it to the room.

Kansas West and East conferences are hosting a reception honoring Bishop and Mrs. Fritz Mutti on Wednesday, April 24, 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Warren UMC, 1630 S. 14th. Everyone is invited to attend.

The South Georgia Conference delegates and friends will be honoring Bishop and Mrs. Richard Looney with dinner at Marlowe's (upstairs) on Tuesday, April 23, at 5:45 p.m.

Paula Johnston needs a ride to Pueblo Tuesday afternoon. Please contact her in Room 113.

Central and Southern Europe delegates are invited to attend a dinner at the Marriott Hotel with Bishop Heinrich Bolleter, Monday, April 22, at 5 p.m.

Conference council on ministries directors and their guests should meet the bus to Coors Field at 12:40 p.m. today in the circular driveway in front of the convention center (14th St. Exit). The luncheon is planned for Rounders Restaurant at the Sandlot at Coors field (23rd and Blake). A few reservations are still available through Sachi Boyer in Room 113A.

The 1980 Episcopal Class luncheon will be held at the Marriott today (Monday, April 22). For further information, contact Mrs. Shirley Skeete or Bishop W. T. Handy Jr.

Clergy and laity from Reconciling Congregations are invited to lunch on Monday, April 22, at 12:30 at Matilda's Restaurant in the Holiday Inn. Former R.C. pastors are welcome, too! Hosted by the Reconciling Congregation Program. For information, call 573-1450 ext. 7475.

General Conference pages would like to give a "Gold Star" to the delegation from N. Alabama for using place cards on their table. This makes their job much easier.

Plans are under way for a strong United Methodist presence at Stand for Children Day in Washington, D.C., on June 1. A UMC hospitality station will be open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., at the United Methodist Building, 100 Maryland Ave. N.E. Stop by to pick up a UMC 4 KIDS hat, U.M. literature about children's ministries, and light refreshments. Every local church is asked to observe Stand With Children Day, either by sending members to Washington and or by holding a local observance. For further details, call InfoServe.

Louisiana Conference delegates and friends are invited to attend a breakfast at 7 a.m. Tuesday, April 23, at the Denver Petroleum Club, 555 17th St., suite 3700. Cost is $15. For more information, contact Charles Simmons or Fred Loy in the Louisiana Delegation (Section B, Row 1).

Northern Illinois Conference dinner, Tuesday, April 23, 5:30 p.m. at the Holiday Inn, 1460 Glenarm, $22 per person. For reservations, contact Emery Percell.

North Texas Conference delegates and friends will honor Bishop and Mrs. Bruce Blake at a dinner in the Mattic Silk Room, Marriott Hotel, 1701 California, on Wednesday, April 24, at 5:30 p.m. Cost is $26.50. For more information, contact Judy Gilreath.

Representatives of the U.M. Insurance Program will be available April 24 and 25 to answer your questions. Wednesday morning, account executives from the Travel and Accident Program will respond to questions about coverages available through individual or group policies. On Thursday, persons from both Kemper National Insurance Companies and AON Risk Services (formerly Rollins Hudig Hall) will address the United Methodist property and liability insurance program. To make an appointment, contact Linda Cholak in Room A-202.

### Petitions Referred to a New Legislative Committee

| Petition No. | From | To |
|---|---|---|
| 23076 | CS | IC |
| 22162 | CO | GJ |
| 22520 | GM | CS |
| 22521 | GM | CS |
| 20638 | IC | FA |
| 20093 | LC | DI |
| 22109 | LC | DI |
| 22570 | LC | DI |
| 20903 | MN | HE |
| 20538 | MN | LC |
| 20539 | MN | LC |
| 22392 | MN | GJ |
| 21893 | MN | LC |
| 21894 | MN | LC |

# Judicial Council Nominations

## Lay Persons

### *Sally Curtis AsKew*

Sally Curtis AsKew, who holds J.D., M.S.L.S. and A.B. degrees, is the academic law librarian at the University of Georgia School of Law. In 1988 she was elected to the Judicial Council and has served as its vice president since 1992. She was a General Board of Global Ministries director, serving on its divisions of Ecumenical and Interreligious Concerns, and Mission Education and Cultivation, and the Women's Division (1976-84). She was a member of the National Council of Churches governing board (1976-81). Active in mission education, Ms. AsKew frequently teaches in schools of Christian mission. South Georgia, Southeastern Jurisdiction.

### *Hal J. Bonney Jr.*

Hal J. Bonney Jr. is a longtime member of Epworth United Methodist Church in Norfolk, Va., where for more than 30 years he taught the Wesleymen's Class, which is broadcast on radio and TV. He earned his J.D. degree from the College of William and Mary, served as a judge for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Virginia for 24 years and was the president of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges. He has served on several local, district and conference committees, and now is a member of the General Board of Discipleship. He is a member of the Virginia Board of Education Inc. Mr. Bonney was appointed to a special task force on public housing. Virginia Conference, Southeastern Jurisdiction.

### *Daniel Keith Church*

Daniel Keith Church earned his Ph.D. at the University of Washington and spent 13 years as a professor and dean of a church-related college and 12 years as president and CEO of Edwin Shaw Hospital in Akron, Ohio (his current position). In his local church he has been a trustee; chair of the administrative board and staff-parish committee; and a mission team member. He spent eight years on the General Board of Global Ministries as chair of Health and Welfare Ministries. Mr. Bonney was a delegate to the World Methodist Conference, a reserve to General Conference and a jurisdictional delegate. East Ohio Conference, North Central Jurisdiction.

### *Anthony Danburam*

Anthony Danburam was born in Kudaku Village, Jerang District, Adamawa State, Nigeria, Africa. He attended primary school in Adamawa and graduated with a bachelor's degree in law from the University of Maiduguri. In 1992 he was elected to the Taraba State Assembly and served as its speaker. His district elected him a delegate to the United Methodist Church of Nigeria in 1994, where he served as chancellor and legal adviser, a position he continues to hold. He was elected to the 1996 General Conference. He established his law office in 1995 and was chosen to represent other Taraba lawyers nationally. Central Conference.

### *Sally Brown Geis*

Sally Brown Geis, executive director of the United Methodist Russian Theological Education Initiative, served 10 years on the Iliff School of Theology faculty. She was a delegate to General Conference on two previous occasions and served eight years on the General Council on Finance and Administration after membership on the general boards of Higher Education and Ministry, and Church and Society. She has given leadership to her conference, the jurisdiction and the general church. Ms. Geis is the author of several articles and books. Rocky Mountain Conference, Western Jurisdiction.

### *Levan Gordon*

Levan Gordon is a judge of the Common Pleas Court in Philadelphia where he also served five years as a municipal court judge. He received his LL.B. from Howard University and serves as an adjunct professor at Georgetown University. He is member of Tindley Temple United Methodist Church. He is a member of the board of directors of the United Methodist Home for Children in his conference and the United Methodist Foundation. Mr. Gordon was delegate to the 16th World Methodist Council in Singapore in 1991. Eastern Pennsylvania Conference, Northeastern Jurisdiction.

### *Jon R. Gray*

Jon R. Gray, a member of Centennial United Methodist Church, Kansas City, Mo., is a graduate of Grinnell [Iowa] College and the University of Missouri—Kansas City School of Law. In law school he was named a Crusade Scholar. Since 1987, he has served as a circuit court judge for Jackson County, Missouri. He was a delegate to the 1988, 1992 and 1996 General Conferences. He is a member of the Missouri West Conference trustees and a director of the Missouri United Methodist Foundation. Mr. Gray is a lifetime member and leader in the NAACP. Missouri West Conference, South Central Jurisdiction.

### *Ed Hill*

Ed Hill, a senior attorney in a 30-member law firm in Amarillo, Texas, chairs his General Conference delegation and served two quadrenniums as conference lay leader. A General Board of Global Ministries member, he teaches a men's Bible class in his local

church. He is a member of the Jurisdictional Episcopacy Committee and has chaired various conference boards. Co-author of a four-volume legal treatise, he was a lay alternate to the Judicial Council this quadrennium. Northwest Texas Conference, South Central Jurisdiction.

### *Renard J. Kolasa*

Renard J. Kolasa is an attorney and law partner in Farmington Hills, Mich., with B.A., M.A. and J.D. degrees. He is a member of Highland United Methodist Church. In the local church, he has been involved in the administrative board; finance, nominations, building and missions committees; the men's club; choir; and Sunday school. Since 1988 he has been the chancellor of the annual conference and previously a board member of U.M. retirement communities in Michigan and Rhode Island. Mr. Kolasa's law speciality is tax, business and charitable giving, and his hobby is the Strangely Warmed Players drama group. Detroit Conference, North Central Jurisdiction.

### *Steven T. Lett*

Steven T. Lett, a member of Christ United Methodist Church, Lansing, Mich., is the district lay leader of the Lansing District and chair of the Rules of Order Committee for his conference for the past eight years. An attorney, he has devoted many hours to local churches and the conference in the areas involving both the *Discipline* and legal matters. He assisted in the rewrite of the rules for his jurisdiction. He is a delegate to this General Conference as well as previous jurisdictional conferences. West Michigan Conference, North Central Jurisdiction.

### *Tom Matheny*

Tom Matheny is a member of First United Methodist Church, Hammond, La. He is an attorney, a graduate of Tulane University, and a recipent of honorary degrees from Centenary College, DePauw and Oklahoma City universities. He served 17 years as his conference's lay leader, and also as president of its trustees and conference center board. He is a trustee of Centenary, Iliff School of Theology, U.M. Foundation for Christian Education, and formerly of Scarritt and the American University. He was a General Conference delegate in 1968, 1970 and 1972. Mr. Matheny was elected to the Judicial Council in 1972, and has been its president since 1976. Louisiana Conference, South Central Jurisdiction.

### *H. Arthur "Mac" McLane*

H. Arthur McLane is the chief judge in the Superior Courts of the Southern Judicial Circuit and a member of Park Avenue United Methodist Church, Valdosta, Ga. His B.A. is from Emory University and his J.D. from the University of Georgia. He was president of the Valdosta Bar Association, the Valdosta Boys Club Board, the chamber of commerce and the Georgia Council of Superior Court Judges. Mr. McLane has served as his church's trustees and pastor-parish relations committee chair, a member of the annual conference, lay leader of the Valdosta District, vice chair of his conference Committee on Resolutions and a delegate to the jurisdictional conference. South Georgia Conference, Southeastern Jurisdiction.

### *Rustico V. Panganiban*

Rustico V. Panganiban has been the presiding judge of the Regional Trial Court and the Supreme Court in Manila. He is also a law professor in several law schools and a reviewer for lawyer bar exams. He is a well-known U.M. layman in the Philippines, and he is currently the conference lay leader and a member of the Coordinating Council of the Philippines Central Conference. Mr. Panganiban was the chair of the East Philippines Conference Board of Trustees and lay evangelist for his conference. He has been an active leader in United Methodism from the days of United Methodist Youth Fellowship, United Methodist Men and several district offices.

### *Jack W. Plowman*

Jack W. Plowman is a practicing lawyer in Pittsburgh, Pa., and an adjunct professor of law. He is a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers and a past president of the Allegheny County Bar Association. He has been the chancellor of the Western Pennsylvania Conference since 1979. He was a delegate to the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference in 1984, 1988 and 1992. He is delegate to the 1996 General Conference. Mr. Plowman has been a member of the United Methodist Board of Publications and its executive committee since 1984. Western Pennsylvania Conference, Northeastern Jurisdiction.

### *T. Terrell Sessons*

T. Terrell Sessons is an attorney and a member of First United Methodist Church, Tampa, Fla. He is a graduate of the University of Florida Law School and a former speaker of the House of Representatives in the state legislature. During the 1960s he chaired the redistricting of areas in Florida for equalization and fair representation. He was a lay delegate to General Conference in 1992 and 1996 and a member of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. Mr. Sessons is also on the board of trustees for Florida Southern College and a member of his conference's legal advisory council. Florida Conference, Southeastern Jurisdiction.

## Clergy

### *C. Rex Bevins*

C. Rex Bevins is the senior pastor of St. Paul United Methodist Church in Lincoln, Neb., and he is completing his eighth year as chair of the conference council on ministries. He also has served on several conference committees, and he most recently chaired the Joint Review Committee. At the general church level, he has been a member of the boards of Global Ministries and Discipleship and chaired General Conference legislative committees in 1980, 1984, 1988 and 1992. His concern for missions has taken him to Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America. He is also a member of the World Methodist Council. Nebraska Conference, South Central Jurisdiction.

### *Charles W. Brockwell Jr.*

Charles W. Brockwell Jr. is the director of graduate studies and professor of church history and Wesley studies at the Louisville Presbyterian Seminary. He is a clergy member of the Louisville Conference with degrees from Wofford College (B.A.), Harvard Divinity School (M.Div.) and Duke University (Ph.D.). He has chaired his conference's committee on investigation, standing rules, global ministries and ordained ministry. Mr. Brockwell serves on the General Conference Committee on Plan of Organization and Rules of Order and the National Council of Churches Commission on Faith and Order. He is the author of *Methodist Discipline: From Rule of Life to Canon Law*. Louisville Conference, Southeastern Jurisdiction.

### *Richard W. Cain*

Richard W. Cain served five churches in the Pacific Southwest Conference, including First United Methodist Church, Phoenix, and the district superintendency in Los Angeles. He was the president of the School of Theology at Claremont from 1977 to 1991. He has been a member of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry and the General Council on Ministries as well as the committees on Structure Study and Ministry. He was a member of General Conference in 1964 through 1988. Mr. Cain has been a member of the NCC and the Faith and Order Section of the World Council of Churches as well as president of the Los Angeles Church Federation and the Arizona Ecumenical Council. California-Pacific Conference, Western Jurisdiction.

### *Kenneth W. Chalker*

Kenneth W. Chalker has served United Methodist churches since 1974, and for the past 10 years he has been the senior pastor of the First United Methodist Church in downtown Cleveland, Ohio. He has been a member of several conference committees, including registrar of the board of ordained ministry, chair of the nominating committee and secretary. Mr. Chalker is a delegate to the 1996 General Conference, and he has been elected to several jurisdictional conferences. He is the chair of the Site Committee for the General Conference in 2000. East Ohio Conference, North Central Jurisdiction.

### *John Collins*

John Collins is an attorney and a retired clergy member of the New York Conference. He served churches in East Harlem and the South Bronx, and for nine years he was the associate program director of the New York Conference and for seven years the co-director of Clergy and Laity Concerned. Mr. Collins has also been a consultant on urban ministry to the New York Theological Seminary and the Metropolitan North District of the New York Conference. He and his wife, Sheila, have two grown daughters. New York Conference, Northeastern Jurisdiction.

### *John G. Corry*

John G. Corry is the pastor of Patterson Memorial United Methodist Church and assistant general counsel at Meharry Medical College, both in Nashville, Tenn. His former appointments included college chaplain, Wesley Foundation director, district superintendent, council on ministries director and pastoral services director. He holds B.A., M. Div., D. Min. and J.D. degrees. Mr. Corry is a member of the conference board of ordained Ministry, council on ministries, and commission on religion and race, along with the National, Tennessee and Nashville Bar associations. He is a member of the Judicial Council. Tennessee Conference, Southeastern Jurisdiction.

### *Jerry Eckert*

Jerry Eckert retired in 1995 in order to devote more time to the Associates in Advocacy, a nonprofit incorporated association devoted to the understanding, development and instruction of church law. He gives special attention to care-giving for pastors facing or bringing grievances. He worked with others to offer resources for the Study Commission on Chapter VIII, which shaped the "Fair Process." Mr. Eckert has given special attention to church law since 1981, and he has attended many of the hearings of the Judicial Council since 1983. Wisconsin Conference, North Central Jurisdiction.

### *Larry Duane Pickens*

Larry Duane Pickens is the pastor of Gorham United Methodist Church of Chicago. He is serving his second quadrennium on the General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns. He has a D.Min. degree from Chicago Theological Seminary and is finishing his third year at the De Paul University College of Law. Mr. Pickens was a United Methodist delegate to the Seventh Assembly of the World Council of Churches. He also serves on the Community Development Advisory Committee for the Chicago Department of Housing. Northern Illinois Conference, North Central Jurisdiction.

### *Robert K. Sweet Jr.*

Robert K. Sweet Jr. is the pastor of Old South United Methodist Church in Reading, Mass. He has served as a pastor of churches since 1962, along with a term in the district superintendency. He chaired his conference's council on ministries and the conference relations committee of the board of ordained ministry. He was a General Conference delegate in 1988 and 1992 and a reserve in 1984 and 1996. Mr. Sweet chaired his jurisdictional committee on appeals and served as the first clergy alternate to the Judicial Council for this quadrennium. New England Conference, Northeastern Jurisdiction.

### *Jane Tews*

Jane Tews has served churches in Phoenix and Tempe. She is pastor of First United Methodist Church, Gilbert, Ariz. She also directed the Wesley Foundation at Arizona State University. She earned her D. Min. degree from Claremont School of Theology and her J.D. from the College of Law at Arizona State University. In addition to her work as a pastor, she is a part-time municipal court judge in Gilbert. Ms. Tews has been chair of the conference board of trustees and will chair the board of ministries. She has been a delegate to the jurisdictional

conference and the 1996 General Conference. Desert Southwest Conference, Western Jurisdiction.

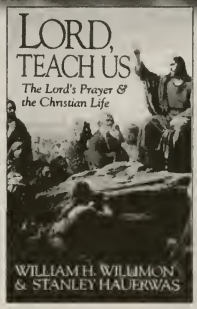
### *John Leo Topolewski*

John Leo Topolewski has served 35 years in the Wyoming Conference: eight years as a district superintendent (four as cabinet dean), 24 years on the board of ministry (four as registrar, four as chair). He spent eight years on the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry where he chaired the Search Committee for a new associate general secretary. Mr. Topolewski is a founding and continuing member of the advisory board of the *Quarterly Review*. He also served eight years on his jurisdictional Board of Ordained Ministry. He is the author of *The Trust Clause: Methodism in the Vernacular*. Wyoming Conference, Northeastern Jurisdiction.


# *Back to Basics*

**Lord, Teach Us: The Lord's Prayer & the Christian Life**
*by William H. Willimon and Stanley Hauerwas*

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**William H. Willimon** is Dean of the Chapel and professor of Christian Ministry at the Divinity School at Duke University, Durham, North Carolina.

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# Legislative Committee Reports

**Church and Society** — (4/20/96, 4:45 p.m.)

*The committee recommended concurrence:*

- Reaffirming the historic United Methodist church and state positions on public education and opposing government legislation on Constitutional amendments to change existing First Amendment rights;
- Urging the closing of military installations;
- Lifting up the plight of "Comfort Women" or women who were drafted as "sex slaves" by Japan during World War II;
- Adding a new resolution on Immigrants in the United States that urges opposition to anti-immigrant legislation;
- Amending and updating current resolution on "New Issues in Human Rights";
- Adding a resolution on "Gun Violence in the US," replacing two current resolutions;
- Calling for actions against tobacco marketing techniques aimed at children by Philip Morris and RJR Nabisco and requesting the General Board of Church and Society to explore measures to stop such marketing including—"if necessary"—a boycott. The boycott amendment passed by a 40-38-9 vote;
- Replacing the current resolution on "U.S. Agriculture and Rural Communities in Crisis" with an updated version.

*—Shanta M. Bryant and Lee Ranck*

**Conferences — (4/20/96, 4 p.m.)**

*The committee recommended concurrence:*

- Providing for "Mentally, Physically, and Psychologically Handicapping Conditions" wording in the *Discipline* to be changed to "individuals with disabilities" or "people with disabilities";
- Adding district coordinator of Criminal Justice and Mercy Ministries to the list of optional members of the District Council on Ministries (Para. 752.2);
- Adding the words "in the episcopal area" to Para. 703.7;
- Substituting new text for Para. 664.7 providing for the GBGM to administer, initiate, and coordinate a Mission;
- Authorizing a task force to examine the current jurisdictional system and to develop a plan to improve the system and its boundaries (or propose an alternate system) for effective, unified ministry in metropolitan areas and report to the 2000 General Conference;

*The committee recommended concurrence with amendments:*

- Establishing an inclusive task force appointed by the Council of Bishops to study and make recommendations to the 2000 General Conference regarding Korean-American Missionary Conferences;
- Providing for each annual conference to establish a Commission on Communications or equivalent structure as a service agency (new Para.);
- Providing for each annual conference to organize a committee on disability concerns or equivalent structure (new wording for Para. 747);
- Encouraging each annual conference to organize a committee on Criminal Justice and Mercy Ministries (new Para.);
- Providing that the program of the annual conference include Criminal Justice and Mercy Ministries, the implementations of which may be assisted in by the District Council on Ministries (Para. 752.4);
- Providing flexibility in annual conference organization to care for its functions around missional life, advocacy needs, and ministries, and in maintaining the connectional relationships and in organizing for the development of ethnic ministries, churches and concerns (Para. 726).

*—Ken Horn and Carolyn Simms*

**Discipleship**

*The committee recommended concurrence:*

- To align language with proposed Baptism Study legislation;
- Clarifying qualifications for election of Jurisdictional Youth Ministry Organization Convocation Steering committee members;
- Streamlining language regarding National Youth Ministries Organization;
- Eliminating certain mandated requirements regarding NYMO Legislative Assembly;
- Changing racial ethnic requirements for NYMO;
- Streamlining language of *Discipline* regarding staffing of NYMO;
- Removing requirements for two of the adult member of the NYMO Steering committee;
- Encouraging youth participation in the work of the church as a program emphasis for the next quadrennium;
- Establishing a "free-standing" General Commission on United Methodist Men, amenable to the GCOM rather than the Board of Discipleship. The petition provides for the commission to be self-supporting in four years. Consensus was that the men's organization should be encouraged to take more leadership in the area of discipleship and to address a growing spiritual

hunger. Disagreement centered on the appropriate structural position for UMM to do that.

*The committee recommended concurrence with amendments:*

- Changing *Discipline* language regarding lay preacher from "appointed by the district superintendent" to "assigned..."

*The committee recommended nonconcurrence:*

- To make the National Youth Ministry Organization into a general agency;
- To increase the number of ethnic groups as required membership components in NYMO steering committee;
- To eliminate the Division on United Methodist Men;
- To allow for an alternate to conference United Methodist Men's structure;
- To eliminate both the women's and men's divisions to create a single "family ministries" unit.

*—Garlinda Burton, Lynn DeMichelle*

**Global Ministries** — (4/20/96, 4 p.m., business completed)

*The committee recommended concurrence:*

- Dealing with the restructure of the Board of Global
- Ministries;
- Lifting the U.S. economic embargo against Cuba;
- Preserving Jerusalem as a city where both Palestinians and Israelis can live equally and peacefully;
- Eradicating abusive child labor;
- Putting children and their families first on the social agenda;
- Supporting national observance of Children's Sabbath.

- *The committee recommended concurrence with amendments:*
- Providing economic support for the Palestinian people;
- Opposing continued confiscation of Palestinian land and the building of Jewish settlements in the Occupied Territories;
- Affirming the purpose of United Methodist Women.

*The committee recommended nonconcurrence:*

- Deleting World Service as the specific fund support for Health and Welfare Ministries Department, Board of Global Ministries.

*—Linda Bloom and Cheryl Edwards*

**Independent Commissions** — (4/20/96, Completed their business at 8:52 p.m.)

*The committee recommended concurrence*

- With the resolution that "Membership in The United Methodist Church and in Supremacist Groups," which highlights the "deep inconsistency" between the Gospel and racial and ethnic supremacist groups. The report offers recommendations help members understand and act on that inconsistency;
- With the petition, "Elimination of Racism in the UMC," which provides actions to continue eliminating racism in the church, including 1) training at the local church, district, conference, jurisdictional, and general church levels and including as well the Council of Bishops, UM seminaries, etc.; development of Affirmative Action policies, etc.;
- With petitions that affirmed continuation of GCORR and continue mandate for annual conference commission or similar structure;
- With petition to encourage Board of Ordained Ministry to meet at least yearly with the Commission on Religion and Race;
- With a petition calling for an appointment system based on gifts and graces and not on race;
- With a petition requesting that racial groups not be "pitted against each other" in competing for funds and resources;
- With several petitions requesting each annual conference develop specific programs to combat racism and promote inclusiveness within local congregations.
- Added to GCORR's responsibilities the duty of reviewing, evaluating, and assisting institutions in every level of the church the area of equitable compensation for ethnic minority clergy and lay staff;
- Adopted a new resolution on A program to Emphasize Inclusiveness in All Dimensions of the church;
- Requested GBCS work with governmental groups to develop museums that acknowledge acts of genocide toward Native Americans, African Americans and other racial ethnic groups
- Supported a call for reparations to African Americans
- Urged Board of Church and Society to create a standing committee on Drug and Alcohol Abuse;
- Approved a resolution on Sexism requesting that annual conferences, UM seminaries, and all UM institutions have policies regarding sexual harassment in place by General Conference, 2000;
- *Supported the Ecumenical Decade of the Churches in Solidarity with Women.

*The committee recommended concurrence with amendments:*

- With the resolution that "Violence in Electronic Media and Film";
- With resolution "Demeaning Names to Native Americans" and "Healing the Wounds of genocidal

acts toward Native American and African American people;

- With resolution on "Racism Today," which offers new remedies for the new face of racism today;
- With amended report of task force on "Racism in Rural Areas" as well as amended petitions that implement report's recommendations;
- With petition, "Call for Truth, Fairness and Accuracy";
- With petition that General Commission on Communications is to be evaluated by Council of Bishops as well as GCOM;
- With petition as amended a new statement on Affirmative Action.

*The committee recommended nonconcurrence:*

- Asking UMC to withdraw from National Coalition Against Censorship;
- Eliminating GCOM and other agencies and referring responsibilities to Council of Bishops;
- Requesting the formation of a General Commission on the Status and Role of Conservatives.

*—Ann Whiting and Kristin Knudson Harris*

**Local Church** — (4/20/96, 4:45 p.m.)

*The committee recommended concurrence:*

- Deleting Paragraphs 101, 102 and 103 in favor of other statements;
- Stating the mission of the church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ;
- Specifying duties of a church historian;
- Outlining responsibilities and reporting duties of a Permanent Endowment Fund Committee;
- Adding a paragraph of possible resources for Permanent Endowment Fund Committee;
- Identifying responsibilities of a building committee to assure accessibility;
- Changing terminology to "church council" in shared facility situations;
- Recommending possibilities for organizing as an "ecumenical shared ministry";
- Outlining property use agreements in beginning shared ministries;
- Authorizing trustees to allow certain duties to a Permanent Endowment Committee;
- Changing terminology from "persons with handicapping conditions" to "people with disabilities";
- Eliminating local church work area chairpersons in favor of other provisions;
- Identifying additional persons responsible for Christian training of children and youth;
- Deleting terminology of "Federated Church" from section on membership records;
- Adding words "and a member of the Church Universal" to description of church membership;
- Changing language to "church council";
- Eliminating language concerning the Administrative Board organization, officers and responsibilities;
- Assuring UM congregations in ecumenical shared ministries will have a lay member of annual conference;
- Adding candidates for diaconal ministry to the list of those whose candidacy is to be renewed annually by the Charge Conference.

*The committee recommended concurrence with amendments:*

- Describing the "Journey of a Connectional People" but restoring first person plural pronouns in the wording;
- Outlining procedures for cooperative parish ministries but deleting proposed changes to Para. 206.2;
- Describing an endowment fund agency but changing the title to "Planned Giving and/or Permanent Endowment Fund Committee";
- Holding meetings of church sanctioned groups and agencies as far as possible in facilities accessible to all as a "further sign of inclusiveness";
- Giving encouragement to developing cooperative parish ministries, ecumenical shared ministries or other options, including merger;
- Deleting Para. 260 but keeping the first three sentences as options (age-level, family life coordinators);
- Deleting Para. 259 (work areas) but keeping a list of "ministry group" chairs as options as outlined in the paragraph;
- Eliminating local church program support personnel but maintaining church school superintendent, health and welfare coordinator, and communications coordinator as options;
- Naming additional persons to those who should be involved in teaching an advanced course in Christian life for older youth;
- Outlining "Church Council" membership;
- Changing "Administrative Board" to Church Council";
- Defining the members of the Church Council and functions of the Nurture, Outreach and Witness groups;
- Urging decision making to be based on consensus;
- Enabling the local church to participate if a shared salary option is adopted by the annual conference.

*—Rayford Woodrick and Kathy Kruger Noble*

**Ordained and Diaconal Ministry**

The committee worked Friday and Saturday to bring all legislation related to the Ministry Study in line with the decisions made Friday morning to recommend a common probationary period. The committee approved legislation that moved away from sequential ordination to a single ordination for deacons and elders.

The committee also struggled to determine the title for a person in probationary membership and after considerable attempts decided on the term commissioning.

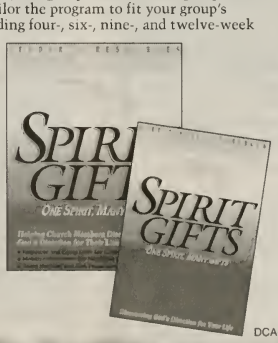
Additional actions incorporate many of the suggested changes from the Diaconal Ministers Clearness Committee into Paragraphs 306 through 315.

*—Judy Smith and Linda Green*

No report received: Financial Administration, General Administration, Higher Education & Chaplaincy.


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DCA-357-6

## Consent Calendar Explanation

There are three consent calendars: **A**) concurrence with proposed changes to the *Discipline*. **B**) concurrence with petitions on non-Disciplinary matters. **C**) non-concurrence on Disciplinary and non-Disciplinary items. The first day items will be listed as **01**. The second day will be listed **02**, and so forth. Items can be placed on the consent calendar if: 1) no more than five votes were cast against the prevailing position; 2) it has no financial implications; 3) the proposal does not require a constitutional amendment. Any five delegates may have a consent calendar item removed by signing the appropriate form found in Room 204. This form must be returned to the secretary by 3 p.m. on the day it appears in the *DCA*.

# Consent Calendar A03

### 462-664.7

**Subject: Administration, Initiation, and Coordination of a Mission**
Committee Item: CO91-664.7-C
Petition:
20298-CO-664.7-D, Pg. 183
Membership: 86; Present: 78;
For: 75; Against: 0; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

### 463-700

**Subject: Annual Conference Commission on Communications**
Committee Item: CO191-700-A
Petition:
20518-CO-700-D$, Pg. 183
Membership: 86; Present: 74;
For: 68; Against: 3; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

In Line 1, delete 727" and insert 742"

In Paragraph 2, second sentence, delete shall and insert may

In Paragraph 2, last sentence, delete the word all

Beginning with Paragraph 2.a), delete the remainder of the petition.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

### 464-70

**Subject: Water, Air, Soil, Minerals, Plants**
Committee Item: CS5-70-A
Petition:
20918-CS-70-D, Pg. 117
Membership: 102; Present: 85;
For: 84; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

In the first sentence, following ...disposal of toxic and nuclear waste; insert and that move toward the elimination of both;

In the fourth sentence, substitute the word encourage with strongly urge (this was part of ... in the original petition).

Amend ¶70A:

*A) Water, Air, Soil, Minerals, Plants.*We support and encourage social policies that serve to reduce and control the creation of industrial by-products and waste; facilitate the safe processing and disposal of toxic and nuclear waste **and that move toward the elimination of both; encourage reduction of municipal waste**; provide for appropriate **recycling and** disposal of municipal waste; and as**sist the clean-up** ~~enhance the rejuvenation~~ of polluted air, water, and soil. We support measures **designed to maintain and restore natural ecosystems.** ~~which will halt the spread of deserts into formerly productive lands. We support regulations designed to protect plant life, including those that provide for reforestation and for conservation of grasslands.~~ We support policies that **develop alternatives to** ~~retard the *indiscriminate* use of~~ chemicals, ~~including those~~ used for growing, processing, and preserving food, and ~~encourage~~ **strongly urge** adequate research...We urge development of international agreements concerning equitable utilization of the **worlds** ~~ocean's~~ resources for human benefit so long as the integrity of the **earth** ~~seas~~ is maintained. ~~Moreover, we support policies on the part of governments and industries that conserve fossil and other fuels, and that eliminate methods of securing minerals that destroy plants, animals, and soil. We encourage creation of new sources for food and power, while maintaining the goodness of the earth.~~

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

### 465-728.2

**Subject: Membership of the Annual Conference Board of Church and Society**
Committee Item: CS13-728.2-A
Petition:
20936-CS-728.2-D, Pg. 126
Membership: 102; Present: 96;
For: 93; Against: 2; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Change Christian social involvement to Mission Social Action

Amend ¶728.2:

2. The conference Board of Church and Society or equivalent structure shall be composed of those persons as determined by the Annual Conference including ~~as an ex officio member~~, **by virtue of their offices,** the mission coordinator for ~~Christian social involvement~~ **Mission Social Action** of the conference United Methodist Women **and members of the General Board of Church and Society from the Annual Conference who shall serve within limits set by ¶¶ 707.5 and 810.5.** Guidelines...

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

### 466-72

**Subject: The Social Community**
Committee Item: CS22-72-A
Petition:
20985-CS-72-D, Pg. 1225
Membership: 102; Present: 88;
For: 87; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

(Additions by the Legislative Committee to this added para. are underlined)

Amend the first sentence.

Amend the third sentence and delete the rest of the petition.

Add a new sub-paragraph to ¶ 72:

We, as United Methodists believe that organ transplantation and organ donation should be viewed as an act are acts of charity, agape love, and self-sacrifice, much as that of Jesus when he gave his life for the salvation of the world . We recognize the life-giving benefits of organ and other tissue donation and encourage all people of faith to become organ and tissue donors as a part of their love and ministry to others in need. We request only that it is done in an environment of respect for the deceased and/or living donor and for the benefit of the recipient; and following protocols which will carefully prevent abuse to the donor and their family. We urge that it be done in an environment of respect for deceased and living donors and for the benefit of recipients, and following protocalls that carefully prevent abuse to donors and their families. As the official voice of The United Methodist Church, we find no religious problem with organ donation and praise and respect the individuals right to make decisions about giving the Gift of Life by donating his or her own body. This spirit of giving the gift of life is best expressed by John the Apostle in 1 John 3:16, speaking of the love of Christ: We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren (NAS).

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 467-71

**Subject: Family Violence and Abuse**
Committee Item: CS36-71-A
Petition:
20011-CS-71-D, Pg. 118
Membership: 102; Present: 90;
For: 88; Against: 2; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Move to another section of para. 71 (between *G* and *H*) and reletter all following sections.

Amend so that it reads the following (additions by the committee are underlined)

Add the following new text at the end of ¶ 71*A G)* **and reletter all following sections:**

We recognize that family violence/abuse, in all its forms—verbal, psychological, physical, sexual—is detrimental to the covenant of the human community. We encourage further recognize the primary responsibility of the church to provide a safe environment, counsel, and support for the victim., be they spouse, child, parent, or other member of the family. While we deplore the actions of the abuser, we affirm that person to be worthy in need of Gods redeeming love.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 468-1104

**Subject: Responsibilities**
Committee Item: CS61-1104-A
Petition:
20939-CS-1104-D, Pg. 127
Membership: 102; Present: 86;
For: 86; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Restore that call Christians to respond as forgiven people for whom Christ died. in first paragraph.

Modify sentence following the words and action, in first paragraph.

Add new para. following third para.

Change fifth para. to add The Appalachian Development Committee and editorial changes to clarify that addtion.

The petition now reads:

Amend ¶ 1104:

*Responsibilities*.**The p**Prime responsibility of the board...Furthermore, the board and its executives shall provide forthright witness and action on those social issues of **human well-being, justice, peace and the integrity of creation** that call Christians to respond as forgiven people for whom Christ died. In particular, the board shall conduct a program of research, education, and action, consistent with the Social Principles and policies adopted by the General Conference, on the wide range of issues confronting- **that confront** the Church. consistent with the Social Principles and the policies adopted by the General Conference.

The board shall analyze long-range social trends **and their** underlying ethical values, systemic alternatives, and strategies for social change and explore alternate futures. **It shall explore systemic strategies for social change and alternative futures. It shall speak its convictions, interpretations and concerns to the Church, and to the world.**

The board...particularly on the specific social issues prioritized by the board. Special attention shall be given to nurturing **the nurture of** the active constituency of the board. **The board will encourage** by encouraging an exchange of ideas on strategy and methodology for social change. **Through** and enabling church members through conferences, districts, coalitions, and networks **it will assist church members** to **as they** identify and respond to critical social issues at the community, state and **regional, national and international** levels.

**All the above shall be consistent with the Social Principles and policies adopted by the General Conference.**

The board will **shall** maintain a close relationships with the General Commissions on Religion and Race, and **the General Commission on the** Status and Role of Women, **and the Appalachian Development Committee** as they seek to coordinate the denominational support...according to guidelines stated in the *Book of Discipline*.

The board shall speak to the Church, and to the world, its convictions, interpretations, and concerns, recognizing the freedom and responsibility of all Christians to study, interpret, and act on any or all recommendations in keeping with their own Christian calling.

In cooperation with...and institutions of The United Methodist Church.[26] *(See* **Judicial Council Decision 387.)**

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 469-632

**Subject: Jurisdictional Youth Ministry Organization Convocation**
Committee Item: DI15-632-C
Petition:
21383-DI-632-D, Pg. 240
Membership: 112; Present: 103;
For: 103; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**470**-632
**Subject: Jurisdictional Youth Ministry Organization Convocation**
Committee Item: DI16-632-C
Petition: -
21384-DI-632-D, Pg. 240
Membership: 112; Present: 99;
For: 98; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**471**-745
**Subject: Annual Conference Councils on Young Adult Ministry**
Committee Item: DI17-745-C
Petition:
21474-DI-745-D, Pg. 243
Membership: 112; Present: 103;
For: 103; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**472**-1307.1
**Subject: Membership of the National Youth Ministry Organization Steering Committee**
Committee Item: DI42-1307.1-C
Petition:
21420-DI-1307.1-D, Pg. 257
Membership: 112; Present: 101;
For: 99; Against: 2; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**473**-1306.2
**Subject: Voting Members of the National Youth Ministry Organization Legislative Assembly**
Committee Item: DI48-1306.2-C
Petition:
21418-DI-1306.2-D, Pg. 256
Membership: 113; Present: 100;
For: 100; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**474**-1306.2
**Subject: Voting Membership of National Youth Ministry Organization Steering Committee**
Committee Item: DI49-1306.2-C
Petition:
21035-DI-1306.2-D, Pg. 255
Membership: 112; Present: 103;
For: 103; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**475**-1306.1
**Subject: National Youth Ministry Organization Legislative Assembly**
Committee Item: DI50-1306.1-C
Petition:
21417-DI-1306.1-D, Pg. 255
Membership: 112; Present: 103;
For: 103; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**476**-1305
**Subject: National Youth Ministry Organization Convocation**
Committee Item: DI51-1305-C
Petition:
21416-DI-1305-D, Pg. 255
Membership: 112; Present: 103;
For: 103; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**477**-907
**Subject: Responsibilities of the General Council on Finance and Administration**
Committee Item: FA49-907-C
Petition:
22559-FA-907-D, Pg. 1313
Membership: 113; Present: 103;
For: 103; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**478**-708
**Subject: Conference Council on Finance and Administration**
Committee Item: FA101-708-C
Petition:
21623-FA-708-D, Pg. 356
Membership: 113; Present: 100;
For: 95; Against: 5; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**479**-803.7
**Subject: Deputy General Secretary**
Committee Item: GJ31-803.7-C
Petition:
21303-GJ-803.7-D, Pg. 696
Membership: 98; Present: 84;
For: 84; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**480**-813
**Subject: Election of General Secretaries of General Program Agencies**
Committee Item: GJ69-813-C
Petition:
20548-GJ-813-D, Pg. 701
Membership: 98; Present: 78;
For: 76; Against: 2; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**481**-803
**Subject: Definitions, Structures, and Titles**
Committee Item: GJ79-803-C
Petition:
21651-GJ-803-D, Pg. 696
Membership: 98; Present: 85;
For: 84; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 482-513.5
**Subject: Complaints**
Committee Item: GJ89-513.5-A
Petition:
21602-GJ-513.5-D, Pg. 693
Membership: 98; Present: 87;
For: 83; Against: 2; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Amend the second sentence of ¶ 513.5:

No complaint shall be considered for any misconduct ~~or unsatisfactory performance~~ which shall not have been committed within ~~two~~ **six** years immediately preceding the receipt of the grievance **except in the case of sexual or child abuse. In the case of sexual or child abuse there shall be no limitation.**

Amend by addition to the end of ¶ 513.5:

**Paragraph 513.5 shall become effective at the conclusion of the 1996 General Conference, except for matters that have already proceeded to the Chair of the Jurisdictional Review Committee.**

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 483-731
**Subject: Conference Board of Global Ministries**
Committee Item: GM73-731-C
Petition:
21660-GM-731-D, Pg. 749
Membership: 126; Present: 107;
For: 107; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 484-731.5
**Subject: The Annual Conference Board of Global Ministries**
Committee Item: GM77-731.5-C
Petition:
21058-GM-731.5-D, Pg. 751
Membership: 126; Present: 107;
For: 105; Against: 0; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 485-1432.5
**Subject: Assignment of Ordained Clergy from Nations other than the United States Serving as Missionaries**
Committee Item: GM83-1432.5-C
Petition:
21272-GM-1432.5-D, Pg. 761
Membership: 126; Present: 103;
For: 103; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 486-731.4
**Subject: Responsibilities of the Conference Board of Global Ministries**
Committee Item: GM87-731.4-C
Petition:
21310-GM-731.4-D, Pg. 751
Membership: 126; Present: 102;
For: 102; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 487-731.4
**Subject: Responsibilities of the Conference Board of Global Ministries**
Committee Item: GM88-731.4-C
Petition:
21309-GM-731.4-D, Pg. 750
Membership: 126; Present: 102;
For: 102; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 488-731
**Subject: Responsibilities of the Conference Board of Global Ministries**
Committee Item: GM89-731-C
Petition:
20322-GM-731-D, Pg. 749
Membership: 126; Present: 101;
For: 101; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 489-731.4
**Subject: Disaster Response Coordinator**
Committee Item: GM93-731.4-C
Petition:
22279-GM-731.4-D, Pg. 1358
Membership: 126; Present: 107;
For: 107; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 490-1413
**Subject: National Division**
Committee Item: GM97-1413-A
Petition:
21331-GM-1413-D, Pg. 756
Membership: 126; Present: 99;
For: 99; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

In Paragraph 2c following mission complexes, insert **special regional agencies**

In Paragraph 3b following relationships with annual, insert **conferences, missionary conferences**

In Paragraph 5e following To provide, insert **in cooperation with jurisdictions and conferences**

In Paragraph 5f following To develop, insert **in cooperation with jurisdictions and conferences**

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 491-1409
**Subject: Elected Staff**
Committee Item: GM100-1409-C
Petition:
21319-GM-1409-D, Pg. 753
Membership: 126; Present: 100;
For: 100; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**492**-1408.2
**Subject: Division and Department Officers**
Committee Item: GM101-1408.2-C
Petition: -
21318-GM-1408.2-D, Pg. 752
Membership: 126; Present: 100;
For: 100; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**493**-1408.1
**Subject: Board Officers**
Committee Item: GM102-1408.1-C
Petition:
21317-GM-1408.1-D, Pg. 752
Membership: 126; Present: 100;
For: 100; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**494**-1407
**Subject: Executive Committee**
Committee Item: GM103-1407-C
Petition:
21316-GM-1407-D, Pg. 752
Membership: 126; Present: 98;
For: 98; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**495**-1406.4
**Subject: Corporation within the Board**
Committee Item: GM104-1406.4-C
Petition:
21315-GM-1406.4-D, Pg. 752
Membership: 126; Present: 96;
For: 95; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**496**-1406.3
**Subject: Incorporation of the General Board of Global Ministries**
Committee Item: GM105-1406.3-C
Petition:
21314-GM-1406.3-D, Pg. 752
Membership: 126; Present: 95;
For: 95; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**497**-1406.1
**Subject: Incorporation**
Committee Item: GM106-1406.1-C
Petition:
21313-GM-1406.1-D, Pg. 752
Membership: 126; Present: 92;
For: 92; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**498**-1405
**Subject: Authority of Divisions and Departments**
Committee Item: GM107-1405-C
Petition:
21312-GM-1405-D, Pg. 751
Membership: 126; Present: 92;
For: 92; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**499**-1418.5
**Subject: Voting Rights for Deaconesses**
Committee Item: GM108-1418.5-C
Petition:
22643-GM-1418.5-D, Pg. 1358
Membership: 126; Present: 102;
For: 101; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**500**-1421.2
**Subject: The Deaconess Program Office**
Committee Item: GM109-1421.2-C
Petition:
21334-GM-1421.2-D, Pg. 759
Membership: 126; Present: 103;
For: 103; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**501**-1418.2
**Subject: The Office of Deaconess**
Committee Item: GM110-1418.2-C
Petition:
21332-GM-1418.2-D, Pg. 758
Membership: 126; Present: 103;
For: 103; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**502**-634.4
**Subject: Meetings and Elections**
Committee Item: GM111-634.4-C
Petition:
21308-GM-634.4-D, Pg. 749
Membership: 126; Present: 103;
For: 102; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**503**-1420.2
**Subject: The Committee on Deaconess Service**
Committee Item: GM112-1420.2-C
Petition:
21333-GM-1420.2-D, Pg. 759
Membership: 126; Present: 103;
For: 103; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**504**-1425
**Subject: Organization of The Women's Division**
Committee Item: GM116-1425-C
Petition:
21335-GM-1425-D, Pg. 759
Membership: 126; Present: 101;
For: 101; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;

Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 505-743.6
**Subject: United Methodist Women**
Committee Item: GM117-743.6-C
Petition:
21311-GM-743.6-D, Pg. 751
Membership: 126; Present: 101;
For: 101; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 506-1412.2
**Subject: The Women's Division Membership on the General Board of Global Ministries**
Committee Item: GM120-1412.2-C
Petition:
21327-GM-1412.2-D, Pg. 755
Membership: 126; Present: 101;
For: 101; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 507-1411.4
**Subject: Preparation of Budgets**
Committee Item: GM121-1411.4-C
Petition:
21324-GM-1411.4-D, Pg. 754
Membership: 126; Present: 101;
For: 101; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 508-1411.2
**Subject: Former Mission Agencies**
Committee Item: GM122-1411.2-C
Petition:
21323-GM-1411.2-D, Pg. 754
Membership: 126; Present: 101;
For: 101; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 509-1411.1
**Subject: Appropriation of Funds**
Committee Item: GM123-1411.1-C
Petition:
21322-GM-1411.1-D, Pg. 753
Membership: 126; Present: 101;
For: 101; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 510-1410.2
**Subject: Staff Participation of Women**
Committee Item: GM124-1410.2-C
Petition:
21321-GM-1410.2-D, Pg. 753
Membership: 126; Present: 100;
For: 98; Against: 2; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 511-1410.1
**Subject: Selection of the Staff**
Committee Item: GM125-1410.1-C
Petition:
21320-GM-1410.1-D, Pg. 753
Membership: 126; Present: 100;
For: 100; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 512-1431
**Subject: The World Division**
Committee Item: GM128-1431-C
Petition:
21337-GM-1431-D, Pg. 759
Membership: 126; Present: 102;
For: 102; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 513-1532
**Subject: Selection and Education of Candidates for Admission to the Annual Conference**
Committee Item: HE36-1532-C
Petition:
21279-HE-1532-D, Pg. 824
Membership: 86; Present: 74;
For: 74; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 514-732.4
**Subject: Responsibilities with Campus Ministries**
Committee Item: HE42-732.4-A
Petition:
21271-HE-732.4-D, Pg. 822
Membership: 86; Present: 74;
For: 67; Against: 2; Not Voting: 5;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

After election of, insert United Methodist college students as.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 515-1906.4
**Subject: Responsibilities of the General Commission on Communication**
Committee Item: IC12-1906.4-C
Petition:
21374-IC-1906.4-D, Pg. 908
Membership: 71; Present: 69;
For: 69; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 516-1906.16
**Subject: Specific Responsibilities and Functions of the General Communication**
Committee Item: IC13-1906.16-C
Petition:
21376-IC-1906.16-D, Pg. 908
Membership: 71; Present: 69;
For: 69; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 517-1906.12
**Subject: Specific Responsibilities and Functions of the General Commission on Communication**
Committee Item: IC21-1906.12-A
Petition:
21375-IC-1906.12-D, Pg. 908
Membership: 71; Present: 69;
For: 69; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Amend ¶ 1906.12:

12. It shall be...World Communion ~~Offering~~ **Sunday** (¶916.4 and ¶275.3)...Native American Awareness Sunday (¶916.6 and ¶275.6), **Africa University Fund (¶906.2)** and all other general church funds...

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 518-1906
**Subject: Responsibility of the General Commission on Communication**
Committee Item: IC22-1906-A
Petition:
22363-IC-1906-D, Pg. 1387
Membership: 71; Present: 69;
For: 69; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Add a new sub-paragraph at the end of ¶ 1906:

**The General Commission on Communication shall be charged with planning and implementation of the official United Methodist presence on and use of the Internet, the World-Wide Web, or other computer services that can connect United Methodist conferences, agencies, and local churches with one another and with the larger world.**

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 519-738
**Subject: Eliminate Annual Conference Commission on Archives and History**
Committee Item: IC33-738-A
Petition:
21664-IC-738.1-D, Pg. 902
Membership: 71; Present: 67;
For: 65; Against: 0; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Amend ¶ 738.1:

1. In each Annual Conference there shall be a conference Commission on Archives and History **or other structure to provide for these functions and maintain the connnectional relationships.** ~~The commission shall be elected by the Annual Conference upon the nomination of its nominating committee.~~

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 520-740.1
**Subject: Conference Commission on Religion and Race**
Committee Item: IC55-740.1-C
Petition:
21666-IC-740.1-D, Pg. 903
Membership: 71; Present: 62;
For: 61; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 521-740.3
**Subject: Boundaries and Relationship of the Conference Commission on Religion and Race**
Committee Item: IC60-740.3-C
Petition:
20293-IC-740.3-D, Pg. 904
Membership: 71; Present: 67;
For: 66; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 522-740.2
**Subject: Conference Commission on Religion and Race**
Committee Item: IC61-740.2-C
Petition:
20327-IC-740.2-D, Pg. 904
Membership: 71; Present: 67;
For: 67; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 523-2402.2
**Subject: Councils and Consultations of Churches**
Committee Item: IC66-2402.2-C
Petition:
21728-IC-2402.2-D, Pg. 914
Membership: 71; Present: 69;
For: 69; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 524-739.1
**Subject: Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns**
Committee Item: IC72-739.1-A
Petition:
22016-IC-739.1-D, Pg. 1385
Membership: 71; Present: 67;
For: 66; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Amend ¶ 739.1:

1. Each Annual Conference shall create a conference Commission or Committee on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns **or alternative structure** to work with...in such manner as the conference may direct.[73] **The responsibilities of the Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns may be assigned to an existing or newly created multifunctional agency.**

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 525-2405.1
**Subject: Liaison Role of the Council of Bishops**
Committee Item: IC88-2405.1-C
Petition:
21075-IC-2405.1-D, Pg. 914
Membership: 71; Present: 60;
For: 60; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**526**-2006.1
**Subject: Organization of the General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns**
Committee Item: IC89-2006.1-C
Petition:
21717-IC-2006.1-D, Pg. 911
Membership: 71; Present: 69;
For: 69; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**527**-2002
**Subject: Purpose**
Committee Item: IC90-2002-C
Petition:
22803-IC-2002-D, Pg. 1388
Membership: 71; Present: 62;
For: 62; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**528**-2403
**Subject: Commission on Pan-Methodist Cooperation**
Committee Item: IC93-2403-C
Petition:
21729-IC-2403-D, Pg. 914
Membership: 71; Present: 69;
For: 69; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**529**-2003.5
**Subject: Responsibilities of the General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns**
Committee Item: IC95-2003.5-C
Petition:
21067-IC-2003.5-D, Pg. 910
Membership: 71; Present: 62;
For: 62; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**530**-2003.6
**Subject: Responsibilities of the General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns**
Committee Item: IC96-2003.6-C
Petition:
21068-IC-2003.6-D, Pg. 910
Membership: 71; Present: 67;
For: 67; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**531**-2003.10
**Subject: Responsibilities of the General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns**
Committee Item: IC97-2003.10-C
Petition:
21069-IC-2003.10-D, Pg. 910
Membership: 71; Present: 67;
For: 67; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**532**-260
**Subject: Age-level, family, and specialized ministries**
Committee Item: LC12-260-A
Petition:
20351-LC-260-D, Pg. 959
Membership: 89; Present: 53;
For: 50; Against: 3; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows: Retain first three sentences of current discipline The Charge Conference. . .may be elected Delete everything else.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**533**-2533.5
**Subject: Powers and Limitations of the Board of Trustees**
Committee Item: LC62-2533.5-C
Petition:
20423-LC-2533.5-D, Pg. 965
Membership: 89; Present: 80;
For: 79; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**534**-2534
**Subject: Resources**
Committee Item: LC67-2534-C
Petition:
21601-LC-2534-D, Pg. 965
Membership: 89; Present: 81;
For: 81; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**535**-2534.4
**Subject: Permanent Endowment Fund Committee**
Committee Item: LC68-2534.4-A
Petition:
21600-LC-2534.4-D, Pg. 966
Membership: 89; Present: 80;
For: 79; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Change Paragraph 4 to Paragraph 5 of Petition 22145 as amended.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**536**-2534.1
**Subject: Permanent Endowment Fund Committee**
Committee Item: LC69-2534.1-C
Petition:
20424-LC-2534.1-D, Pg. 965
Membership: 89; Present: 80;
For: 80; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**537**-2553.2
**Subject: Property Agreement in a Shared Facility**
Committee Item: LC80-2553.2-C
Petition:
21096-LC-2553.2-D, Pg. 967
Membership: 89; Present: 78;
For: 78; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**538**-2553.2
**Subject: Shared Facilities with another Denomination**
Committee Item: LC81-2553.2-C
Petition:
21095-LC-2553.2-D, Pg. 967
Membership: 89; Present: 78;
For: 78; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**539**-2553.1
**Subject: Church Council in Shared Facility Situation**
Committee Item: LC82-2553.1-C
Petition:
20676-LC-2553.1-D, Pg. 967
Membership: 89; Present: 78;
For: 78; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**540**-2544
**Subject: Responsibility of the Building Committee**
Committee Item: LC89-2544-C
Petition:
20334-LC-2544-D, Pg. 966
Membership: 89; Present: 79;
For: 79; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**541**-232.7
**Subject: Membership Records and Reports**
Committee Item: LC122-232.7-C
Petition:
21086-LC-232.7-D, Pg. 952
Membership: 89; Present: 77;
For: 77; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**542**-251
**Subject: Eliminate Certain Mandated Local Church Officers**
Committee Item: LC127-251-C
Petition:
20662-LC-251-D, Pg. 956
Membership: 89; Present: 76;
For: 75; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**543**-258
**Subject: Eliminate Local Church Council on Ministries**
Committee Item: LC128-258-C
Petition:
20668-LC-258-D, Pg. 959
Membership: 89; Present: 76;
For: 75; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**544**-259
**Subject: Basic membership of the Council on Ministries**
Committee Item: LC129-259-C
Petition:
20350-LC-259-D, Pg. 959
Membership: 89; Present: 76;
For: 75; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**545**-259
**Subject: Eliminate Local Church Council on Ministries**
Committee Item: LC130-259-C
Petition:
20669-LC-259-D, Pg. 959
Membership: 89; Present: 76;
For: 75; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**546**-258
**Subject: Responsibilities of the Council on Ministries**
Committee Item: LC131-258-C
Petition:
20349-LC-258-D, Pg. 959
Membership: 89; Present: 76;
For: 75; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**547**-250
**Subject: Basic Leadership of the Local Church**
Committee Item: LC136-250-C
Petition:
20661-LC-250-D, Pg. 956
Membership: 89; Present: 76;
For: 76; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurreoce [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**548**-249
**Subject: The Church Council and Church Conference**
Committee Item: LC137-249-C
Petition:
20660-LC-249-D, Pg. 955
Membership: 89; Present: 76;
For: 76; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**549**-311
**Subject: Purpose for an Order**
Committee Item: MN64-311-A
Petition:
21827-MN-311-D, Pg. 995
Membership: 113; Present: 101;
For: 101; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Renumber as in 22927-MN-310-D, 312" and

In the last sentence, after Board of Ordained Ministry and do not delete to

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 550-101
**Subject: Our Spiritual Forbears**
Committee Item: MN65-101-C
Petition:
21734-MN-101-D, Pg. 982
Membership: 113; Present: 91;
For: 91; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 551-103
**Subject: Servants of Christ**
Committee Item: MN69-103-C
Petition:
21735-MN-103-D, Pg. 982
Membership: 113; Present: 91;
For: 91; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 552-110
**Subject: The Ministry of All Christians**
Committee Item: MN72-110-C
Petition:
21743-MN-110-D, Pg. 983
Membership: 113; Present: 91;
For: 91; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 553-321
**Subject: Ministry, Authority and Responsibilities of Deacons in Full Connection**
Committee Item: MN104-321-A
Petition:
21839-MN-321-D, Pg. 1000
Membership: 113; Present: 104;
For: 104; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Add a new ¶ 321:

plain text entered by committee

**Ministry, Authority and Responsibilities of Deacons in Full Connection.1. Deacons are persons called by God, authorized by the church, and ordained by a bishop to a lifetime ~~of servant leadership~~ ministry of word and service to both the community and the congregation, in a ministry which connects the two. Deacons exemplify Christian discipleship and create opportunities for others to enter into discipleship. In the world, the deacon seeks to express a ministry of compassion and justice, assisting laypersons as they claim their own ministry. In the congregation, the ministry of the deacon is to teach and to form disciples, and to lead worship together with other ordained and lay persons.**

**2. The deacon in full connection shall have the rights of voice and vote in the Annual Conference where membership is held; shall be eligible to serve as clergy on boards, commissions, or committees of the Annual Conference and hold office on the same; shall be eligible for election as a clergy delegate to the General, Central, or Jurisdictional Conference. The deacon in full connection shall attend all the sessions of the Annual Conference and share with elders in full connection responsibility for all matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy (¶ 326.1). Any deacon in full connection unable to attend shall write the Bishop requesting to be excused, setting forth the reason for the absence.**

**3. As members of the Order of Deacons, all deacons in full connection are in covenant with all other such deacons in the Annual Conference and shall participate in the life of their Order.**

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 554-313
**Subject: Membership in an Order**
Committee Item: MN147-313-A
Petition:
21829-MN-313-D, Pg. 996
Membership: 113; Present: 101;
For: 101; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Add a new ¶ 313:

**Membership in an Order: Persons shall become members of the Order of Deacons or Order of Elders following their election to full membership in the annual conference. Acceptance of the status of full membership will constitute a commitment to regular participation in the life of the Order.**

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 555-320
**Subject: Eligibility and Rights of Probationary Membership**
Committee Item: MN551-320-A
Petition:
21837-MN-320-D, Pg. 999
Membership: 113; Present: 98;
For: 97; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

committee changes in plain type

committee amended according to petition #22932-mn-320-d

Add a new ¶ 320:

**Eligibility and Rights of Probationary Membership.Probationary members are ordained deacons who are on trial in preparation for membership in full connection in the Annual Conference as deacons or elders. They are on probation as to character, servant leadership, and effectiveness in ministry. The Annual Conference, through the clergy session, has jurisdiction over probationary members. Annually, the Board of Ordained Ministry shall review and evaluate their relationship and make recommendation to the clergy members in full connection regarding their continuance. No member shall be continued on probation beyond the sixth regular session following their admission to probationary membership and commissioning unless extended, upon recommendation of the Board of Ordained Ministry by a three-fourths vote, by the clergy session ~~on recommendation of the Board of Ordained Ministry~~. Such extensions shall not be granted beyond three additional years.**

**1. Probationary members who are preparing for elders orders may be ordained elders when they qualify for membership in full connection in the Annual Conference.**

2. Probationary members shall have the right to vote in the Annual Conference on all matters except the following:

a) constitutional amendments;

b) election of delegates to the General and Jurisdictional or Central Conferences;

c) all matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy.

3. Probationary members may serve on any board, commission, or committee of the Annual Conference except the Board of Ordained Ministry (¶ 733.1). They shall not be eligible for election as delegates to the General, Central, or Jurisdictional Conferences.

4. Probationary members shall be amenable to the Annual Conference in the performance of their ministry and are subject to the provisions of *The Book of Discipline* in the performance of their duties. They shall be supervised by the district superintendent under whom they are appointed. They shall also be assigned a deacon in full connection or elder as mentor by the Board of Ordained Ministry. Probationary members preparing to become elders shall be eligible for appointment by meeting disciplinary provisions (¶ 340).

5. Probationary members in appointments beyond the local church shall relate themselves to the district superintendent in the area where their work is done. The district superintendent shall give them supervision and report annually to their Board of Ordained Ministry.

6. *Discontinuance from Probationary Membership.* Probationary members may request discontinuance of this relationship or may be discontinued by the Annual Conference, upon recommendation of the Board of Ordained Ministry. When Probationary Members in good standing withdraw to unite with another denomination or to terminate their membership in The United Methodist Church, their action shall be considered a request for discontinuance of their relationship and their credentials shall be surrendered to a district superintendent. Prior to any final recommendation of discontinuance without consent, a probationary member will ~~an~~ be advised of the right to a hearing before the executive committee of the conference Board of Ordained Ministry. A report of the hearing will be made to the full board. The provisions of Fair Process (¶ 2622) shall be observed. When this relationship is discontinued, they shall no longer be permitted to exercise ministerial functions and shall surrender their credentials to the district superintendent for deposit with the secretary of the conference, and their membership transferred by the district superintendent to the local church which they designate after consultation with the pastor. The Board of Ordained Ministry shall file with the resident bishop and the secretary of the conference a permanent record of the circumstances relating to discontinuance as a probationary member as required in ¶ 733.3d. After discontinuance, probationary members may be classified and approved as local pastors in accordance with the provision of ¶ 339.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 556-319

**Subject: Probationary Service of A Deacon**

Committee Item: MN552-319-A
Petition:
21836-MN-319-D, Pg. 999
Membership: 113; Present: 89;
For: 89; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

committee changes in plain text.

Committee approved language of petition 22931, as amended, for this petition, 21836.

Add a new ¶ ~~319.~~ 317:

**Probationary Service of ~~a Deacon~~** Commissioned Ministers. All persons who are ~~ordained deacons~~ Commissioned Ministers shall be appointed by a bishop (¶ 323) and serve a minimum of three (3) years as a probationary member of the Annual Conference. During the probationary period, arrangements shall be offered by the Board of Ordained Ministry for all ~~ordained deacons~~ commissioned ministers to be involved in a curriculum that extends theological education by using covenant groups to support the practice and work of ~~the diaconate in~~ their ministry as servant leaders, to contemplate the grounding of ordained ministry, and to understand covenant ministry in the life of the conference. The specialized service of probationary members shall be evaluated by the District Superintendent and the Board of Ordained Ministry in terms of the probationary members ability to express and give leadership in servant ministry.

1. The ~~deacons~~ commissioned ministers planning to give their lives as deacons in full connection shall be in ministries of service the entire probationary period.

2. The ~~deacons~~ commissioned ministers planning to give their lives as elders in full connection shall be in ministries of ~~service~~ Service, Word, Sacrament and Order for ~~at least half of~~ their entire probationary period. A ~~deacon~~ commissioned minister serving as pastor of a local church shall exemplify and be held accountable for leading the congregation in servant ministry. ~~The District Superintendent and the Board of Ordained Ministry will evaluate the deacons ability to express his/her ordination as deacon in the congregational context.~~

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 557-318

**Subject: Meaning of Ordination**

Committee Item: MN554-318-A
Petition:
21835-MN-318-D, Pg. 998
Membership: 113; Present: 83;
For: 82; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Amended to #22929-mn-318-d

Title change Meaning of Commissioning

Changes in plain type approved by committee

Add a new ¶ ~~318.~~ 316

~~Ordination.Ordination as a deacon to Word and service~~ Commissioning.—Commissioning is the act of the church which acknowledges Gods call according to the talents, gifts, and abilities the person has received; the individuals response to that call; the equipping of the person for specialized ministry; the examination by the church to determine if the gifts meet the needs of the community and world; the validation of that call by the faith community through the laying on of hands; the invocation of the Holy Spirit for empowerment of the persons ministry on behalf of and with the church community; the commitment of the person to seek avenues of growth to equip others for ministry; and to be accountable to the covenant

**community. The service** for commissioning and the service for ordination of **deacons and elders may be incorporated into one service symbolizing the total ministry of Jesus Christ. After fulfilling all the candidacy requirements and upon the recommendation of the conference Board of Ordained Ministry, the clergy** session composed of ordained elders and deacons in full connection, shall vote on the ~~ordination~~ commissioning of the candidates. The bishop and secretary of the Annual Conference shall provide credentials to the ~~deacon~~ commissioned minister upon ~~ordination~~ commissioning.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

# Consent Calendar B03

**558**-NonDis
**Subject: Implementing the "People First" Language**
Committee Item: CO80-NonDis-C
Petition:
20304-CO-NonDis-O, Pg. 204
Membership: 86; Present: 76;
For: 73; Against: 0; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**559**-NonDis
**Subject: Nuclear Abolition**
Committee Item: CS45-NonDis-C
Petition:
21373-CS-NonDis-O, Pg. 1098
Membership: 102; Present: 92;
For: 91; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**560**-NonDis
**Subject: Separation of Church and State**
Committee Item: CS84-NonDis-C
Petition:
20359-CS-NonDis-O, Pg. 149
Membership: 102; Present: 92;
For: 88; Against: 1; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**561**-NonDis
**Subject: Chungshindae/"Comfort Women"/Sex Slaves Drafted by Japan During World War II**
Committee Item: CS96-NonDis-C
Petition:
21513-CS-NonDis-O, Pg. 1251
Membership: 102; Present: 92;
For: 88; Against: 1; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**562**-NonDis
**Subject: Opposition to Abusive Treatment of Persons with Mental Disabilities**
Committee Item: CS107-NonDis-A
Petition:
20248-CS-NonDis-O, Pg. 138
Membership: 102; Present: 87;
For: 86; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Whereas, a large part of the ministry of our Lord focused on persons with mental disabilities; and

Whereas, persons with mental disabilities are children of God and are therefore our brothers and sisters within the human family; and

Whereas, the full and equal rights of persons with mental disabilities are enshrined in the Social Principles of The United Methodist Church, as well as the Constitution and laws of the United States of America~~; and~~.

~~Whereas, we note that the use of abusive treatment as therapy for persons with mental disabilities still occurs in the United States, and that such abusive treatment is used on both adults and children, and that programs which rely on such abusive treatments are usually funded by federal, state, and/or local tax revenues; and~~

~~Whereas, a number of organizations which advocate for persons with mental disabilities have already taken stands against abusive treatment;~~

Therefore, be it resolved, that The United Methodist Church affirms the right of persons with disabilities to freedom from abusive treatment.

Be it further resolved, that The United Methodist Church opposes the use of any form of punishment for children or adults with mental disabilities in any case where such punishment would be considered illegal, abusive, or unconscionable if applied to a child or adult who is not disabled. In particular, we condemn as unacceptable the following practices:

1. Treatments which result in physical injury or tissue damage to the person.

2. Verbal abuse or insult, humiliation, or degradation.

3. Denial of food, warmth, hygiene, contact with other human beings, or other necessities of life.

4. The use of electric shock or noxious substances as a form of punishment.

5. The use of any punishment on a child with mental disabilities that would be considered child abuse if used on a child with no disabilities.

6. Neglect.

7. The use of physical or chemical restraint when the individual or others are not in danger of physical harm.

8. The threat of any of the above treatments.

Any therapy used in the treatment of persons with mental disabilities must be potentially beneficial to the person. As an alternative to abusive treatments, we support the use of positive approaches in the treatment of persons with mental disabilities. Positive approaches affirm the humanity of persons with mental disabilities and recognize that the needs and desires of such persons are not significantly different from those of other persons. Our obligation to persons with mental disabilities is to support and assist them in their efforts to live lives as rich and rewarding as possible.

Be it further resolved, that we call upon all public and private agencies and service providers involved in providing services

to persons with mental disabilities to adopt and uphold the standards set forth in this resolution.

Be it further resolved, that we call upon all federal, state, and local governments to end immediately the expenditure of public revenues on any agency or program which fails to adopt and uphold the standards set forth in this resolution.

Be it further resolved, that The United Methodist Church declares itself to be open to persons with mental disabilities and their families, commits itself to support such persons and families and accommodate their needs within our community. We further pledge our support to help persons with mental disabilities and their families find appropriate services, programs, and supports, and to protect them from abusive treatments.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 563-NonDis
**Subject: A Call to Reaffirm the Centrality of Christ**
Committee Item: DI66-NonDis-C
Petition:
20369-DI-NonDis-O, Pg. 262
Membership: 112; Present: 102;
For: 102; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 564-NonDis
**Subject: Resolution for Spiritual Unity in Human Diversity**
Committee Item: DI67-NonDis-C
Petition:
20266-DI-NonDis-O, Pg. 262
Membership: 112; Present: 102;
For: 101; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 565-NonDis
**Subject: Comprehensive Protection Plan**
Committee Item: FA61-NonDis-C
Petition:
21494-FA-NonDis-O, Pg. 403
Membership: 113; Present: 101;
For: 100; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended:

at section 2.18(b) (page 404, second column):

line 1, following a local pastor or insert **a full participant in the itinerant system;**

line 2, delete ~~a clergy member in full connection, probationary member, or associate member~~

at section 2.18(d) (page 405, first column):

Add sentence: **However, a Salary-Paying Unit that is an entity which is subject to the provisions of Code section 79(d) or is an entity other than an exempt organization described in Code section 501(c)(3) may not be a Plan Sponsor for clergy who are not full participants in the itinerant system.**

At section 6.05 (page 415, first column):

line 2, following by the Trustee, add **in order to comply with federal and state regulations,**

line 3, following an agreement (or agreements) add **with due notice to the participants involved**

delete section 9.07. (Page 420, first column)

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 566-NonDis
**Subject: Cumulative Pension and Benefit Fund-Ñ 5.13**
Committee Item: FA63-NonDis-C
Petition:
21496-FA-NonDis-O, Pg. 449
Membership: 113; Present: 100;
For: 99; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 567-NonDis
**Subject: Cumulative Pension and Benefit Fund-Ñ 6.04**
Committee Item: FA64-NonDis-C
Petition:
21497-FA-NonDis-O, Pg. 449
Membership: 113; Present: 100;
For: 100; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 568-NonDis
**Subject: Cumulative Pension and Benefit Fund-Ñ 12.09**
Committee Item: FA65-NonDis-C
Petition:
21498-FA-NonDis-O, Pg. 449
Membership: 113; Present: 100;
For: 99; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 569-NonDis
**Subject: Cumulative Pension and Benefit Fund**
Committee Item: FA66-NonDis-C
Petition:
21495-FA-NonDis-O, Pg. 422
Membership: 113; Present: 101;
For: 100; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended:

5.16 Unclaimed Benefit:

a. Line 4 following send a certified letter add **with return receipt requested**

b. Line 10 following send a certified letter add **with return receipt requested**

6.05 line 2, following held by the Trustee insert **in order to comply with federal and state regulations,**

line 4, following (or agreements) add **with due notice to the participants involved**

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 570-NonDis
**Subject: Ministerial Pension Plan-Ñ 6.04**
Committee Item: FA78-NonDis-C
Petition:
21502-FA-NonDis-O, Pg. 480
Membership: 113; Present: 101;
For: 101; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 571-NonDis
**Subject: Ministerial Pension Plan**
Committee Item: FA79-NonDis-A
Petition:
21499-FA-NonDis-O, Pg. 449
Membership: 113; Present: 100;
For: 99; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

2.30 a. Line 1, following or a clergy member, add **who is a full participant in the itinerant system**

d. Line 2, add **However, a Salary-Paying Unit that is an entity which is subject to the provisions of Code section 403(b)(12) or is an entity other than an exempt organization described in Code section 501(c)(3) may not be a Plan Sponsor for clergy who are not full participants in the itinerant system.**

5.17 a. Line 4 following shall send a certified letter, add **with return receipt requested**

b. Line 10 following shall send a certified letter, add **with return receipt requested**

6.05 Line 2, following by the Trustee, add **in order to comply with federal and state regulations,**

Line 3, following agreement (or agreements) add **with due notice to the participants involved**

10.07 Delete

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 572-NonDis
**Subject: Strengthening the Black Church for the 21st. Century**
Committee Item: GJ122-NonDis-C
Petition:
22264-GJ-NonDis-O, Pg. 1333
Membership: 98; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 573-NonDis
**Subject: Spanish Language Resources**
Committee Item: GJ125-NonDis-C
Petition:
21682-GJ-NonDis-O, Pg. 628
Membership: 98; Present: 83;
For: 83; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 574-NonDis
**Subject: Free the Puerto Rican Political Prisoners**
Committee Item: GM9-NonDis-A
Petition:
22713-GM-NonDis-O, Pg. 1372
Membership: 126; Present: 111;
For: 105; Against: 0; Not Voting: 6;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Add to next to last paragraph so that it will read:

Therefore, be it resolved that the General Conference of the United Methodist Church advocate for justice and freedom for the Puerto Rican Political Prisoners. Furthermore, that a letter from the General Conference Secretary be sent to the President of the United States asking him to grant pardon **because they have more than sufficiently served their sentence** to all **14** Puerto Rican Political Prisoners that are presently found in federal and state prisons. In addition, that a copy of the letter be forwarded to Dr. Luis Nieves Falcon, coordinator of the effort to free the Puerto Rican political prisoners.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 575-NonDis
**Subject: National Comprehensive Plan for Town and Country**
Committee Item: GM58-NonDis-A
Petition:
21356-GM-NonDis-O, Pg. 784
Membership: 126; Present: 109;
For: 106; Against: 1; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Whereas, town and country churches make up two thirds of the congregations in the United Methodist Church;

Whereas, ministry in town and country settings are faced with declining population, poverty, presence of hate groups, loss of jobs, economic decline, and sense of hopelessness and despair;

Whereas, in town and country settings there are opportunities to impact life through the collective work of the Church and the faithful servants who live, worship and witness in those settings;

Therefore, be it resolved, that the 1996 General Conference of The United Methodist Church mandate a comprehensive national plan for town and country ministry. This plan is to grow out of a process overseen by the General Board of Global Ministries National Division, or its successor agency, and involving local church and annual conference leadership in conjunction with appropriate staff from general church agencies including, but not limited to, Discipleship, Church and Society, Religion and Race, Higher Education and Ministry, Communications, and Council on Ministries **or successor agencies.**

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 576-NonDis
**Subject: Communities of Shalom**
Committee Item: GM62-NonDis-A
Petition:
21363-GM-NonDis-O, Pg. 796
Membership: 126; Present: 109;
For: 108; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Whereas, the General Conference responded to the Los Angeles crisis of 1992 by creating a new strategy called Communities of Shalom which incorporates evangelism and community action by focusing on spiritual renewal, congregational development, community economic development, health, and strengthening race and class relationships;

The Communities of Shalom concept was piloted in seven communities in Greater Los Angeles and through struggle and determination enabled a new and comprehensive paradigm for ministry. The Communities of Shalom strategy has spread throughout the Church and in early 1996 engaged more than 250 urban and rural churches and community organizations in the United States and one in Africa;

The United Methodist Church through the General Board of Global Ministries in consultation with the National Shalom Committee designed and carried out a successful training and technical assistance program for those developing Communities of Shalom. These new resources are enabling churches and communities to develop and renew community life. The training has been utilized in 16 annual conferences and stimulates new

enthusiasm and plans for creative ministry;

The need for Communities of Shalom within urban and rural areas continues to grow. Additional communities and churches in Los Angeles, the nation and the world are seeking effective ministry models that transform congregations, communities and individuals for Gods ministry of shalom.

Therefore, be it resolved, that The United Methodist Church:

Commend the ministry of churches and communities in Greater Los Angeles that pioneered the Communities of Shalom strategy;

**Strongly urge** ~~Urge~~ the continual expansion of Shalom ministries throughout the United States and the world for churches in urban and rural communities in crisis and transition;

**Through the General Board of Global Ministries, resource communities of Shalom in the United States and around the world through training and technical assistance;**

Affirm the Shalom Committee and its continued work with the General Board of Global Ministries and other General Church agencies. **The committee shall be composed of twelve (12) members and two (2) ex officio members. There shall be six (6) members selected by the Council of Bishops, three (3) by the General Board of Global Ministries, and three (3) selected by the Shalom Committee for their expertise. The General Secretary of the General Board of Global Ministries and a staff person of the General Board of Pensions shall serve as the ex officio members with vote;**

Mandate that The United Methodist Church at its General and local levels continue to collaborate with other denominations, businesses, and community organizations to transform congregations and communities through the Shalom strategy;

Charge all General Church agencies in the next quadrennium to explore and develop opportunities to work collaboratively to assist local churches with the Communities of Shalom strategy;

Endorse the solicitation of Shalom resources from foundations, corporations, government sources, individuals and churches utilizing the Advance, a foundation structure and other necessary strategies.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 577-NonDis

**Subject: Appalachia: God's Face Toward the Mountains**

Committee Item: GM67-NonDis-A
Petition:
22292-GM-NonDis-O, Pg. 1363
Membership: 126; Present: 109;
For: 109; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Whereas, The United Methodist Church continues its mission and ministry denominationally, as directed by the General Conference of 1968, through the coordination of the United Methodist Appalachian Development Committee, and ecumenically through the Commission on Religion in Appalachia; and

**Whereas, The United Methodist Church has engaged in ministry and mission in the Appalachian region for over two centuries. Even though many resources have been committed through ministries such as Red Bird Missionary Conference (Kentucky), Hinton Rural Life Center (North Carolina), Upper Sand Mountain Cooperative Parish (Alabama), Jackson Area Ministries (Ohio), Heart and Hand House (West Virginia), Connellsville Cooperative Ministry (Pennsylvania), Jubilee Project (Tennessee), and in many other local and community ministries, conditions among many people in this region continues to worsen; and**

Whereas, the plight of the Appalachian region, with the exploitation of its people and natural resources continues to manifest a striking similarity to conditions in developing colonized nations of the world; and

Whereas, focused efforts on the part of private, church, and governmental agencies over the past three decades, aimed at stimulating appropriate development and at restoring health and dignity to the people and to the mountains, have fallen far short of projected goals; and

Whereas, the United Methodist bishops of Appalachia, along with other religious leaders, have joined the Roman Catholic bishops of the region in producing their pastoral letter, Gods Face Toward the Mountains, calling attention to the continued exploitation of the people of Appalachia and of the land; and

Whereas, a study guide has been produced to challenge The United Methodist Church to revisit Appalachia with all of its beauty and strength alongside the need for renewed commitment to ministries of compassion and hope;

Therefore, be it resolved, that The United Methodist Church reaffirm its commitments denominationally and ecumenically to be present with and supportive of the people and churches of Appalachia as they struggle toward the realization of the vision set forth in the Appalachian bishops pastoral; and

Further, be it resolved, that The United Methodist Church, through all of its boards and agencies, examine ways it might be participating in the ongoing plight and exploitation of the people and land of Appalachia.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 578-NonDis

**Subject: Mission Personnel In The United States**

Committee Item: GM95-NonDis-A
Petition:
22286-GM-NonDis-O, Pg. 1361
Membership: 126; Present: 107;
For: 107; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Whereas, ~~national~~ mission personnel **in the United States,** which includes Church and Community workers, US IIs, mission interns, summer interns, community developers, rural chaplains, lay missioners, and others, have faithfully and effectively enabled The United Methodist Church to facilitate mission and ministry across the United States in settings often neglected and overlooked by others; and

Whereas, for many people in the United States, life is becoming increasingly difficult, with the basic necessities of food, shelter, health care, job and educational opportunities, child care, and transportation required for daily survival often being beyond reach; and

Whereas, God continues to hear the cries of the oppressed, impoverished, and neglected people; and

Whereas, God continues to call persons to offer themselves for service with the poor to provide both compassionate care and personal empowerment; and

Whereas, The United Methodist Church, with its unique Wesleyan traditions of identity and advocacy with the poor and its historical focus on social issues and human development, is challenged by God to be radically attentive and responsive to marginalized and dispossessed people and to bear responsibility for keeping their plight before the total Church and world community; and

Whereas, ~~national~~ mission personnel **in the United States** provide vital leadership required to initiate and maintain cooperative ministries, shalom zones/communities, etc. that focus attention on the needs of women, children, youth, racial-ethnic populations, the aging, and persons with handicapping conditions in both rural and urban areas;

Therefore, be it resolved, that The United Methodist Church reaffirm its commitment to impoverished people and oppressed communities in the United States by creating and maintaining among its highest levels of priority the recruitment, training, and placement of ~~national~~ mission personnel **in the United States** who can enable people, churches, and communities to move beyond their present circumstances to participate in healthy, whole communities.

Further, be it resolved, that new and innovative means of providing financial support for ~~national~~ mission personnel **in the United States** be developed as The United Methodist Church at all levels confronts the challenge to deal with limited available resources.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 579-NonDis

**Subject: Reducing the Risk of Child Sexual Abuse in the Church**
Committee Item: GM96-NonDis-A
Petition:
21361-GM-NonDis-O, Pg. 791
Membership: 126; Present: 107;
For: 107; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Jesus said, Whoever welcomes [a] child...welcomes me. (Matthew 18:5, NRSV). Children are our present and our future, our hope, our teachers, our inspiration. They are full participants in the life of the church and in the realm of God.

Jesus also said, If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones..., it would be better for you if a great millstone were fastened around your neck and you were drowned in the depth of the sea. (Matthew 18:6, NRSV). Our Christian faith calls us to offer both hospitality and protection to the little ones, the children. The Social Principles of the United Methodist Church state that ...children must be protected from economic, physical and sexual exploitation and abuse.

Tragically, churches have not always been safe places for children. Child sexual abuse, exploitation and ritual abuse* occur in churches, both large and small, urban and rural. The problem cuts across all economic, cultural and racial lines. It is real, and appears to be increasing. Most annual conferences can cite specific incidents of child sexual abuse and exploitation within churches. Virtually every congregation has among its members adult survivors of early sexual trauma.

Such incidents are devastating to all who are involved: the child, the family, the local church and its leaders. Increasingly, churches are torn apart by the legal, emotional and monetary consequences of litigation following allegations of abuse.

God calls us to make our churches safe places, protecting children and other vulnerable persons from sexual and ritual abuse. God calls us to create communities of faith where children and adults grow safe and strong. In response to this church-wide challenge, the following steps should be taken to reduce the risk of child sexual abuse.

A. Local churches should:

1. Develop and implement an ongoing education plan for the congregation and its leaders on the reality of child abuse, risk factors leading to child abuse and strategies for prevention.

2. Adopt screening procedures (use of application forms, interviews, reference checks, background clearance, etc.) for workers (paid and unpaid) directly or indirectly involved in the care of children and youth.

3. Develop and implement safety procedures for church activities such as: having two or more non-related adults present in classroom or activity; leaving doors open and installing half-doors or windows in doors or halls; providing hall monitors; instituting sign-in and sign-out procedures for children ten or younger, etc.

**4. Advise children and young persons of an agency or a person outside as well as within the local church whom they can contact for advise and help if they have suffered abuse.**

**5.** 4. Carry liability insurance that includes sexual abuse coverage.

**6.** ~~5.~~ Assist the development of awareness and self-protection skills for children and youth through special curricula and activities.

**7.** ~~6.~~ Be familiar with Annual Conference **and other church** policies regarding clergy sexual **misconduct** ~~abuse~~.

B. Annual Conferences should develop safety and risk-reducing policies and procedures for conference-sponsored events such as camps, retreats, youth gatherings, child care at conference events, mission trips, etc. Annual Conferences shall also develop guidelines and training processes for use by church leaders who carry responsibility for prevention of child abuse in local churches. Both sets of policies shall be developed by a task force appointed by the cabinet in cooperation with appropriate conference agencies. These policies shall be approved by the Annual Conference and assigned to a conference agency for implementation. It is suggested that the policies be circulated in conference publications and shared with lay professionals and clergy at district or conference seminars.

C. The General Board of Discipleship and the General Board of Global Ministries should cooperatively develop and/or identify and promote the following resources:

1. Sample policies, procedures, forms, etc. for reducing the risk of sexual abuse and exploitation of children and youth in local churches, both in relation to their own sponsored programs and to any outreach ministries or other programs for children or youth that use church space.

2. Child abuse prevention curricula for use in local churches.

3. Training opportunities and other educational resources on child sexual abuse and exploitation and on ritual abuse.

4. Resources on healing for those who have experienced childhood sexual trauma.

*Ritual abuse refers to abusive acts committed as part of ceremonies or rites; ritual abusers are often related to cults, or pretend to be.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 580-NonDis

**Subject: Restructure of the General Board of Global Ministries**
Committee Item: GM129-NonDis-C
Petition:
21296-GM-NonDis-O, Pg. 771
Membership: 126; Present: 103;
For: 103; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 581-R634

**Subject: Recognition of Cuba**
Committee Item: GM132-R634-C
Petition:

21355-GM-R634-U, Pg. 811
Membership: 126; Present: 109;
For: 106; Against: 2; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 582-NonDis
**Subject: The Autonomy of the Women's Division**
Committee Item: GM136-NonDis-C
Petition:
20891-GM-NonDis-O, Pg. 765
Membership: 126; Present: 104;
For: 98; Against: 4; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 583-NonDis
**Subject: Affirm the Purpose of United Methodist Women and Continue Giving through the Proper Channels**
Committee Item: GM138-NonDis-A
Petition:
20087-GM-NonDis-O, Pg. 1360
Membership: 126; Present: 104;
For: 104; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

~~We the Executive Committee of Memphis Conference United Methodist Women reaffirm the reasons for which we came into existence over 100 years ago: to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ through mission outreach of the church, especially to women and children throughout the world.~~**Be it resolved that the United Methodist Church reaffirms the reasons for which United Methodist Women came into existence over 100 years ago: to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ through Mission outreach of the church, especially to women, children and youth throughout the world.**

This is emphasized in our purpose which states: The organized unit of the United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

We are therefore committed as United Methodists and United Methodist Women to continue our giving through the proper channels of our organization.

Acting upon ~~our~~**its** purpose, United Methodist Women ~~do not deviate~~**will follow** from the *Discipline* or the Social Principles of The United Methodist Church.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 584-NonDis
**Subject: Eradicating Abusive Child Labor**
Committee Item: GM139-NonDis-C
Petition:
21065-GM-NonDis-O, Pg. 769
Membership: 126; Present: 108;
For: 108; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 585-NonDis
**Subject: The Building of Settlements in the Occupied Territories**
Committee Item: GM141-NonDis-A
Petition:
20698-GM-NonDis-O, Pg. 154
Membership: 126; Present: 109;
For: 107; Against: 0; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Whereas, the continuing efforts by the State of Israel to build settlements in the occupied territories violates both international law and the spirit of the Declaration of Principles, that such efforts are based upon a vision of superiority of Jewish claims to land over the long-standing and recognized claims to the land by indigenous Palestinian people, and that such efforts have a devastating effect on Palestinian communities; and

Whereas, the continuing confiscation of private land for the construction of settlements stands as an impediment to peace because it violates both international law and the Declaration of Principles; it destroys the capacity of people in Palestinian communities to work and earn a livelihood; it, along with the restrictions on building placed on the Palestinian communities, forces the emigration of Palestinian people from the occupied territories; and it demoralizes the indigenous Palestinian population; and

Whereas, the prophet Isaiah cautioned against coveting the lands and homes of ones neighbors... Woe to you who add house to house and field to field until no space is left and you live alone in the land. (Isaiah 5:8); and

Whereas, the continuing confiscation of privately held land for construction of settlements violates basic understandings of human rights, perverts the peace process, destroys the hope of people who are working for and longing for peace, both Israelis and Palestinians, and fosters a sense of desperation which can only lead to further violence; and

Whereas, we in the United States are providing financial assistance to the State of Israel which allows for the building of these settlements;

Be it resolved, that The United Methodist Church ~~communicate its opposition to~~**opposes** continuing confiscation of Palestinian land, the continued building of Jewish settlements, and any vision of a greater Israel which includes the Occupied Territories and/or the whole of Jerusalem and its surroundings. ~~to the Prime Minister of Israel and the Ambassador of Israel in Washington, D.C.; and~~

~~Be it further resolved, that we communicate the above to the President of the United States, the Secretary of State, the appropriate Congress people and Senators, along with our desire that the United States hold the State of Israel accountable for its actions and refuse to support the continued confiscation of land and building of settlements; and~~

~~Be it further resolved, that we send copies of this resolution to representatives of The United Methodist Church on the Boards of Church and Society, the General Board of Global Ministries, and the Council of Bishops.~~

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 586-NonDis
**Subject: Jerusalem**
Committee Item: GM142-NonDis-C
Petition:
22505-GM-NonDis-O, Pg. 1253
Membership: 126; Present: 109;
For: 104; Against: 2; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 587-NonDis
**Subject: The Promised Financial Aid to the Palestinians**
Committee Item: GM143-NonDis-A
Petition:
20697-GM-NonDis-O, Pg. 153
Membership: 126; Present: 109;
For: 105; Against: 1; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Change the title of the Petition to Economic Support for Palestinians.

Whereas, the signing of the Oslo Accord by the PLO and Israel in September, 1993 stipulated financial aid for a necessary and rapid improvement in the economy of the occupied territories; and

Whereas, external parties, including the United States, at the World Bank Conference in October, 1993, pledged 2.4 billion dollars to help revive the failing economy of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and to provide for immediate and basic needs such as nutrition, housing, health care, sanitation, education, and jobs; and

Whereas, delivery of aid has kept pace neither with the promises nor the needs, causing further deterioration of the living standards of the Palestinians, contributing to the unrest and cycle of violence which is ~~endangering free elections, and~~ making it difficult for the Palestinian National Authority to establish educational systems and other social programs and to implement economic development; and

Whereas, continued and, in many cases, intensified closures, confiscation of Palestinian land by the government of Israel, and the importing of foreign workers into Israel to replace Palestinian labor, coupled with economic policies of the Israeli government which hamper economic development in the West Bank and Gaza, have caused a further deterioration of the living standards of Palestinians, an increasing distrust of the peace process and its leaders, and an increasing sense of hopelessness and frustration; and

Whereas, we deplore the violence directed toward Israelis and the violence directed towards Palestinians and believe that, even as we hold the perpetrators responsible and accountable, we must address the root causes;

Be it resolved, that The United Methodist Church insist that ~~our~~**the U. S.** government release ~~its~~**the remaining** portion of ~~their~~**its** aid immediately and encourage other nations to do the same; and

Be it further resolved, that we request that ~~our~~**the U. S.** government reevaluate the entire structure of aid to the Middle East, one goal being to redistribute the huge amount now given to Israel and Egypt, and a second goal being to consider economic support for the efforts of non-governmental organizations, including religious institutions, human rights groups, labor unions, and professional groups~~, and~~.

~~Be it further resolved, that we insist that our government use its influence upon the State of Israel to cease the confiscation of land, allow freedom of movement to the Palestinian people, and cease those economic policies which are detrimental to development in the West Bank of Gaza; and~~

~~Be it further resolved, that copies of this resolution be sent to the representatives of the State of Israel in the United States, to the President of the United States, the Secretary of State, the Representatives and Senators, the Council of Bishops of The United Methodist Church, and representatives of the General Board of Church and Society and the General Board of Global Ministries.~~

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 588-NonDis
**Subject: National Observance of Children's Sabbaths**
Committee Item: GM144-NonDis-C
Petition:
21064-GM-NonDis-O, Pg. 768
Membership: 126; Present: 109;
For: 105; Against: 2; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 589-R135
**Subject: Putting Children and Their Families First**
Committee Item: GM145-R135-C
Petition:
21347-GM-R135-U, Pg. 797
Membership: 126; Present: 109;
For: 105; Against: 3; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 590-R178
**Subject: concerning Demeaning Names to Native Americans**
Committee Item: IC59-R178-A
Petition:
20030-IC-R178-U, Pg. 933
Membership: 71; Present: 67;
For: 65; Against: 1; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

...purposes. It is demeaning to ~~an entire segment of~~ **Native Americans and other members of** our society to depict ~~them~~ **Native Americans** as violent and aggressive people...

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 591-NonDis
**Subject: Continue Membership of the United Methodist Church in the World Methodist Council**
Committee Item: IC67-NonDis-C
Petition:
22026-IC-NonDis-O, Pg. 1392
Membership: 71; Present: 68;
For: 67; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 592-NonDis
**Subject: Realizing Unity Between Lutherans and Methodists**
Committee Item: IC71-NonDis-A
Petition:
22808-IC-NonDis-O, Pg. 1401
Membership: 71; Present: 69;
For: 69; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Whereas, Lutheran and Methodist churches...

(continue as printed to final Whereas)

...Whereas, United Methodists have diligently participated in the development of the common statements between Lutherans and Methodists as a way of reducing the dividedness among Christians;

Whereas, the most recent round of formal Lutheran and United Methodist dialogue ended in 1988 in the United States;

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Council of Bishops and the General Commission on Christian Unity and Interre-

ligious Concerns be in conversation with leadership of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America about further dialogue between the two churches, and work seriously toward a continuation of the formal dialogue.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 593-NonDis
**Subject: Including the Wesleyan Family of Churches in Ecumenical Dialogue**
Committee Item: IC74-NonDis-A
Petition:
22669-IC-NonDis-O, Pg. 1398
Membership: 71; Present: 69;
For: 69; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

The General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns is encouraged to include the Wesleyan family of churches and their parachurch expressions and manifestations in ecumenical dialogue.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 594-R580
**Subject: Holy Land Tours**
Committee Item: IC75-R580-A
Petition:
22425-IC-R580-U, Pg. 1404
Membership: 71; Present: 69;
For: 67; Against: 1; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Add new text at the end of Holy Land Tours, pages 580-1 in *The Book of Resolutions*:

**G) Extends sincere appreciation to those United Methodists who have facilitated the implementation of the above recommendations in tours they have sponsored or participated in during the first quadrennium following adoption of this resolution;**

**H) Expressed deep concern that many tours sponsored or arranged by United Methodist bishops, pastors, and laity do not schedule opportunity for all participants to enter into partnership with the indigenous Christians for the recommended program time and, therefore, fail to Walk With the Living Stones in their strides toward Palestinian self-determination, their rich spiritual heritage, and their faithful contemporary witness;**

**I) Expresses deep concern that evidence continues to accumulate that Christianity is dying in the land of Jesus through economic, social, and political pressures, which have greatly diminished the numbers and percentage of Christians in the Holy Land. United Methodist bishops and other organizers of Holy Land tours, have a special responsibility to adhere to these recommendations to strengthen the witness of the remaining Palestinian disciples of the Living Lord;**

**J) Affirms the presence of The United Methodist Church in Jerusalem through our liaison office;**

**K) Encourages tour leaders to consult with the United Methodist liaison office in Jerusalem in order to facilitate adherence to these recommendations;**

**L) Instructs the Joint Panel of International Affairs of our general agencies to monitor and report to the General Conference regarding the implementation of this resolution;**

**M) Underscores the significance of Bethlehem 2000, which celebrates two millennia of Christianity in the land of Jesus; and**

**N) Urges close cooperation with the Middle East Council of Churches and other indigenous Christian groups to facilitate informed, alternative travel opportunities to the region.**

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 595-NonDis
**Subject: Building Bridges in Hope, Statement of The United Methodist Church on Christian-Jewish Relations**
Committee Item: IC77-NonDis-A
Petition:
21080-IC-NonDis-O, Pg. 923
Membership: 71; Present: 69;
For: 69; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended in two places as follows:

Title:

BUILDING NEW BRIDGES IN HOPE

ACDA, Vol. I, Page 926, Point 9, para 2, lines 7-8: ...significance of the ~~land of Israel~~ holy land as central to the worship....

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 596-R218
**Subject: Continuing Membership in the World Council of Churches**
Committee Item: IC86-R218-C
Petition:
21077-IC-R218-U, Pg. 933
Membership: 71; Present: 70;
For: 68; Against: 2; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 597-NonDis
**Subject: Continuation of the Membership of the United Methodist Church in the World Council of Churches**
Committee Item: IC87-NonDis-C
Petition:
22029-IC-NonDis-O, Pg. 1393
Membership: 71; Present: 70;
For: 70; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 598-NonDis
**Subject: Pan-Methodist Approach**
Committee Item: IC92-NonDis-C
Petition:
20253-IC-NonDis-O, Pg. 917
Membership: 71; Present: 70;
For: 70; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 599-NonDis
**Subject: Violence in Electronic Media and Film**
Committee Item: IC103-NonDis-A
Petition:
21381-IC-NonDis-O, Pg. 928
Membership: 71; Present: 62;
For: 56; Against: 2; Not Voting: 4;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

...cycle of violence.

Violence is simple and brutal, but its roots are complex. We know it to be bred in families where children and spouses are

abused and maltreated, where problems are met with force or threat of force. People who are in submissive positions to authority, actual or perceived, ~~including women, racial ethnic persons as well as lesbian, gay and bi sexual persons,~~ are particularly vulnerable to violence. We know that violence may be related to learning disabilities and chemical dependency. And we know that violence is exacerbated in communities and families living in poverty, and by the prominence given to it in films, television and other media.

Women often....

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**600**-R248
**Subject: Global Racism: A Violation of Human Rights**
Committee Item: IC107-R248-C
Petition:
21351-IC-R248-U, Pg. 935
Membership: 71; Present: 67;
For: 67; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**601**-R248
**Subject: Elimination of Racism in The United Methodist Church**
Committee Item: IC129-R248-C
Petition:
21604-IC-R248-U, Pg. 938
Membership: 71; Present: 55;
For: 44; Against: 0; Not Voting: 11;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

# Consent Calendar C03

**602**-747
**Subject: Annual Conference Committee on Disability Concerns**
Committee Item: CO78-747-N
Petition:
22897-CO-747-D, Pg. 1269
Membership: 86; Present: 76;
For: 72; Against: 1; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**603**-747
**Subject: Committee on Ministry To and With Persons with Handicapping Conditions**
Committee Item: CO79-747-N
Petition:
20476-CO-747-D, Pg. 200
Membership: 86; Present: 76;
For: 72; Against: 1; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**604**-NonDis
**Subject: Persons with Disabilities**
Committee Item: CO81-NonDis-N
Petition:
21646-CO-NonDis-O, Pg. 205
Membership: 86; Present: 76;
For: 72; Against: 1; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**605**-747
**Subject: Committee on Ministry to and with persons with Handicapping Conditions**
Committee Item: CO83-747-N
Petition:
20310-CO-747-D, Pg. 200
Membership: 86; Present: 76;
For: 72; Against: 1; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**606**-747
**Subject: Committee on Ministry to Persons with Handicapping Conditions**
Committee Item: CO85-747-N
Petition:
22186-CO-747-D, Pg. 1269
Membership: 86; Present: 76;
For: 72; Against: 1; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**607**-74
**Subject: Military Service**
Committee Item: CS43-74-N
Petitions:
20934-CS-74-D, Pg. 125;
20983-CS-74-D, Pg. 1228;
22326-CS-74-D, Pg. 1229;
22615-CS-74-D, Pg. 1229
Membership: 102; Present: 92;
For: 91; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**608**-NonDis
**Subject: World-Wide Abolition of Nuclear Weapons by the Year 2000**
Committee Item: CS46-NonDis-N
Petition:
22465-CS-NonDis-O, Pg. 1255
Membership: 102; Present: 92;
For: 92; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**609**-1113.1
**Subject: Election of General Secretary of General Board of Church and Society**
Committee Item: CS67-1113.1-N
Petition:
20010-CS-1113.1-D, Pg. 129
Membership: 102; Present: 81;
For: 81; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**610**-74
**Subject: Education for all**
Committee Item: CS85-74-N
Petition:
20058-CS-74-D, Pg. 1228
Membership: 102; Present: 92;

For: 91; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 611-NonDis
**Subject: Amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America**
Committee Item: CS86-NonDis-N
Petition:
20027-CS-NonDis-O, Pg. 149
Membership: 102; Present: 92;
For: 91; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 612-74
**Subject: Criminal Justice**
Committee Item: CS88-74-N
Petition:
20982-CS-74-D, Pg. 1228
Membership: 102; Present: 92;
For: 91; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 613-74
**Subject: The Political Community. Add H) Cultural Violence**
Committee Item: CS91-74-N
Petition:
20263-CS-74-D, Pg. 124
Membership: 102; Present: 92;
For: 88; Against: 2; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 614-NonDis
**Subject: Public Funding of Federal Elections**
Committee Item: CS93-NonDis-N
Petition:
20525-CS-NonDis-O, Pg. 149
Membership: 102; Present: 92;
For: 91; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 615-NonDis
**Subject: Election Campaign Reform in the United States of America**
Committee Item: CS94-NonDis-N
Petition:
22467-CS-NonDis-O, Pg. 1247
Membership: 102; Present: 92;
For: 89; Against: 1; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 616-74
**Subject: Basic Freedoms**
Committee Item: CS95-74-N
Petition:
22325-CS-74-D, Pg. 1228
Membership: 102; Present: 92;
For: 91; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 617-NonDis
**Subject: A National Health Care Program**
Committee Item: CS106-NonDis-N
Petition:
22461-CS-NonDis-O, Pg. 1237
Membership: 102; Present: 87;
For: 86; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 618-76
**Subject: Our Social Creed**
Committee Item: CS108-76-N
Petition:
22540-CS-76-D, Pg. 1230
Membership: 102; Present: 87;
For: 87; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 619-NonDis
**Subject: Tobacco Marketing by Philip Morris and RJR Nabisco**
Committee Item: CS120-NonDis-N
Petitions:
20228-CS-NonDis-O, Pg. 164;
20861-CS-NonDis-O, Pg. 165;
22337-CS-R235-U, Pg. 1246;
22459-CS-NonDis-O, Pg. 1255;
22503-CS-NonDis-O, Pg. 1256;
22731-CS-NonDis-O, Pg. 1257;
22898-CS-R235-U, Pg. 1256
Membership: 102; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence in favor of Petition 21042 (CS 119).

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 620-NonDis
**Subject: A Resolution on Reducing Gun Violence**
Committee Item: CS128-NonDis-N
Petitions:
20003-CS-R536-U, Pg. 152;
20699-CS-R538-U, Pg. 153;
20859-CS-R536-U, Pg. 152;
20862-CS-R536-U, Pg. 1250;
22464-CS-R536-U, Pg. 1250;
22509-CS-NonDis-O, Pg. 1251
Membership: 102; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence in favor of petition #21364 (CS 159).

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 621-745
**Subject: Establish Young Adult Ministry**
Committee Item: DI11-745-N
Petitions:
20952-DI-745.1-D, Pg. 244;
22203-DI-745-D, Pg. 1281
Membership: 112; Present: 103;
For: 103; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**622**-NonDis
**Subject: The Confessional Movement**
Committee Item: DI25-NonDis-N
Petitions:
22406-DI-NonDis-O, Pg. 1296;
22407-DI-NonDis-O, Pg. 1296;
22411-DI-NonDis-O, Pg. 1299;
22630-DI-NonDis-O, Pg. 1303;
22746-DI-NonDis-O, Pg. 1304
Membership: 112; Present: 104;
For: 104; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**623**-1301
**Subject: National Youth Ministry Organization**
Committee Item: DI46-1301-N
Petition:
21475-DI-1301-D, Pg. 254
Membership: 112; Present: 103;
For: 100; Against: 1; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**624**-NonDis
**Subject: Concerning Eternal Truth**
Committee Item: DI53-NonDis-N
Petitions:
20994-DI-NonDis-O, Pg. 1288;
20997-DI-NonDis-O, Pg. 1289;
22209-DI-NonDis-O, Pg. 1290;
22215-DI-NonDis-O, Pg. 1294
Membership: 112; Present: 100;
For: 99; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**625**-NonDis
**Subject: A United Methodist Creed**
Committee Item: DI65-NonDis-N
Petition:
22217-DI-NonDis-O, Pg. 1294
Membership: 112; Present: 102;
For: 102; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**626**-908
**Subject: Apportionments of World Service and Conference Benevolence**
Committee Item: FA53-908-N
Petition:
20837-FA-908-D, Pg. 1313
Membership: 113; Present: 105;
For: 100; Against: 5; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**627**-909
**Subject: Responsibilities of the Treasurer of General Council on Finance and Administration**
Committee Item: FA55-909-N
Petition:
22756-FA-909-D, Pg. 1313
Membership: 113; Present: 105;
For: 105; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**628**-NonDis
**Subject: Disabled Pastors**
Committee Item: FA58-NonDis-R
Petition:
20713-FA-NonDis-O, Pg. 384
Membership: 113; Present: 93;
For: 93; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends referral to General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**629**-NonDis
**Subject: Comprehensive Protection Plan Contributions**
Committee Item: FA60-NonDis-N
Petition:
20270-FA-NonDis-O, Pg. 384
Membership: 113; Present: 94;
For: 94; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**630**-NonDis
**Subject: Evaluate the Comprehensive Protection Plan for Active Clergy during 1997-2000**
Committee Item: FA62-NonDis-N
Petition:
22563-FA-NonDis-O, Pg. 1320
Membership: 113; Present: 97;
For: 96; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**631**-1606.20
**Subject: The Annual Conference Board of Pensions**
Committee Item: FA67-1606.20-N
Petition:
22901-FA-1606.20-D, Pg. 1315
Membership: 113; Present: 101;
For: 100; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**632**-NonDis
**Subject: Study Ministerial Pension Plan Article 401a and Supplement One**
Committee Item: FA68-NonDis-N
Petition:
22256-FA-NonDis-O, Pg. 1319
Membership: 113; Present: 101;
For: 101; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**633**-NonDis
**Subject: Plan Document for the Ministerial Pension Plan**
Committee Item: FA69-NonDis-N
Petition:
22564-FA-NonDis-O, Pg. 1321
Membership: 113; Present: 101;

For: 100; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**634**-NonDis
**Subject: Plan Document of the Ministerial Pension Plan**
Committee Item: FA70-NonDis-R
Petition:
22565-FA-NonDis-O, Pg. 1321
Membership: 113; Present: 101;
For: 101; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends referral to General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**635**-1606.2
**Subject: Annual Conference Administration**
Committee Item: FA72-1606.2-N
Petition:
20884-FA-1606.2-D, Pg. 381
Membership: 113; Present: 102;
For: 102; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**636**-1606.20
**Subject: Powers, Duties, and Responsibilities of Annual Conference**
Committee Item: FA73-1606.20-N
Petition:
20885-FA-1606.20-D, Pg. 381
Membership: 113; Present: 102;
For: 102; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**637**-NonDis
**Subject: Ministerial Pension Plan Document**
Committee Item: FA74-NonDis-R
Petition:
20714-FA-NonDis-O, Pg. 385
Membership: 113; Present: 102;
For: 102; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends referral to The General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**638**-NonDis
**Subject: Voluntary Conversion Program from MRPF to MPP**
Committee Item: FA75-NonDis-R
Petition:
20715-FA-NonDis-O, Pg. 385
Membership: 113; Present: 102;
For: 102; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends referral to The General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**639**-NonDis
**Subject: Ministerial Pension Plan-Ñ 2.12**
Committee Item: FA76-NonDis-N
Petition:
21500-FA-NonDis-O, Pg. 479
Membership: 113; Present: 102;
For: 102; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**640**-NonDis
**Subject: Ministerial Pension Plan-Ñ 5.13**
Committee Item: FA77-NonDis-N
Petition:
21501-FA-NonDis-O, Pg. 480
Membership: 113; Present: 102;
For: 101; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**641**-911.5
**Subject: Apportionments**
Committee Item: FA90-911.5-N
Petition:
22242-FA-911.5-D, Pg. 1314
Membership: 113; Present: 99;
For: 99; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**642**-911.5
**Subject: Apportionment Policy**
Committee Item: FA91-911.5-N
Petition:
22243-FA-911.5-D, Pg. 1314
Membership: 113; Present: 99;
For: 94; Against: 5; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**643**-911.2
**Subject: General Council on Ministry**
Committee Item: FA93-911.2-N
Petition:
21002-FA-911.2-D, Pg. 1314
Membership: 113; Present: 99;
For: 99; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**644**-708
**Subject: Conference Council on Finance and Administration**
Committee Item: FA100-708-N
Petition:
20497-FA-708-D, Pg. 356
Membership: 113; Present: 100;
For: 100; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**645**-709.2
**Subject: Membership of Conference Finance and Administration**
Committee Item: FA102-709.2-N
Petition:
20192-FA-709.2-D, Pg. 356
Membership: 113; Present: 100;
For: 100; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**646**-709.2
**Subject: Annual Conference Council on Finance and Administration**
Committee Item: FA103-709.2-N
Petition:
20587-FA-709.2-D, Pg. 356
Membership: 113; Present: 100;
For: 100; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**647**-737.4
**Subject: Propositional payment**
Committee Item: FA104-737.4-N
Petition:
20014-FA-737.4-D, Pg. 365
Membership: 113; Present: 101;
For: 101; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**648**-737
**Subject: Conference Board of Pensions**
Committee Item: FA105-737-N
Petition:
20500-FA-737-D, Pg. 364
Membership: 113; Present: 101;
For: 98; Against: 3; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**649**-746
**Subject: Joint Committee on Disability**
Committee Item: FA107-746-N
Petition:
20450-FA-746-D, Pg. 365
Membership: 113; Present: 101;
For: 101; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**650**-746
**Subject: Conference Joint Committee on Disability**
Committee Item: FA108-746-N
Petition:
20501-FA-746-D, Pg. 365
Membership: 113; Present: 101;
For: 101; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**651**-746
**Subject: Joint Committee on Disability**
Committee Item: FA109-746-N
Petition:
21629-FA-746-D, Pg. 365
Membership: 113; Present: 101;
For: 101; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**652**-1606.2
**Subject: Powers, Duties, and Responsibilities**
Committee Item: FA118-1606.2-N
Petition:
22246-FA-1606.2-D, Pg. 1315
Membership: 113; Present: 101;
For: 100; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**653**-906.1
**Subject: Fiscal Responsibilities**
Committee Item: FA121-906.1-N
Petition:
20271-FA-906.1-D, Pg. 368
Membership: 113; Present: 105;
For: 104; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**654**-906.1
**Subject: Fiscal Responsibilities**
Committee Item: FA122-906.1-N
Petition:
22755-FA-906.1-D, Pg. 1312
Membership: 113; Present: 110;
For: 110; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**655**-NonDis
**Subject: Church Structure**
Committee Item: GJ70-NonDis-N
Petitions:
21541-GJ-1001-D, Pg. 1331;
22480-GJ-NonDis-O, Pg. 1335
Membership: 98; Present: 88;
For: 87; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**656**-801
**Subject: The Mission of the Church**
Committee Item: GJ75-801-N
Petition:
20208-GJ-801-D, Pg. 694
Membership: 98; Present: 88;
For: 83; Against: 4; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**657**-808.1
**Subject: Board Organization**
Committee Item: GJ85-808.1-N
Petition:
21060-GJ-808.1-D, Pg. 700
Membership: 98; Present: 87;
For: 86; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**658**-806
**Subject: Eliminate Committee to Nominate Additional Members**
Committee Item: GJ88-806-N
Petition:
20614-GJ-806-D, Pg. 700
Membership: 98; Present: 85;
For: 84; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**659**-826
**Subject: Meetings of General Boards and Agencies**
Committee Item: GJ213-826-N
Petition:
22770-GJ-826-D, Pg. 1330
Membership: 98; Present: 76;
For: 76; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**660**-R401
**Subject: Appalachian Mission**
Committee Item: GM66-R401-N
Petition:
20892-GM-R401-U, Pg. 802
Membership: 126; Present: 109;
For: 109; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**661**-731
**Subject: Board of Global Ministries**
Committee Item: GM69-731-N
Petition:
22278-GM-731-D, Pg. 1358
Membership: 126; Present: 107;
For: 106; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**662**-731.1
**Subject: Annual Conference Board of Global Ministries**
Committee Item: GM70-731.1-N
Petition:
20452-GM-731.1-D, Pg. 750
Membership: 126; Present: 107;
For: 106; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**663**-731
**Subject: The Responsibilities of the Board of Global Ministries**
Committee Item: GM71-731-N
Petition:
20079-GM-731-D, Pg. 749
Membership: 126; Present: 107;
For: 106; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**664**-731
**Subject: Conference Board of Global Ministries**
Committee Item: GM72-731-N
Petition:
20503-GM-731-D, Pg. 749
Membership: 126; Present: 107;
For: 106; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**665**-743
**Subject: United Methodist Women**
Committee Item: GM74-743-N
Petition:
20504-GM-743-D, Pg. 751
Membership: 126; Present: 97;
For: 96; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**666**-1415.1
**Subject: Authority of National Division**
Committee Item: GM75-1415.1-N
Petition:
20626-GM-1415.1-D, Pg. 758
Membership: 126; Present: 98;
For: 97; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**667**-NonDis
**Subject: Welfare to Wholeness**
Committee Item: GM76-NonDis-N
Petition:
20076-GM-NonDis-O, Pg. 762
Membership: 126; Present: 97;
For: 96; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**668**-731
**Subject: Eliminate Annual Conference Board of Global Ministries**
Committee Item: GM78-731-N
Petition:
20478-GM-731-D, Pg. 749
Membership: 126; Present: 106;
For: 106; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**669**-NonDis
**Subject: Restructure of the General Board of Global Ministries**
Committee Item: GM80-NonDis-N
Petition:
20800-GM-NonDis-O, Pg. 1360
Membership: 126; Present: 92;
For: 92; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**670**-1401
**Subject: General Board of Global Ministries**
Committee Item: GM81-1401-N
Petition:
22779-GM-1401-D, Pg. 1358

Membership: 126; Present: 94;
For: 92; Against: 1; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**671**-NonDis
**Subject: Requirements for Missionaries**
Committee Item: GM82-NonDis-N
Petition:
20890-GM-NonDis-O, Pg. 1360
Membership: 126; Present: 92;
For: 91; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**672**-731.5
**Subject: Committee on Parish and Community Development**
Committee Item: GM85-731.5-N
Petition:
20455-GM-731.5-D, Pg. 751
Membership: 126; Present: 105;
For: 105; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**673**-731.5
**Subject: Conference Parish & Development Committee**
Committee Item: GM86-731.5-N
Petition:
22280-GM-731.5-D, Pg. 1358
Membership: 126; Present: 105;
For: 104; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**674**-731.3
**Subject: Conference Secretary of Global Ministries**
Committee Item: GM94-731.3-N
Petition:
20454-GM-731.3-D, Pg. 750
Membership: 126; Present: 107;
For: 100; Against: 5; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**675**-1409.1
**Subject: Election of General Secretary of General Board of Global Ministries**
Committee Item: GM98-1409.1-N
Petition:
20623-GM-1409.1-D, Pg. 753
Membership: 126; Present: 98;
For: 97; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**676**-1409
**Subject: Board Staff**
Committee Item: GM99-1409-N
Petition:
20549-GM-1409-D, Pg. 752
Membership: 126; Present: 98;
For: 98; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**677**-1422
**Subject: Correction of Discriminatory Language**
Committee Item: GM113-1422-N
Petition:
22662-GM-1422-D, Pg. 1358
Membership: 126; Present: 103;
For: 102; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**678**-1422
**Subject: Changing the Name of the Women's Division to the Family Division**
Committee Item: GM114-1422-N
Petition:
22663-GM-1422-D, Pg. 1359
Membership: 126; Present: 101;
For: 101; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**679**-1429
**Subject: Membership of Women's Division**
Committee Item: GM115-1429-N
Petition:
20627-GM-1429-D, Pg. 759
Membership: 126; Present: 101;
For: 100; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**680**-1411.4
**Subject: General Board of Global Ministries Funding**
Committee Item: GM119-1411.4-N
Petition:
20624-GM-1411.4-D, Pg. 754
Membership: 126; Present: 101;
For: 98; Against: 2; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**681**-1441.5
**Subject: Responsibilities of the Health and Welfare Department**
Committee Item: GM126-1441.5-N
Petition:
20324-GM-1441.5-D, Pg. 761
Membership: 126; Present: 102;
For: 102; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**682**-1440
**Subject: Purpose of the Health and Welfare Ministries Department**
Committee Item: GM127-1440-N
Petition:
20323-GM-1440-D, Pg. 761
Membership: 126; Present: 102;
For: 102; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;

Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**683**-1446
**Subject: Financial Support of Health and Welfare Ministries Department**
Committee Item: GM130-1446-N
Petition:
20628-GM-1446-D, Pg. 761
Membership: 126; Present: 103; For: 102; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0; Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**684**-1442
**Subject: Responsibilities of the Health and Welfare Department**
Committee Item: GM131-1442-N
Petition:
20325-GM-1442-D, Pg. 761
Membership: 126; Present: 102; For: 102; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0; Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**685**-NonDis
**Subject: United States Relations with Cuba**
Committee Item: GM133-NonDis-N
Petition:
22522-GM-NonDis-O, Pg. 1369
Membership: 126; Present: 109; For: 109; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0; Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**686**-NonDis
**Subject: Concern for Cuba**
Committee Item: GM134-NonDis-N
Petition:
22645-GM-NonDis-O, Pg. 1370
Membership: 126; Present: 109; For: 109; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0; Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**687**-R634
**Subject: Recognition of Cuba**
Committee Item: GM135-R634-N
Petition:
22519-GM-R634-U, Pg. 1377
Membership: 126; Present: 109; For: 109; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0; Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**688**-NonDis
**Subject: Affirm the Purpose of United Methodist Women**
Committee Item: GM137-NonDis-N
Petition:
20528-GM-NonDis-O, Pg. 764
Membership: 126; Present: 103; For: 103; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0; Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**689**-NonDis
**Subject: Jerusalem**
Committee Item: GM140-NonDis-N
Petition:
20746-GM-NonDis-O, Pg. 154
Membership: 126; Present: 109; For: 109; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0; Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**690**-1506.7
**Subject: Responsibility of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry**
Committee Item: HE24-1506.7-N
Petition:
20898-HE-1506.7-D, Pg. 822
Membership: 86; Present: 74; For: 72; Against: 0; Not Voting: 2; Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**691**-1503
**Subject: Amenability of General Board of Higher Education and Ministry**
Committee Item: HE26-1503-N
Petition:
20629-HE-1503-D, Pg. 822
Membership: 86; Present: 74; For: 70; Against: 2; Not Voting: 2; Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**692**-1506.2
**Subject: Responsibilities of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry**
Committee Item: HE28-1506.2-N
Petition:
20550-HE-1506.2-D, Pg. 822
Membership: 86; Present: 74; For: 73; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1; Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**693**-1504
**Subject: Purpose of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry**
Committee Item: HE33-1504-N
Petition:
22783-HE-1504-D, Pg. 1379
Membership: 86; Present: 74; For: 74; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0; Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**694**-1501
**Subject: General Board of Higher Education and Ministry**
Committee Item: HE34-1501-N
Petition:
22782-HE-1501-D, Pg. 1379
Membership: 86; Present: 74;

For: 73; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**695**-1505
**Subject: Objectives of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry**
Committee Item: HE35-1505-N
Petition:
22784-HE-1505-D, Pg. 1379
Membership: 86; Present: 74;
For: 74; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**696**-1516
**Subject: Financing Higher Education**
Committee Item: HE37-1516-N
Petition:
22787-HE-1516-D, Pg. 1380
Membership: 86; Present: 75;
For: 75; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**697**-1514
**Subject: Responsibilities to General and Annnual Conferences**
Committee Item: HE38-1514-N
Petition:
22786-HE-1514-D, Pg. 1380
Membership: 86; Present: 75;
For: 75; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**698**-1513
**Subject: General Responsibilities**
Committee Item: HE39-1513-N
Petition:
22785-HE-1513-D, Pg. 1380
Membership: 86; Present: 75;
For: 75; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**699**-1515
**Subject: Responsibilities to Institutions**
Committee Item: HE40-1515-N
Petition:
22870-HE-1515-D, Pg. 1380
Membership: 86; Present: 75;
For: 74; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**700**-1906.1
**Subject: Responsibilities of the General Commission on Communication**
Committee Item: IC14-1906.1-N
Petition:
22667-IC-1906.1-D, Pg. 1388
Membership: 71; Present: 69;
For: 68; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**701**-NonDis
**Subject: Conference Publications**
Committee Item: IC15-NonDis-N
Petition:
22428-IC-NonDis-O, Pg. 1396
Membership: 71; Present: 56;
For: 54; Against: 1; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**702**-NonDis
**Subject: Suggested Statement to precede each Press Release, Statement or Study Position Paper**
Committee Item: IC16-NonDis-N
Petition:
22033-IC-NonDis-O, Pg. 1394
Membership: 71; Present: 57;
For: 54; Against: 0; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**703**-NonDis
**Subject: A United Methodist Presence on The Internet**
Committee Item: IC17-NonDis-N
Petition:
22034-IC-NonDis-O, Pg. 1394
Membership: 71; Present: 69;
For: 69; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**704**-2303-$
**Subject: General Commission on Alcohol, Tobacco, and Drugs in the United Methodist Church**
Committee Item: IC18-2303-N$
Petition:
21015-IC-2303-D$, Pg. 1390
Membership: 71; Present: 63;
For: 61; Against: 1; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**705**-2200-$
**Subject: General Commission on Alcohol and Drugs**
Committee Item: IC19-2200-N$
Petitions:
22035-IC-NonDis-O!, Pg. 1394;
22806-IC-2200-D$, Pg. 1388
Membership: 71; Present: 63;
For: 61; Against: 1; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**706**-1907.3
**Subject: Officers of the Commission**
Committee Item: IC23-1907.3-N
Petition:
21379-IC-1907.3-D, Pg. 909
Membership: 71; Present: 69;
For: 66; Against: 2; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 707-1907.2
**Subject: Meetings of the General Commission on Communication**
Committee Item: IC24-1907.2-N
Petition:
21378-IC-1907.2-D, Pg. 909
Membership: 71; Present: 69;
For: 66; Against: 2; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 708-754
**Subject: Eliminate District Director of and Committee on Ethnic Local Church Concerns**
Committee Item: IC54-754-N
Petitions:
20633-IC-754-D, Pg. 906;
20634-IC-755-D, Pg. 906;
20695-IC-2106-D, Pg. 912
Membership: 71; Present: 67;
For: 67; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 709-740.2
**Subject: Basic membership of the Commission on Religion and Race**
Committee Item: IC56-740.2-N
Petitions:
20088-IC-740-D, Pg. 903;
20379-IC-740.1-D, Pg. 903;
20380-IC-740-D, Pg. 903;
20462-IC-740.1-D, Pg. 903;
20463-IC-740.2-D, Pg. 904;
20482-IC-740-D, Pg. 903;
20509-IC-740-D, Pg. 903;
20632-IC-740-D, Pg. 903;
21012-IC-740.3-D, Pg. 1385;
22017-IC-740.1-D, Pg. 1385;
22024-IC-NonDis-O, Pg. 1392;
22809-IC-NonDis-O, Pg. 1402
Membership: 71; Present: 65;
For: 64; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 710-NonDis
**Subject: Concerning Names Demeaning to Native Americans**
Committee Item: IC57-NonDis-N
Petitions:
20895-IC-NonDis-O, Pg. 920;
22427-IC-NonDis-O, Pg. 1395
Membership: 71; Present: 67;
For: 67; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 711-2101.1
**Subject: Amenability of General Commission on Religion and Race**
Committee Item: IC58-2101.1-N
Petitions:
20382-IC-2101-D, Pg. 911;
20645-IC-2101.1-D, Pg. 911;
22423-IC-2101-D, Pg. 1388;
22804-IC-2101-D, Pg. 1388;
22805-IC-2101-D, Pg. 1388
Membership: 71; Present: 66;
For: 65; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 712-NonDis
**Subject: Consultation on Church Union**
Committee Item: IC65-NonDis-N
Petitions:
20083-IC-NonDis-O, Pg. 1391;
20506-IC-NonDis-O, Pg. 917;
20522-IC-NonDis-O, Pg. 918;
22431-IC-NonDis-O, Pg. 1396;
22525-IC-NonDis-O$, Pg. 1397;
22668-IC-NonDis-O, Pg. 1398
Membership: 71; Present: 69;
For: 69; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 713-NonDis
**Subject: Continue Membership of the UMC in the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.**
Committee Item: IC69-NonDis-N
Petitions:
21013-IC-NonDis-O, Pg. 1391;
22028-IC-NonDis-O, Pg. 1393
Membership: 71; Present: 68;
For: 68; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 714-739
**Subject: Eliminate Annual Conference Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns**
Committee Item: IC73-739-N
Petitions:
20086-IC-739-D, Pg. 902;
20460-IC-739.1-D, Pg. 902;
20461-IC-739.2-D, Pg. 902;
20481-IC-739-D, Pg. 902;
20508-IC-739-D, Pg. 902;
21665-IC-739.1-D, Pg. 902
Membership: 71; Present: 67;
For: 67; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 715-R581
**Subject: Holy Land Tours**
Committee Item: IC76-R581-N
Petition:
20383-IC-R581-U, Pg. 940
Membership: 71; Present: 69;
For: 69; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 716-NonDis
**Subject: Adoption of COCU Proposal**
Committee Item: IC82-NonDis-N
Petitions:
20082-IC-NonDis-O, Pg. 915;
22022-IC-NonDis-O, Pg. 1391;
22023-IC-NonDis-O, Pg. 1392
Membership: 71; Present: 69;
For: 68; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 717-2402
**Subject: Covenantal Relationships in the Church of Christ Uniting**
Committee Item: IC85-2402-N
Petitions:
20091-IC-2402-D, Pg. 913;
21071-IC-2402-D, Pg. 914;
21072-IC-2402.1-D, Pg. 914;
21073-IC-2402.1-D, Pg. 914
Membership: 71; Present: 70;
For: 70; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 718-2003
**Subject: Eliminate General Council on Ministries**
Committee Item: IC100-2003-N
Petitions:
20639-IC-1906.21-D, Pg. 908;
20641-IC-1908-D, Pg. 909;
20642-IC-2003-D, Pg. 910;
20643-IC-2004-D, Pg. 910;
20648-IC-2208-D, Pg. 913
Membership: 71; Present: 64;
For: 63; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 719-NonDis
**Subject: To Withdraw Membership from the National Coalition Against Censorship**
Committee Item: IC104-NonDis-N
Petition:
22036-IC-NonDis-O, Pg. 1394
Membership: 71; Present: 61;
For: 59; Against: 2; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 720-NonDis
**Subject: Establish a Steering Committee to study the new "Fast Forum"**
Committee Item: IC105-NonDis-N
Petition:
22717-IC-NonDis-O, Pg. 1401
Membership: 71; Present: 62;
For: 60; Against: 1; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 721-NonDis
**Subject: Eradication of Racism in the United Methodist Church**
Committee Item: IC113-NonDis-N
Petitions:
20033-IC-NonDis-O, Pg. 915;
21078-IC-R248-U, Pg. 934;
21605-IC-R256-U, Pg. 938;
22426-IC-NonDis-O, Pg. 1395;
22492-IC-NonDis-O, Pg. 1396;
22905-IC-NonDis-O, Pg. 1403
Membership: 71; Present: 67;
For: 67; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 722-2402.1
**Subject: The Consultation on Church Union**
Committee Item: IC124-2402.1-N
Petition:
22524-IC-2402.1-D, Pg. 1390
Membership: 71; Present: 70;
For: 64; Against: 4; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 723-NonDis
**Subject: Continue Membership of the United Methodist Church in the Consultation on Church Union**
Committee Item: IC125-NonDis-N
Petition:
22027-IC-NonDis-O, Pg. 1392
Membership: 71; Present: 70;
For: 70; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 724-2001
**Subject: General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns**
Committee Item: IC127-2001-N
Petition:
22802-IC-2001-D, Pg. 1388
Membership: 71; Present: 67;
For: 67; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 725-260
**Subject: Eliminate Local Church Coordinators**
Committee Item: LC13-260-N
Petition:
20670-LC-260-D, Pg. 959
Membership: 89; Present: 57;
For: 55; Against: 0; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence infavor of 20351

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 726-R189
**Subject: Barrier Free Construction for Handicapped**
Committee Item: LC53-R189-N
Petition:
22152-LC-R189-U, Pg. 1427
Membership: 89; Present: 79;
For: 77; Against: 2; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 727-2533
**Subject: Local Church Energy Audit**
Committee Item: LC58-2533-N
Petition:
22533-LC-2533-D, Pg. 1421
Membership: 89; Present: 81;
For: 77; Against: 2; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**728**-2533.1
**Subject: Board of Trustees-Powers and Limitations**
Committee Item: LC60-2533.1-N
Petition:
21598-LC-2533.1-D, Pg. 965
Membership: 89; Present: 81;
For: 78; Against: 3; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**729**-2533.6
**Subject: Accessibility Audit by the Board of Trustees**
Committee Item: LC63-2533.6-N
Petition:
20333-LC-2533.6-D, Pg. 965
Membership: 89; Present: 80;
For: 80; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**730**-2534
**Subject: Planned Giving and Endowments Committee**
Committee Item: LC70-2534-N
Petition:
21599-LC-2534-D, Pg. 965
Membership: 89; Present: 80;
For: 80; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence in favor of Petition 22145.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**731**-2534.5
**Subject: Permanent Endowment Fund Committee**
Committee Item: LC71-2534.5-N
Petition:
22685-LC-2534.5-D, Pg. 1422
Membership: 89; Present: 79;
For: 79; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence in favor of #22145

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**732**-2534.5
**Subject: Permanent Endowment Fund Committee**
Committee Item: LC72-2534.5-N
Petition:
20104-LC-2534.5-D, Pg. 966
Membership: 89; Present: 80;
For: 80; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence infavor of #20424.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**733**-2548.2
**Subject: Deeding Church Property to Federated Churches or Other Evangelical Denominations**
Committee Item: LC85-2548.2-N
Petition:
21093-LC-2548.2-D, Pg. 967
Membership: 89; Present: 81;
For: 79; Against: 1; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**734**-2548.1
**Subject: Deeding Church Property to Federated, Union, or Merged Churches**
Committee Item: LC86-2548.1-N
Petition:
21092-LC-2548.1-D, Pg. 966
Membership: 89; Present: 80;
For: 80; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**735**-2534.5
**Subject: Permanent Endowment Fund Committee**
Committee Item: LC120-2534.5-N
Petition:
22146-LC-2534.5-D, Pg. 1422
Membership: 89; Present: 78;
For: 78; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence in favor of 22145.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**736**-216.1
**Subject: Admission into the Church**
Committee Item: LC121-216.1-N
Petition:
22529-LC-216.1-D, Pg. 1407
Membership: 89; Present: 72;
For: 72; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**737**-210
**Subject: Church Membership**
Committee Item: LC123-210-N
Petition:
20759-LC-210-D, Pg. 946
Membership: 89; Present: 76;
For: 76; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**738**-227
**Subject: Members of the Home Church**
Committee Item: LC125-227-N
Petition:
22719-LC-227-D, Pg. 1408
Membership: 89; Present: 78;
For: 78; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**739**-230
**Subject: Church Council and Inactive Church Members**
Committee Item: LC126-230-N
Petition:
20653-LC-230-D, Pg. 950
Membership: 89; Present: 73;
For: 73; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence in favor of 21442.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**740**-257
**Subject: Responsibilities**
Committee Item: LC132-257-N

Petition:
21032-LC-257-D, Pg. 1414
Membership: 89; Present: 77;
For: 77; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**741**-250.8
**Subject: The Election of Committee Members and Chairpersons**
Committee Item: LC133-250.8-N
Petition:
22677-LC-250.8-D, Pg. 1413
Membership: 89; Present: 78;
For: 77; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**742**-205
**Subject: The Gifts of the Lay Ministry Steward**
Committee Item: MN80-205-N
Petition:
21765-MN-205-D, Pg. 987
Membership: 113; Present: 103;
For: 101; Against: 1; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**743**-204
**Subject: The Nature of the Office of Lay Ministry Steward**
Committee Item: MN85-204-N
Petition:
21763-MN-204-D, Pg. 986
Membership: 113; Present: 103;
For: 100; Against: 1; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**744**-116
**Subject: The Office of Lay Ministry Steward**
Committee Item: MN99-116-N
Petition:
21751-MN-116-D, Pg. 984
Membership: 113; Present: 102;
For: 97; Against: 4; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

# Calendar Items

**745**-747
**Subject: Annual Conference Committees on Disability Concerns**
Committee Item: CO82-747-A
Petition:
21472-CO-747-D, Pg. 200
Membership: 86; Present: 72;
For: 56; Against: 6; Not Voting: 10;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

To the sentence, There shall be in each Annual Conference a **Committee on Disability Concerns** add the following: , or an equivalent structure.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**746**-703.7
**Subject: Organization of the Annual Conference**
Committee Item: CO86-703.7-N
Petition:
22625-CO-703.7-D, Pg. 1267
Membership: 86; Present: 77;
For: 69; Against: 6; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**747**-703.7
**Subject: Organization of the Annual Conference**
Committee Item: CO87-703.7-C
Petition:
22178-CO-703.7-D, Pg. 1267
Membership: 86; Present: 78;
For: 56; Against: 19; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**748**-749
**Subject: Committee on Criminal Justice and Mercy Ministries**
Committee Item: CO88-749-A
Petition:
22188-CO-749-D, Pg. 1271
Membership: 86; Present: 77;
For: 50; Against: 25; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

On Line 1, delete shall and insert is encouraged to

On Line 12, delete the sentence A minimum of three lay and three clergy persons shall compose the committee.

On Line 15, after ...which shares social justice concerns. add a new sentence The results of the work in this area will be reported to the Annual Conference.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**749**-752.2
**Subject: District Council on Ministries Membership include Criminal Justice and Mercy Ministries Coordinator**
Committee Item: CO89-752.2-C
Petition:
22190-CO-752.2-D, Pg. 1271
Membership: 86; Present: 77;
For: 49; Against: 24; Not Voting: 4;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**750**-752.4
**Subject: Dist. Council on Ministry include Criminal Justice and Mercy Ministries as Program Responsibility**
Committee Item: CO90-752.4-A
Petition:
22191-CO-752.4-D, Pg. 1271
Membership: 86; Present: 77;

For: 47; Against: 25; Not Voting: 5;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

In Line 5, delete shall and insert may

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 751-NonDis-!
**Subject: Executive Summary of Proposed Korean American Missionary Conference**
Committee Item: CO176-NonDis-A!
Petition:
21731-CO-NonDis-O$
Membership: 86; Present: 75;
For: 68; Against: 2; Not Voting: 5;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Delete everything beginning with the title, Executive Summary of Proposed Korean American Missionary Conference through the end of Petition 21731 and substitute in lieu thereof:

RESOLUTION STRENGTHENING KOREAN MINISTRY

**WHEREAS many Korean-American clergy and lay within the United Methodist Church and unchartered mission congregations appear to experience many difficulties in English language, socio-cultural adjustment, and serve their churches within the United Methodist structure as indicated by petition 21731;**

**THEREFORE, be it resolved that an inclusive task force be appointed by the Council of Bishops in consultation with the GBGM and the National Association of Korean-American United Methodist churches, and the National Association of Korean-American United Methodist clergywomen, which shall include three clergymen, three clergywomen, three Korean-American laymen, and three laywomen, three transgeneration clergy, and up to three Bishops;**

**That the task force conduct a comprehensive study of the concerns and needs presented by, but not limited to, Petition 21731;**

**That the task force report the result of its study, including recommendations to the General Conference of year 2000 advising ways to help the United Methodist Church in Korean-American ministry and assisting Korean-American clergy and laity in fulfilling their mission and ministry effectively within the United Methodist structure;**

**That to implement this resolution a sum of $150,000 be allocated over the next quadrennium; and**

**That the funds be administered by the GBGM.**

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 752-70
**Subject: Science and Technology**
Committee Item: CS7-70-A
Petition:
20921-CS-70-D, Pg. 117
Membership: 102; Present: 88;
For: 81; Against: 7; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Add a sentence after the addition (underlined in this copy)

Delete the first paragraph of ¶70*E* and substitute new text:

*E) Science and Technology.* **We recognize science and technology as an interpretation and use of Gods natural world.** Given the limitation of scientific facts alone, the Church could bless the scientific community with depths of interpretation drawn from things of the Spirit.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 753-75
**Subject: General and Complete Disarmament**
Committee Item: CS42-75-A
Petition:
20059-CS-75-D, Pg. 1229
Membership: 102; Present: 87;
For: 74; Against: 9; Not Voting: 4;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Restore that the militarization of society must be challenged and stopped; that the manufacture, sale, and deployment of armaments must be reduced and controlled; and that the production, possession, or use of nuclear weapons be condemned.

Petition will now read:

Amend the second sentence of ¶ 75*C*:

We therefore reject war...as governments determine their priorities; that the militarization of society must be challenged and stopped; that the manufacture, sale, and deployment of armaments must be reduced and controlled; and that the production, possession, or use of nuclear weapons be condemned. **Consequently we endorse general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control.**

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 754-NonDis
**Subject: Support "English Only" language**
Committee Item: CS87-NonDis-N
Petition:
20062-CS-NonDis-O, Pg. 1255
Membership: 102; Present: 92;
For: 83; Against: 6; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 755-76
**Subject: Our Social Creed**
Committee Item: CS109-76-N
Petition:
22328-CS-76-D, Pg. 1230
Membership: 102; Present: 86;
For: 72; Against: 14; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 756-NonDis
**Subject: Creation of Commitment Ceremonies for Same-Sex Couples within the United Methodist Church**
Committee Item: DI57-NonDis-N
Petition:
22408-DI-NonDis-O, Pg. 1298
Membership: 112; Present: 105;
For: 89; Against: 13; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 757-NonDis
**Subject: Continuation of Enrollment in the Comprehensive Protection Plan as a Student Local Pastor**
Committee Item: FA59-NonDis-N

Petition:
20953-FA-NonDis-O, Pg. 386
Membership: 113; Present: 94;
For: 84; Against: 8; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**758**-NonDis
**Subject: Employees/Retirees Pension Fund**
Committee Item: FA71-NonDis-R
Petition:
22639-FA-NonDis-O, Pg. 1322
Membership: 113; Present: 102;
For: 95; Against: 7; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends referral to The General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**759**-737
**Subject: Conference Board of Pensions**
Committee Item: FA106-737-N
Petition:
21628-FA-737-D, Pg. 365
Membership: 113; Present: 101;
For: 91; Against: 10; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**760**-906.1
**Subject: Fiscal Responsibilities**
Committee Item: FA120-906.1-N
Petition:
20416-FA-906.1-D, Pg. 368
Membership: 113; Present: 109;
For: 98; Against: 11; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**761**-NonDis
**Subject: In Support of the General Council on Ministries**
Committee Item: GJ68-NonDis-C
Petition:
22708-GJ-NonDis-O, Pg. 1338
Membership: 98; Present: 88;
For: 81; Against: 6; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**762**-NonDis-$
**Subject: Strengthening the Black Church**
Committee Item: GJ121-NonDis-C$
Petition:
21677-GJ-NonDis-O$, Pg. 579
Membership: 98; Present: 87;
For: 86; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**763**-NonDis
**Subject: Celebrate and Implement the Focus on Young People: Walking Together in the Way that Leads to Life**
Committee Item: GJ127-NonDis-N
Petition:
22747-GJ-NonDis-O$, Pg. 1305
Membership: 98; Present: 84;
For: 74; Against: 10; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**764**-NonDis-MR$
**Subject: Connectional Issues Study**
Committee Item: GJ149-NonDis-A$
Petition:
21676-GJ-NonDis-O$, Pg. 551
Membership: 98; Present: 92;
For: 90; Against: 2; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

**Mandate and Implementation**

The 1992 General Conference adopted Calendar Item 213 on page 237 of the *Daily Christian Advocate* which directed the General Council on Ministries (GCOM) to implement the following action:

*1. That during the 1993-96 quadrennium the General Council on Ministries lead the church in a time of discernment, reflection, and study of its mission and its structural needs as it moves into the 21st century. The Council will do this by consulting groups across the church, conducting appropriate research, and developing and utilizing resource materials.*

*2. That the General Council on Ministries continue to fulfill its disciplinary responsibilities in reviewing the churchs structures and report its findings and any recommendations to the 1996 General Conference.*

*3. That in fulfillment of the above responsibilities the General Council on Ministries consult with the Council of Bishops, the General Council on Finance and Administration, the Commission on Central Conference Affairs, central conference agencies and/or leaders, annual conference and local church leaders, general agencies, and other appropriate groups.*

In response to this directive the General Council on Ministries developed a comprehensive design called the **Connectional Issues Study.** The studys purpose was to enter into a collaborative process to discern Gods will for United Methodism into the 21st century through an ongoing process of listening, reflecting/reviewing and recommending, which prompted more listening and developed an ongoing transforming feedback process that involved the whole United Methodist Church. This discernment of the denominationss future needs has involved myriad constituencies across the church, providing opportunities to listen and gather important ideas, insights, and information that have been integrated and tested within the ongoing design of the study. It has been intentional in seeking to hear from the grass roots of United Methodism and to learn where God is leading United Methodists.

The Connectional Issues Study was done in collaboration with the Council of Bishops including its Global Nature of the Church Committee; The General Council on Finance and Administration; the general agencies of the Church; and church leaders from local churches, annual conferences, and central conferences. It included specific involvement with annual conference lay leaders, annual conference council directors, the general secretaries and directors of general agencies. The responsibility for this listening and reflection was assigned to the GCOM Connectional Issues Task Force. It presented regular reports to the Councils Division on Conferences and Connectional Issues and in turn to the full membership of the Council.

**Central Components of the Connectional Issues Study**

**Faithful, Listening Disciples** a Bible Study and video based on the Gospel of Mark providing biblical basis for the envisioning process. Four hundred videos were distributed, and local churches used this study and responded on the survey sheet.

**Annual Conference Survey** a grass roots survey of nearly 35,000 members on vision, mission, and structure of The United Methodist Church administered to each lay and clergy member of the annual conferences at their 1994 sessions. Translations were made into Korean and Spanish, as well as several European languages. Results were summarized by Rollins Center for Church Ministries at Candler School of Theology under the direction of Dr. Thomas E. Frank.

**Town Meeting of Annual Conferences Council Directors** a setting providing significant linkage with leadership in the annual conferences for input into the design phase of the study and foundational material for understanding the needs of the local, district, and annual conferences to be enabled for vital ministry.

**Hearing Vital Congregations** telephone interviews conducted by members of the General Council on Ministries with leaders of three to five churches in each annual conference where mission and ministry are happening.

**Consultation with Council of Bishops and General Council on Finance and Administration** major presentations at the fall 1994 meetings of these Councils. Summary of data gathered was shared and ownership of the direction of study was established. Focus was made on potential structure scenes which emerged early in 1995. Further consultations were held at spring and fall 1995 meetings of both Councils.

**Consultations with General Agencies** held to ensure input from general agencies. Primary consultations occurred between November 1994 and February 1995 and during the fall of 1995. Members of the General Council on Ministries General Agency Relationships Division were involved in the consultations, and extensive notes were recorded.

**Consultations with Central Conferences** meetings already scheduled for interfacing with people in the annual conferences of the Central Conferences were used: Philippines (January 1994), Africa Church Growth & Development (June 1994), Vienna (September 1994), and World Methodist Council (October 1994), and several European countries (March 1995).

**Listening to the Church** opportunities for reflection on present and emerging visions of the annual conferences. The purpose of this component was to hear directly from the leadership of the several annual conferences through the GCOM member of the annual conference. These annual conference leaders reviewed and reflected on the summarized annual conference vision/structure recommendations of all annual conferences coming from Dr. Thomas E. Frank and the Rollins Center.

**Forum of Thirty-Two** a group representative of the total church. They met twice and provided significant data and input into the study from their areas of expertise and insights. They also were asked to give ongoing critique of the study to the Task Force.

**Collaboration and Consultation with the Duke University Divinity School/Lilly Endowment Study of Methodism and American Culture** A member of the Connectional Issues Task Force was invited to be a leadership participant and an executive staff member of GCOM was invited as an official observer in the Duke/Lilly Study to keep abreast of the findings and input from this significant research project. Members of the Task Force were present for the summary findings presented by the Duke /Lilly Study on August 25 - 28, 1995 at St. Simons Island, Georgia. This data was reviewed and reflected upon in the process of completing the study.

**Consultations with United Methodist Related Caucuses and Organizations** scheduled meetings of caucuses and organizations were used to seek input into the study. Meetings were held with annual conference council directors, National Association of Annual Conference Lay Leaders, Inter-Ethnic Strategy Development Group, United Methodist Association of Health and Welfare Ministries, United Methodist Congress of the Deaf, United Methodist National Youth Ministry Organization, and National Association of Schools and Colleges of The United Methodist Church.

**Annual Conference Vision Statements** annual conferences vision/identity/structure statements responding to the survey instrument were received and analyzed. Results were initially summarized by the Rollins Center, under direction of Dr. Thomas E. Frank.

**United Methodist Structure** a special work team from across the GCOM complemented the Connectional Issues Study Task Force in developing a structural foundation to carry out the church's mission that is consistent with the emerging vision for The United Methodist Church.

**Summary of Key Findings for the Connectional Issues Study**

During this quadrennium, the Connectional Issues Study process involved intensive listening to various individuals and groups across the church. This effort led to thousands of responses and the collection of essential information, which was analyzed and combined with other information to form various themes and trends. These themes and trends were widely distributed for review and reflection. A series of consultations was also held with various organizational units and caucuses of the denomination to seek input and reaction to the data. In addition, several drafts of the evolving Connectional Issues Study report were distributed across the church inviting responses through specific instruments including voice-mail, fax, and mailings.

From the myriad listenings, reflections, and input from across the church, the Connectional Issues Study processes have provided 15 key findings which are described in detail on pages ____ of the report. The following descriptive words and phrases capture the essence of these findings:

**A United Methodist Church**

**alive, vital and intensively involved in mission and ministry throughout the world**

**crying for a clearer vision**

**seeking a Christ-centered, spiritual foundation**

**a church inclusive of all persons**

**committed to connectionalism**

**Local Congregations, the primary base for mission and ministry**

**Effective communication needed across the church**

**Structural flexibility**

**Continued vital Episcopal leadership**

**General Church Agencies**

**resourcing and serving congregations**

**reduced in size appropriately**

From these findings the General Council on Ministries concluded that The United Methodist Church must articulate Gods vision for the denomination before formal structures are developed or imposed. Further, the focus of the denominations resourcing processes must be on the actual doing of mission and ministry,

empowered and directed at the place where ministry is unfolding. In light of these principles, the granting of some flexibility in annual conference and local church structures, the clear need for servant leadership and the direction for a continued vital United Methodism became clearer and more focused.

**Call For Action**

Given these principled directions, the study moved to focus on the development of a call for action that would refine and bring reformation and self-organization into an ongoing vital denomination that has a crucial place and role as the people of God into the 21st century. The historic mission of Jesus Christ is still our call to action. The church must be in a covenant relationship through our accountability to the historic identity and purpose of the denomination.

Details of this **call for action** are found below on pages ____ of the report. Here are some key elements of this call.

**a vision-driven ministry**

**doing Gods will in ministry**

**accountability of connectional structures**

**a collaborative style of interaction**

**organizational flexibility**

**regional conferences**

**global conference**

**optimum size of general agencies**

**greater role of laity**

**decision-making at the place of ministry**

**servant leadership**

What follows in this Connectional Issues Study Report to the 1996 General Conference offers a challenge and opportunity to the church to be vitally engaged in mission and ministry on behalf of Jesus Christ as together Gods people move into the 21st century.

**The Report of the**

**Connectional Issues Study**

**of the General Council on Ministries**

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**Introduction**

The faithful Church remains open to what God is doing in the world. It transforms its institutions and practices in alignment with an understanding of authentic Christian mission. In the spirit of Jesus Christ, disciples corporately and individually act boldly and creatively to reflect Gods light to the nations, to call persons to learn Christs servant ways and participate in Gods purposes. Throughout history, when the Body of Christ has been open to Gods new creation and willing to journey toward Gods promise, the Holy Spirit has breathed vitality into its forms and blessed its ministry.

Seeking to be aligned with Gods perceived activity in the present day, The United Methodist Church is urged to review its mission, faithfully revise the goals of its shared ministry, and bring its priorities and practices into line with this understanding. Merely adapting portions of the official connection for the sake of institutional survival or in order to entrench old and ineffective authority patterns is insufficient response to Jesus entreaty that our righteousness exceed that of the Scribes and Pharisees.

The radical nature of change today calls for thoroughly rethinking both personal practices and connectional patterns. By Gods grace we can discover a new way of seeing things, a paradigm shift more appropriate to the needs of our present day. Such a shift in thinking and acting will best be grounded in diligent Bible study, prayerful discernment, and open dialogue with intentional focus on

**The ministry of all Christians**

**The essential role of congregations in ministry and mission**

**The support functions of connectional units**

**An open approach to connectional structures and communications**

**A strategy for placing decision-making as close as possible to the point of ministry**

**Flexibility, accountability, and broad inclusivity operating throughout the connection**

The 1992 General Conference commissioned the General Council on Ministries to

**... lead the church in a period of discernment, reflection, and study of its mission and structure as it moves into the 21st century.**

Working through a Connectional Issues Study Task Force and with the cooperation of a wide range of United Methodist colleague groups, the General Council on Ministries brings the following report.

This report

(1) presents a studied synopsis of what is being heard through a broadly-based process of listening and dialogue,

(2) seeks to identify key concerns which will contribute to a shared and motivating vision, and

(3) suggests first steps toward restructuring the church by giving flexibility and guidance to local churches and annual conferences, while calling for accountability and enhanced communication from general church agencies which are called with all others to assume a servant role within a purposeful connection.

**Mission and Vision**

From the beginning the people of God have been called out, blessed to be a bless-

ing, set apart for mission and given the tasks of being a light to the nations, and making disciples for Jesus Christ. This calling has given the church its identity and formed the basis for an understood purpose.

As we move into a new century, the church is called to live out its identity, purpose and mission and to journey by faith toward Gods promise. While the values which shape the body of Christ and the mission which directs the nature of its ministry are foundational, it is imperative that the Church articulate the vision of a preferred future condition. Such a vital vision with prioritized long-range and intermediate goals can energize a covenant people and result in a vibrant church. In the face of present day challenges, it is imperative that The United Methodist Church discover at every point in our lives together how to express appropriate visions and form consistent structures so that the Holy Spirit may more likely move through us and cause our core values and beliefs to be more evident in our dealings with each other and the world.

As in other historic periods of intense social and cultural change, the challenge to existing structures and patterns is real and immediate. Laity and clergy alike are asking:

How can The United Methodist Church stay true to its calling, mission, history, and traditions while adapting to meet the diverse and expanding needs of those whom Christ calls us to serve?

In recent years, this question has taken many forms across the connection.

How can we be focused on a vision and mission in all of our work?

How can we develop a shared vision and leadership that the church needs?

How can the annual conferences improve effectiveness in mission and vision?

How can the local churches better understand and utilize the general agency structures and resources for ministry?

How can the agencies better understand the needs of local churches?

How can we learn to be inclusive in all that we do?

How can our mission and structure reflect the global nature of The United Methodist Church?

Such questions challenge the Church to persevere with ministries of hope in the midst of declining membership, to demonstrate faithful and creative stewardship in the face of reduced funding from some parts of The United Methodist Church, to effect open communication and empowering connections in response to growing anxiety about institutional structures, and to address perceptions of low morale among clergy and laity by refocusing upon the potential for a Christ-formed servant ministry in and to the world where God still actively creates.

Aware of the ferment within The United Methodist Church and seeking to benefit from both the old wine of our tradition and the new wine of the Holy Spirit, members of the General Council on Ministries have sifted the treasures of our tradition and searched for places in which these concerns are being effectively addressed through both traditional and creative ministries and where the church is vibrant and growing.

For more than three years, the members of the GCOM, through the Connectional Issues Study,

have listened to voices from across the global connection and undergirded by Bible study, prayer, and thoughtful discussion have reflected on the collected data.

In the following recommendations, the fruits of this listening to God and to one another are evidenced in

A renewed mission statement

A vision statement for world and church

An identification of shared values to inform our transformation journey

A set of structural principles to provide a framework for an interactive system of shared mission and connected ministries while emphasizing flexibility, broadly-based inclusiveness, and missional accountability

A process to effect organizational transformation through ongoing consensus building that remains focused on servant ministry and seeks self-renewal.

**The Vision For The United Methodist Church**

We believe that an appropriate vision for The United Methodist Church should be a biblically-grounded, God-given picture of the preferred future for the Body of Christ. Aware that God calls us to live this vision into reality, we understand a forming vision is grounded in The United Methodist Church's identity, purpose and mission as affirmed in the Preamble to the Constitution.

*The Church is a community of all true believers under the Lordship of Christ. It is the redeemed and redeeming fellowship in which the Word of God is preached by persons divinely called, and the Sacraments are duly administered according to Christ's own appointment. Under the discipline of the Holy Spirit the Church seeks to provide for the maintenance of worship, the edification of believers, and the redemption of the world.*

*The Church of Jesus Christ exists in and for the world, and its very dividedness is a hindrance to its mission in that world.* (*The Book of Discipline*, 1992 - Preamble to The Constitution, page 21)

In designing the next steps in our shared journey, the Connectional Issues Study Task Force utilized the following working vision and offers it to the church for study and guidance:

**Our VISION is of a world transformed into the likeness of Christ where faithful persons actively manifest the love of God and neighbor while fostering true community among all persons.**

This **VISION** is carried out within an interactive system of:

**DISCIPLES** who live, teach, and model a Christlike service in and to the world;

**CONGREGATIONS** that invite, nurture, equip, and send faithful disciples into the world as living witnesses to the sovereignty of Christ;

**ANNUAL CONFERENCES AND DISTRICTS** that connect local churches in mission by providing support and training, leadership personnel, and resources;

**REGIONAL AND GLOBAL CONFERENCES** that provide this connection with information and resources to enhance faithful discipleship.

The mission of the church as stated in ¶ 69 of *The Book of Discipline, 1992* resonates with the findings of the study when it says:

*Mission is the action of the God of grace who creates out of love, who calls a covenant people community, who graciously redeems and reconciles a broken and sinful people in Jesus Christ, and who through the Holy Spirit calls the church into being as the instrument of the good news of grace to all people. Mission is also the church's grateful response to what God has done, is doing, and will do. A grace-formed church is one which responsibly participates in God's action in and for the world. (The Book of Discipline, 1992 - ¶ 69, p. 85)*

**Findings From Our Study**

This section reports the key findings from our study, gathered from across the church in many settings. These findings indicate several conclusions which are essential to understand the recommendations found later in this report.

During this quadrennium, the Connectional Issues Study was initiated through intensive listening to various individuals and groups across the church. This effort

led to thousands of responses and the collection of essential information. The data from each listening was analyzed and combined with other information to form various themes and trends.

These themes and trends were widely distributed for review and reflection. A series of consultations was also held with various organizational units and caucuses of the denomination to seek input and reaction to the initial data. In addition, the first draft of a report was distributed across the church with an invitation for response.

These listenings have provided the following key findings for our study.

We found that:

1. **The United Methodist Church is alive, vital, and intensively involved in the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ in many places throughout the world.** The United Methodist Church has a window of opportunity for significant service to Christ and the world into the 21st century. We find that our church has the will and adequate resources to engage the world with Christ's message of love, peace and hope.

We found that:

2. **The church is crying for a clearer vision, focused direction and Christ-led servant leadership throughout our denomination.** We found that the most common theme within the data is a cry for a clearer biblically-based vision, led by dedicated lay and ordained/consecrated persons. Effective clergy leadership is seen as critical to the vitality of local churches. Lay and clergy leadership trained for partnership is an equally critical need for the church. The study identifies as critical the recruitment, training, placement, and evaluation of both pastoral and lay leadership for the future. Mission and ministry are understood as the work of the whole people of God.

We found that:

3. **Our people are seeking a Christ-centered spiritual foundation**. The data shows a desire for increased emphasis on Bible study, prayer and spiritual renewal. The church should address this spiritual hunger within its membership. The center of our preaching is and always will be the message of God's saving grace through Jesus Christ. We should experience and offer the transforming, liberating power of God, living out the redeeming love of Jesus Christ through nurturing communities and serving the needs of others throughout the global community.

We found that:

4. **The local congregation is understood as the primary base for mission and ministry and the foundation for everything that happens in the denomination.** The data shows widespread affirmation for empowered local congregations as the primary center for relational and outreach mission and ministry, consistent with the centrality of connectionalism. Also identified clearly is the need for adequate resourcing for local congregations to be vital and effective. Those areas cited most often were spiritual development, evangelism, Christian conduct, social justice, and vital and culturally diverse worship.

We found that:

5. Many parts of the church are preoccupied with maintenance of the institution. This finding is the strongest in reference to general agencies, annual conferences, and other leadership groups within the denomination. It is perceived that the transformation of persons and communities, and caring relational ministries become secondary to the status of position, style, and structures that keep the status quo and control. There is great concern that "business as usual" calls for substantial money and energy from local congregations. The data indicates an unwillingness to continue to fund such practices.

We found that:

6. Effective communication is needed throughout the denomination to knit the body together and energize its ministry. The need for more effective communication is a major theme throughout the study. It is seen as the basis of the connection, an opportunity for evangelism, and a healing force within the church. Local church people do not feel resourced and express a significant sense of disconnection. The data indicates that finances are not a major problem, but rather ineffective interpretation and communication limit the response from our people. Our study also indicates that agencies of the church need to listen to local churches and their needs as they plan.

We found that:

7. **The church must be inclusive of all persons**. The study data affirms the call to openness and inclusivity across the church. The gifts, wisdom and experience of all are genuinely needed as the church moves into the 21st century. The findings call us to celebrate our diversity in Christ at every physical, cultural and social boundary. There is an expressed concern that any change will further disenfranchise, if not totally abandon, persons of color and ethnic groups, and lose their valuable contributions to the body of Christ.

We found that:

8. **Structural flexibility at the annual conference, district and local church is needed to allow all to carry out mission and ministry.** While acknowledging the importance of the connection, one of the strongest findings is that local churches and annual conferences identify a need to adjust their organizational structures to adapt to their own mission and ministry situations. There is a clear call to provide flexibility in required organization to provide for innovation and response to quickly changing environments. This need for flexibility, however, is tempered with the acknowledgment of the need to preserve sufficient consistency so that the connection will remain viable.

We found that:

9. **Our people have a commitment to share the responsibilities and benefits of connectionalism.** Data confirms the importance of the connection and indicate its significance in the experience of United Methodists. While connectionalism is seen as central to the theological and historical roots of United Methodism, respondents indicate a concern that its theological understandings are being superseded by its institutional applications.

We found that:

10. **Our history of worldwide outreach and ecumenical cooperation will be essential ingredients as we plan for the future.** Many persons who contributed data spoke of the ecumenical and global nature of the church as essential qualities. In spite of perceived administrative and financial difficulties, the overwhelming voice spoke for a global church and ecumenical involvements for our future.

We found that:

11. **The leadership of bishops in their spiritual and temporal roles is affirmed.** The data generally identifies a need for effective leadership and a corporate need for direction-setting and accountability. In conversations with the Council of Bishops, their role as spiritual and temporal leaders was noted and affirmed as essential to our future.

We found that:

12. **Many in our church express a lack of satisfaction with the general agencies of The United Methodist Church.** The data shows that these perceptions lead to calls for downsizing and more effective resourcing for mission and ministry needs at the annual conferences and local churches. Our study clearly indicates a need for greater efficiency, discipline, and accountability in the use of

human, natural, and financial resources to meet well-defined goals. While the study documents these needs, it also identifies appreciation for the ministries and expertise of the general agencies. Our study also finds that the general agencies are often perceived as independent entities that promote their particular interests rather than resource ministries of local churches and annual conferences, and that ministry efforts are not well coordinated.

We found that:

13. **General agencies receive some positive evaluations of their resources and services by their constituencies.** Consequently, in conversations the general agencies did not generally acknowledge expressions of dissatisfaction voiced toward their specific agency.

We found that:

14. **The size of the general church organization needs to be reduced.** The data received supports reduction in the size of general agency membership and staff. It also calls for preserving the value of inclusive representation. Several general agencies indicate that a reduction in the number of elected members is feasible.

We found that:

15. **A serious disconnection exists between the general program agencies and the annual conference councils on ministries.** The data indicate that annual conferences are planning for emphases that they do not believe can be effectively resourced by the general agencies. Corollary to this concern is the finding that the services offered by agencies often do not match the needs or emphases of annual conferences.

**The Call For Action**

The United Methodist Church has an opportunity to address the issues that face the denomination and prepare ourselves for greater ministry in the coming decades. The historic mission of Jesus Christ is still our call to action.

The Connectional Issues Study has provided extensive listening to all constituencies in our church. Our most faithful response to Gods leading, as voiced by our people, is to analyze ourselves carefully as we prepare for the future.

Many voices have offered constructive critique of our current efforts and challenge us to reform our approaches to ministry so that we might be more effective in focusing on the mission and ministry of all Christians to transform the world.

It is clear to us that these voices are in harmony with the leading of Gods spirit as we understand it.

The findings in the study prompt concerns. The United Methodist Church is strong and effective in many settings. However, the findings indicate serious disconnection from the highest ideals of our common ministry. It is time to reconnect our valued understanding of shared mission which has provided effective ministry at every context in our denomination.

These recommendations are intended to:

**Reflect a vision-driven understanding of ministry** that will provide focused mission and resourcing to respond to the concerns and hopes of all our congregations

**Focus on doing Gods will in** ministry, rather than preserving a particular institution or organization.

**Call for the accountability of our connectional structures** and rebuild the sense of common mission across the denomination through a shared vision. At its best, our connectional style of ministry has provided effective outreach in ways not possible by a single or group of congregations. This need is great in our future and we must regain the confidence of United Methodists that our organization will fulfill their response to Gods call for mission and ministry.

**Seek to enhance a collaborative style of interaction among all parts** of the church organization. We expect that these adjustments, energized by a clear vision from God for our work, can replace independence with interdependence and cooperation across the church.

**Respond to the disconnections cited in findings 6, 8, and 12 through 15 of the Connectional Issues Study.** Central to this understanding is the interactive process which is presented in principle on pages 18 through 20 of this report. Further, the interactive design is based upon the principles stated as The Identity, Purpose and Mission of The United Methodist Church (pages 11-17). The interactive connectional process and its organizational components will require additional study and analysis as the church moves toward its implementation.

**Call for the utilization of the local church conference** as the visioning and policy-setting body for the mission and ministry of the local congregation.

**Call for organizational flexibility for the conferences.** This recommendation for flexibility is needed to encourage congregations and conferences to organize for effective mission and ministry while maintaining the connectional linkages that are vital to our heritage.

**Call for the creation of regional conferences** to provide for ministry within a specified geographical region.

**Call for the creation of a global conference** to care for all matters distinctively connectional for The United Methodist Church.

**Call for the optimum size of general agencies membership and staff** with sensitivity to inclusivity and representativeness. We are convinced that new models for connectional linkage will be developed and can provide greater resourcing for annual conferences, districts and local congregations in the future. The appropriate agency staff size designed to meet the needs of each agency must also be considered as these structural components are finalized.

**Call for greater role of laity** in the mission and ministry of the church in every context. Lay persons, baptized into ministry, embody the love of Jesus Christ in the church and the world. Lay persons do ministry.

**Call for decision-making at the place of ministry** in order to empower those in general ministry while holding each other faithful to the God-given vision of the church serving the community and the world.

**Call for servant leadership.** We recognize the gifts and talents of all believers who are instruments of God within the body of Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit to lead and serve each other as we live out the vision of a world transformed into the likeness of Christ.

We urge you to give serious consideration to The Recommendations for Mission and Ministry of The United Methodist Church into the 21st Century in this report. It is our prayer that they will give greater vision, collaboration and support as we seek to be faithful to our Identity, Purpose and Mission as Gods people.

**The Identity, Purpose and Mission of The United Methodist Church**

**(Core Values and Beliefs)**

The identity, purpose and mission of The United Methodist Church are grounded in historical core values and beliefs which provide the foundation for mission and ministry in the Church. The Connectional Issues Study process, through listening to the church and gathering data, has identified core values and beliefs in language that reflects the traditions of the church as it emerges in today's social and missional contexts. These core

values and beliefs are listed in alphabetical order:

Annual conference
Connectionalism
Doctrinal heritage
Ecumenism
Education
Evangelism
Global character
Inclusiveness of the church
Local church
Ministry of all Christians
Mission
Mutual accountability
Scriptural holiness
Social justice
Stewardship
Vital worship

These historical core values and beliefs are consistent with *The Book of Discipline*, 1992 which states:

*... all Christians share a common history. Within that history, Christian tradition precedes Scripture, and yet Scripture comes to be the focal expression of the tradition. As United Methodists, we pursue our theological task in openness to the richness of both the form and power of tradition. (The Book of Discipline, 1992 - ¶ 68, p. 79)*

*The Book of Discipline*, 1992 delineates each of these core values and beliefs of United Methodists in various paragraphs which the GCOM has identified as the foundation for recommendations of the study.

**Annual Conference**

As declared in the Constitution we believe the Annual Conference is the basic body in the Church... . (*The Book of Discipline*, 1992 - The Constitution, ¶ 36, Article II, p. 31)

*The purpose of the Annual Conference is to make disciples for Jesus Christ by equipping its local churches for ministry and by providing a connection for ministry beyond the local church all to the glory of God. (The Book of Discipline*, 1992 - ¶ 701, p. 328) (See also The Constitution ¶ 10, p. 23)

*The Annual Conference shall provide for the connectional relationship between the general boards and commissions and the conference, district, and local church. (The Book of Discipline, 1992 - ¶ 707, p. 338)*

**Connectionalism**

We are connectional in witness and community.

*The United Methodist connectional principle, born out of our historical tradition, many biblical roots, and accepted theological ideas, is the basic form of our polity, the way in which we carry out God's mission as a people.*

*It is in essence a network of interdependent relationships among persons and groups throughout the life of the whole denomination.*

*It declares that our identity is in our wholeness together in Christ that each part is vital to the whole, that our mission is more effectively carried out by a connectional life which incorporates Wesleyan zeal into the life of the people. (The Book of Discipline*, 1992 - ¶ 112.3, p. 112)

**Our Doctrinal Heritage**

We have faith in Jesus Christ and uphold basic Christian affirmations. We also affirm distinctive Wesleyan emphases.

*United Methodists profess the historic Christian faith in God, incarnate in Jesus Christ for our salvation and ever at work in human history in the Holy Spirit. Living in a covenant of grace under the Lordship of Jesus Christ, we participate in the first fruits of God's coming reign and pray in hope for its full realization on earth as in heaven.*

*Our heritage in doctrine and our present theological task focus upon a renewed grasp of the sovereignty of God and of God's love in Christ amid the continuing crises of human existence. (The Book of Discipline, 1992 -* ¶ 65, p. 40)

*The outreach of the Church springs from the working of the Spirit. As United Methodists, we respond to that working through a connectional polity based upon mutual responsiveness and accountability. Connectional ties bind us together in faith and service in our global witness, enabling faith to become active in love and intensifying our desire for peace and justice in the world. (The Book of Discipline*, 1992 - ¶ 65, p. 47)

**Ecumenism**

We are committed to ecumenical life and witness.

*The United Methodist Church is a part of the Church Universal, which is one Body in Christ. (The Book of Discipline*, 1992 - The Constitution, ¶ 4, Article IV, p. 22)

*The Church of Jesus Christ exists in and for the world, and its very aviiedness is a hindrance to its mission in that world. (The Book of Discipline*, 1992 - Preamble, The Constitution, p. 21)

*Christian unity is founded on the theological understanding that through faith in Jesus Christ we are made members-in-common of the one Body of Christ. Christian unity is not an option; it is a gift to be received and expressed.*

*United Methodists respond to the theological, biblical, and practical mandates for Christian unity by firmly committing ourselves to the cause of Christian unity at local, national, and world levels. We invest ourselves in many ways by which mutual recognition of churches, of members, and of ministries may lead us to sharing in Holy Communion with all of God's people. (The Book of Discipline*, 1992 - ¶ 68, pp. 83-84)

**Education**

We are committed to the uniting of knowledge and vital piety. Christian education is understood to be the process which enables United Methodist Christians

*... to grow in their understanding of God that they may respond in faith and love, to the end that they may know who they are and what their human situation means, increasingly identifying themselves as children of God and members of the Christian community, to live in the Spirit of God in every relationship, to fulfill their common discipleship in the world, and to abide in the Christian hope. (The Book of Discipline*, 1992 - ¶ 1201, p. 486)

We affirm that higher education is a vital part of our historic mission.

*Higher education is a significant part of our Wesleyan heritage, our present task, and our future responsibility. The Church continues its historic mission of uniting knowledge and vital piety by maintaining educational institutions and a campus ministry, and through them an intellectual, spiritual, and material ministry to all persons within the academic community without respect to sex, race, creed, or national origin.. (The Book of Discipline*, 1992 - ¶ 1513.1)

**Evangelism**

We believe evangelism is foundational.

The people of God are the Church made visible in the world. It is they who must convince the world of the reality of the gospel or leave it unconvinced. There can be no evasion or delegation of this responsibility; the Church is either faithful as a witnessing and serving community, or it loses its vitality and its impact on an unbelieving world. (*The Book of Discipline*, 1992 - ¶ 107, p. 110)

2. Evangelism. To proclaim the Gospel is fundamental; to invite persons to personal decision for and commitment to Jesus Christ and his being is equally fundamental. The Gospel calls forth response. The invitation to respond to the Gospel is evangelism. *(The Book of Discipline*, 1992 - ¶ 69, p. 86)

**Global Character**

We believe that the church is global in its nature and ministry.

*A rich quality of our Church, especially as it has developed in the last century, is its*

*global character. We are a church with a distinctive theological heritage, but that heritage is lived out in a global community, resulting in understandings of our faith enriched by indigenous experiences and manners of expression.* (*The Book of Discipline*, 1992 - ¶ 68, p. 83)

**Inclusiveness of The Church**

We believe in the inclusiveness of all persons with openness, acceptance, and support. The Constitution of The United Methodist Church reads:

*Inclusiveness of the Church.-The United Methodist Church is a part of the Church Universal, which is one Body in Christ. Therefore all persons, without regard to race, color, national origin, or economic condition, shall be eligible to attend its worship services, to participate in its programs, and, when they take the appropriate vows, to be admitted into its membership in any local church in the connection. In The United Methodist Church no conference or other organizational unit of the Church shall be structured so as to exclude any member or any constituent body of the Church because of race, color, national origin, or economic condition.* (*The Book of Discipline*, 1992 - The Constitution, ¶ 4, Article IV, p. 22) (See also *The Book of Discipline*, 1992 - ¶ 113, p. 114)

**Local Church**

The Church of Jesus Christ exists in and for the world. We believe that it is primarily at the local church that the Church encounters the world.

*A local church is a community of true believers under the Lordship of Christ. It is the redemptive fellowship in which the Word of God is preached by persons divinely called, and the Sacraments are duly administered according to Christ's own appointment. Under the discipline of the Holy Spirit the Church exists for the maintenance of worship, the edification of believers, and the redemption of the world.*

*The Church of Jesus Christ exists in and for the world. It is primarily at the level of the local church that the Church encounters the world. The local church is a strategic base from which Christians move out to the structures of society.*

*Each local church shall have a definite evangelistic, nurture, and witness responsibility for its members and the surrounding area, and a missional outreach responsibility to the local and global community.* (*The Book of Discipline*, 1992 - ¶ 201, 202, 204, selected, pages 116-117)

**The Ministry of All Christians**

We believe all Christian believers are involved in mission and ministry to the world.

*The heart of Christian ministry is Christ's ministry of outreaching love. Christian ministry is the expression of the mind and mission of Christ by a community of Christians that demonstrates a common life of gratitude and devotion, witness and service, celebration and discipleship. All Christians are called to this ministry of servanthood in the world to the glory of God and for human fulfillment. The forms of this ministry are diverse in locale, in interest, and in denominational accent, yet always catholic in spirit and outreach.* (*The Book of Discipline*, 1992 - ¶ 104, p. 109)

Ministry is understood as a call for all to serve and witness. Within this ministry some are called to representative ministry ordained and diaconal.

**Mission**

We believe that United Methodist mission and witness involves four essential dimensions: proclamation, evangelism, incorporation, and servanthood.

*Mission is the action of the God of grace who creates out of love, who calls a covenant people community, who graciously redeems and reconciles a broken and sinful people in Jesus Christ, and who through the Holy Spirit calls the church into being as the instrument of the good news of grace to all people. Mission is also the church's grateful response to what God has done, is doing, and will do. A grace-formed church is one which responsibly participates in God's action in and for the world ...*

*Mission is witness to the God of grace. Witness has four essential dimensions:*

*1.Proclamation. We proclaim the Gospel. We tell the story of God's gracious initiative to redeem the world. The imperative for proclamation is found in the Gospel itself. Good news cannot be withheld.*

*2.Evangelism. To proclaim the Gospel is fundamental; to invite persons to personal decision for and commitment to Jesus Christ and his being is equally fundamental. The Gospel calls forth response. The invitation to respond to the gospel is evangelism.*

*3.Incorporation. We call persons to be incorporated into the Body of Christ. All who are in*

*Christ share in the mission of Christ.*

*4.Servanthood. We serve as agents of God's liberating and reconciling grace among the nations. Witness is to whole persons and their social contexts. The wholeness of grace entails justice, mercy, and forgiveness. Our aim is, therefore, transformed people in a transformed world.* (*The Book of Discipline*, 1992 - ¶ 69, selected, pages 85-86)

**Mutual Accountability**

We are mutually accountable in the efficient use of human, natural, and financial resources.

*The outreach of the church springs from the working of the Spirit. As United Methodists, we respond to that working through a connectional polity based upon mutual responsiveness and accountability. Connectional ties bind us together in faith and service in our global witness, enabling faith to become active in love and intensifying our desire for peace and justice in the world.* (*The Book of Discipline*, 1992 - ¶ 65, p. 47)

*c) Community. The principle provides for relationships of Holy Spirit-empowered community wherein support, supervision, healing, accountability, and growth can take place for persons and groups across the denomination. Our life together, with its mutual accountability and relationships, keeps us ever alert to being faithful to the gospel in all our efforts. Through it the whole system may be fueled with life-giving Spirit energy.* (*The Book of Discipline*, 1992 - ¶ 112.3 c, p. 113)

**Scriptural Holiness**

We believe in the scripture as witness to faith. It is the revelation of Gods grace and salvation through Jesus Christ.

*Wesley believed that the living core of the Christian faith was revealed in Scripture, illumined by tradition, vivified in personal experience, and confirmed by reason.*

*Scripture is primary, revealing the Word of God "so far as it is necessary for our salvation." Therefore, our theological task, in both its critical and constructive aspects, focuses on disciplined study of the Bible.* (*The Book of Discipline*, 1992 - ¶ 68, p. 76)

**Social Justice**

We are committed to social justice.

*For Wesley there is no religion but social religion, no holiness but social holiness. The communal forms of faith in the Wesleyan tradition not only promote personal growth; they also equip and mobilize us for mission and service to the world.* (*The Book of Discipline*, 1992 - ¶ 65, p. 47)

*... The Social Principles are a prayerful and thoughtful effort on the part of the General Conference to speak to the human issues in the contemporary world from a sound biblical and theological foundation as historically demonstrated in United Methodist traditions. They are intended to be instructive and persuasive in the best of the prophetic spirit. The Social Principles are a call to all members of The United Methodist Church to a prayerful, studied dialogue of faith and practice.* (*The Book of Discipline*, 1992 - Preface to Social Principles, p. 87) (See also Our Social Creed,

*The Book of Discipline*, 1992 - ¶ 76, p. 106-107)

**Stewardship**

We believe all baptized persons in the body of Christ become co-workers with God in all of life and creation. The work of stewardship shall:

*... encourage both individual and corporate stewardship, informing them that tithing is the minimum goal of giving in The United Methodist Church. Using as a basis Scripture, tradition, reason, and experience, stewardship shall have five components: (1) the use of God-given talents, (2) personal financial management and life commitments, (3) personal giving through the church, (4) local church management of resources, and (5) the Christian stewards responsibility in Gods world. (The Book of Discipline*, 1992 - ¶ 262.10 (a), p. 157)

**Vital Worship**

We believe in vital and culturally diverse worship experiences.

*We believe divine worship is the duty and privilege of all persons who, in the presence of God, bow in adoration, humility and dedication. We believe divine worship is essential to the life of the Church, and that the assembling of the people of God for such worship is necessary to Christian fellowship and spiritual growth. We believe the order of public worship need not be the same in all places but may be modified by the Church according to circumstances and the needs of all. It should be in a language and form understood by the people, consistent with the Holy Scriptures to the edification of all, and in accordance with the order and Discipline of the Church. (The Book of Discipline*, 1992 - ¶ 67, Article XIII, p. 69)

**The Recommendations for Mission and Ministry of The United Methodist Church into the 21st Century**

As the writer of I Corinthians taught the early church:

*As it is, there are many members, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it." (I Corinthians 12:20-26)*

We believe that an interactive organizational process is the best way for The United Methodist Church to live toward this vision. By interactive, we mean a body that encourages interdependence among the parts. Such a living entity would encourage individuals to present their different perspectives, concerns, and ideas. It would allow each member of the body to grow and learn in interaction with all other members of the body. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. (Romans 12:4-5) Through such interaction, we hope to live out the vision of what God calls us to become: A joyful and loving community transformed by grace and transforming the world.

**Our VISION is of a world transformed into the likeness of Christ where faithful persons actively manifest the love of God and neighbor while fostering true community among all persons.**

We believe that the design for mission and ministry recommended in this document helps us toward this vision in many ways.

Focus on the local congregation's mission to the world provides the opportunity for effective resourcing from all other parts of the body consistent with the vision.

Repetition of essential functions (Outreach, Nurture, and Witness Ministries; Leadership Ministries; Administrative and Fiscal Ministries; Council) provides consistency to draw all into the community of the whole.

Flexibility in essential and additional functions provides for local congregations to adapt to local needs and focus outreach in ministry beyond the congregation.

Shared dialogue among all parts of the body in interactive ministry settings will allow for the development of a singular focus on the vision to guide the ministry of The United Methodist Church.

Interactive decision-making provides for mutual ministry resource development and accountability among the various parts of the body as the whole denomination focuses its resources on our vision and mission.

Simplicity of the design provides an opportunity for each ministry setting to understand and participate within the connection.

A focus on leadership ministries provides a setting to develop resources and styles of ministry that support individuals in their faith journeys and complement training for a particular leadership task.

The interactive style for all of the ministries provides a way for the whole denomination and all of its parts to act together in mission throughout the world.

Simplified structures minimize redundancy, provide for greater cost effectiveness, and encourage other efficiencies to free resources to be allocated for greater mission.

As you read the descriptions of the following design, we encourage you to experience the synergy of how this dynamic will move us toward our vision of a preferred future.

**Provisions of *The Book of Discipline*, 1992 shall remain in force unless specifically noted in this document. We assume that organizational ministry units such as the United Methodist Women, United Methodist Youth Fellowship, United Methodist Men, local church lay leaders, district lay leaders, annual conference lay leaders, etc., will remain in place. Also district and annual conference groupings such as these named above shall continue.**

**The Interactive Body The Connection of Conferences**

We believe that the interactive body is the way Christ would have us live as Christs Church in the world. In the interactive body, we meet together with a common vision and purpose. When we are involved in an interactive body, we listen, talk, and work to understand each other, no matter how different we may be. As we share, we learn and are transformed. Together, led by the Holy Spirit through this interactive process, we are able to create something new something that is greater than we could have done alone to perform focused, Christ-led ministry in the world. When many individuals led by the Holy Spirit are working together in this way, they create a community. We believe that such a community:

Lives by participation.

Learns and grows through diversity.

Asks for mutual understanding.

Builds ever-increasing energy and joy through interdependence.

Serves as the body of Christ in the world.

This concept is not new to United Methodists. Our ideal has always been to work together in conference, conciliar, and connectional ways to serve Gods church. Our reality, however, frequently falls short of this ideal. The interactive body that we describe supports a connec-

tion that does more than merely hold us together. It helps us all teach and learn from each other. Practicing these interactive skills in our Church lives, we learn how to interact in the world through evangelism and social justice, looking always toward our vision of a world transformed in the likeness of Christ.

During the Connectional Issues Study, we heard voices from across the connection asking the Church to engender this kind of community. The recommendations in this document encourage interaction at many points across the Church. We interact with other persons in ministry, not to ask permission but to share insights, learn new perspectives, and share the glory of God. Areas of ministry interact not to compete for power and control, but to build solutions that move the church toward its vision. The connection of conferences (church, district, annual, regional, and global conference sessions) brings persons together in constructive interaction to make the decisions that build the future of the community in the world. The conference bodies interact to bring together local and global needs and resources for mission. The general superintendency provides interactions that bring forth the spiritual and temporal welfare of the Church as a whole. Clergy and lay persons interact to strengthen and teach one another and to build leadership that is empowering and servant-centered.

This section describes the various parts of the interconnected body that we identify as the connectional design for The United Methodist Church. It describes an interrelated, interdependent organization that will help us all stay true to our identity, purpose and mission. It will keep us focused on our vision and mission as a denomination. This section includes the following parts:

The Connection of Conferences

The Local Church (Church Conference)

The District Conference (Optional)

The Annual Conference

The Regional Conference

The Global Conference

The United Methodist Church is a connectional structure maintained through its chain of conferences. (*The Book of Discipline*, 1992 p. 292). Data collected from across the church continues to affirm our connectional traditions. Our recommended design seeks to simplify the organizational components and improve local church, district and annual conference relationships in the following ways:

Utilize the local church and its church conference as a body where local congregations develop a vision for mission and ministry for their community and the world, consistent with the connectional traditions of our church. In a multiple-church pastoral charge this may be convened as a joint church conference. Also, this would be a setting for planning, evaluating and celebrating the ministry of Christian disciples in that place and around the globe.

Utilize the district conference (optional) *The Book of Discipline*, 1992 ¶ 749-762, pp. 410-423, allows the annual conference to provide for district conferences and other organizations.

Affirm the annual conference as the basic body of the connection to support the ministries of local congregations. It will also provide for the mission and ministry of the annual conference.

Establish regional conferences around the world that will resource the outreach, nurture, and witness ministries for local congregations through resourcing the annual conferences in their defined geographical areas. They will also provide other resources for mission and ministry of their region and the world.

Create a global conference that will represent the worldwide nature of The United Methodist Church and provide constitutional, doctrinal and theological foundations for mission and ministry.

### The Nature of Superintendency

Integral to the Connection of Conferences is the cohesion provided by the superintendency of The United Methodist Church: the bishops and district superintendents. The Constitution grants the Council of Bishops responsibility for the general oversight and promotion of the temporal and spiritual interests of the entire Church . . . . (*The Book of Discipline*, 1992 - The Constitution, ¶ 50, p. 35). Accordingly, through the general superintendency, the district superintendents share these responsibilities with the bishops in the communities of the district in which they serve. (*The Book of Discipline*, 1992, ¶ 519, pp. 282-283)

*In order to exercise meaningful leadership, the Cabinet is to meet at stated intervals. The Cabinet is charged with the oversight of the spiritual and temporal affairs of a conference, to be executed in regularized consultation and cooperation with other councils and service agencies of the conference.* (*The Book of Discipline*, 1992, ¶ 529.4, p. 287)

The superintendents serve a crucial role in the connectional structure in maintaining the interactive process within the connection of conferences. Any future design shall recognize and preserve the responsibilities of the Churchs superintendents for linking the mandate of the Church to the world:

It is their task ... *to see that all matters, temporal and spiritual, are administered in a manner which acknowledges the ways and the insights of the world critically and with understanding while remaining cognizant of and faithful to the mandate of the Church. The formal leadership in The United Methodist Church, located in these superintending offices, is an integral part of the system of an itinerant ministry.* (*The Book of Discipline*, 1992, ¶ 501, p. 269)

In order to exercise meaningful leadership, the Council of Bishops is to meet at stated intervals. The Council of Bishops is charged with the oversight of the spiritual and temporal affairs of the whole Church, to be executed in regularized consultation and cooperation with other councils and service agencies of the Church. (The Book of Discipline, 1992, ¶ 527.3, p. 287)

Bishops, as general superintendents, carry the responsibility corporately and individually to uphold the apostolic faith and the theological traditions of The United Methodist Church (*The Book of Discipline*, 1992, ¶ 514, p. 280). They bear the task of proclamation of Christian unity which is a gift of the Holy Spirit. They also promote the evangelistic witness of The United Methodist Church. Ecumenical and interfaith work within the Church is done in close consultation with the superintendents of the Church.

The superintendents, along with ordained and diaconal ministers, are charged with the equipping of the whole membership of the Church in the ministry of Jesus Christ. These persons exist to intensify and make more effective the self-understanding of the whole People of God as servants in Christs name (*The Book of Discipline*, 1992, ¶ 301, p. 189). In the interactive process the superintendents provide interconnection and interrelationship within the connection of conferences.

As far as is possible, the interactions between and among the conferences and superintendents will be established through covenantal relationships, rather than regulations. Each conference will be accountable to the vision through this covenantal relationship. Through these relationships, the mission and ministry of conferences will be held accountable to:

The core value of an inclusive United Methodist Church, where each "conference" membership shall reflect a cross-section of the membership, including ethnicity, gender, youth, young adults, older adults, lay/clergy, and persons with disabilities.

The Identity, Purpose and Mission of The United Methodist Church, as identified in this document and stated fully in *The Book of Discipline*, 1992.

The Vision, as developed and stated within each conference, consistent with the vision for the entire denomination.

Detailed structural components beyond those essential for mission (Outreach, Nurture, and Witness Ministries; Leadership Ministries; Administrative and Fiscal Ministries; The Council) will not be determined by one conference for another. Rather, each conference will be responsible for structuring itself in ways consistent with its mission.

We believe that an interactive relationship among the conferences will meet the needs for our historic connectional relationships across the denomination. It will also provide the flexibility to respond to identified needs for effective mission and ministry.

**The Conference Settings**

The following sections describe in more detail how the interactive organization will function within each setting for mission.

**The Local Church**

Paragraphs 247 and 249 of *The Book of Discipline, 1992* state the purpose of the Charge Conference and the Church Conference respectively.

In keeping with the interactive and participatory nature of the recommendations within this report, we recommend that local churches hold Church Conferences rather than Charge Conferences. This would be in keeping with ¶ 249 of *The Book of Discipline*, 1992 which reads:

To encourage broader participation by members of the church, the Charge Conference may be convened as the **Church Conference,** extending the vote to all local church members present at such meetings. (*The Book of Discipline*, 1992 - ¶ 249, p. 140)

*The Book of Discipline*, 1992 in ¶ 201 through ¶ 204, describes the purpose of the local church:

Under the discipline of the Holy Spirit the Church exists for the maintenance of worship, the edification of believers and the redemption of the world. (*The Book of Discipline*, 1992 - ¶ 201, p. 116)

Therefore, the local church is to minister to persons in the community where the church is located, to provide appropriate training and nurture to all, to cooperate in ministry with other local churches, to defend God's creation and live as an ecologically responsible community, and to participate in the worldwide mission of the Church, as minimal expectations of an authentic church. (*The Book of Discipline*, 1992 - ¶ 202, p. 116)

Further, the local congregation must embody inclusiveness:

Inclusiveness of the Church. The United Methodist Church is a part of the Church Universal, which is one Body in Christ. Therefore all persons, without regard to race, color, national origin, or economic condition, shall be eligible to attend its worship services, to participate in its programs, and, when they take the appropriate vows, to be admitted into its membership in any local church in the connection. In The United Methodist Church no conference or other organizational unit of the Church shall be structured so as to exclude any member or any constituent body of the Church because of race, color, national origin, or economic condition. (The Book of Discipline, 1992 - The Constitution, ¶ 4, p. 22)

Given our historic identity, purpose and mission, the local church must be free to organize itself to meet the missional challenges of its community and the world. Also it must keep its covenant of connection with all other parts of the church body.

The need for organizational accountability within the current covenantal connection for the local church has often created difficulties for our congregations, especially those with small membership. The proposed interactive organization seeks to transform this tension between accountability and flexibility into a creative force.

Toward this end, we recommend that each local church utilize this interactive organization which contains these essential elements:

The Church Conference

Outreach, Nurture, and Witness Ministries

Leadership Ministries

Administrative and Fiscal Ministries

The Council

These essential elements are based on two fundamental assumptions.

**First, according to our belief in the general ministry of all Christian believers, the mission and ministry of the church are the responsibility of each and every member. The organization within the congregation exists to provide support and resources for its mission in the world. The organizational structures, themselves, are not intended to be the source of ministry in the community.**

**Second, each local church will need to determine the organizational details needed for its mission. Within the simple four-part body identified above, and the Church Conference, each local congregation could establish the additional task forces, committees, or commissions it deems necessary.**

The functions of these essential ministries for the local church are described below.

**The Church Conference**

*Membership*: All local church members.

It will:

Determine the number of members of the Council and ministry areas.

Receive nominations and elect members for the three ministries areas and at-large members of the Council.

Form a Vision Team to develop a vision for the local church. The Vision Team, in consultation with the Council, will recommend a vision to the Church Conference for adoption and referral to the Council for implementation.

Approve compensation for paid staff.

Elect member(s) to the Annual Conference.

Evaluate the work of the Council in light of vision, core values and beliefs, and traditions of The United Methodist Church.

Fulfill the functions and responsibilities as presently stated in ¶ 247-252 of *The Book of Discipline, 1992.*

Meet at least annually.

Monitor to assure racial, gender and age inclusiveness of the congregation and for inclusion of persons with disability.

**Outreach, Nurture, and Witness Ministries.** Opportunities for mission and ministry will be initiated and developed through this group for the congregation. This unit will focus all of the human, spiritual, and financial resources of the congregation on the primary roles of outreach, nurture, and witness. Though the detailed organizational structures may vary from one local church to another, we anticipate that the essential functions of this body will include:

Vital worship

Bible study and faith development

Evangelism, witnessing, and faith sharing

Nurturing persons in Christian living and values (education, stewardship)

Missional and outreach ministries in the local community and around the world (care, compassion, advocacy)

Social justice and advocacy

Support for groups such as UMYF, UMYA, UMW, UMM

Self-monitoring for racial, gender and age inclusiveness of the congregation and for inclusion of persons with disability

**Leadership Ministries.** Opportunities for educational and leadership ministries of the congregation will be initiated and implemented through this group. This will include calling forth and preparing the membership for direct mission and ministry to the community(ies). This unit will provide resourcing that is needed for effective servant leadership of the laity throughout the local church. Though the detailed organizational structures may be different for each local church, we anticipate that the essential functions will include:

Biblical, theological, and spiritual formation for teachers and leaders

Education in the traditions of United Methodism

Training to support mission and ministry

Training to support administrative and fiscal management

Leader recruitment, development, training and deployment for lay ministry

Organizational development and management improvement skills

Resource development and distribution

Development of a process for nomination of leadership to be used by the Church Conference

Ministry to students on college campuses

Self-monitoring for racial, gender and age inclusiveness of the congregation and for inclusion of persons with disability

Staff/parish relations

Support of candidates for representative ministry

**Administrative and Fiscal Ministries.** It is through this part of the body that the legal, financial, and administrative management will be developed to carry out outreach, nurture, and witness ministries of the local church. Though the detailed structures may differ from one local church to another, we anticipate that the essential functions of this body will include:

Budgeting, fiscal review and financial resourcing

Communications within the congregation and beyond

Interpretation of the connectional stories of outreach, nurture, and witness ministries

Ongoing attention to improvement, cost effectiveness, and efficiency

Data management

Financial policies and procedures

Property and legal management

Recording and preserving the memory and tradition of the church

Self-monitoring to assure racial, gender and age inclusiveness of the congregation and for inclusion of persons with disability

**The Council**

Membership: Representatives of the three ministries areas (Outreach, Nurture, and Witness Ministries; Leadership Ministries; and Administrative and Fiscal Ministries) elected by them, and at-large members elected by the Church Conference from the congregation. The Council will provide communication and interaction among the three ministries areas. Membership of the three Ministries and the Council will be selected to represent a cross-section of the congregation, including ethnicity, gender, youth, young adults, older adults, and persons with disabilities. This diversity will enrich the interactive approach to and carrying out of mission and ministry.

It will:

Be accountable to the Church Conference.

Be the policy-setting and decision-making body for the congregation between the sessions of the Church Conference.

Implement the vision established by the Church Conference, core values and beliefs, purpose, and mission to support the three ministry units in coordinating and focusing all spiritual, human and fiscal resources to meet identified needs for outreach, nurture, and witness. Evaluate the work of the congregation in light of the vision, core values and beliefs, and traditions of The United Methodist Church.

Help define and resolve issues and other differences that may naturally arise within and among the ministry units.

Foster and ensure vital ecumenical and interfaith relationships within the life of the church and all its ministry.

Listen and respond to the spiritual and physical needs of the congregation and the larger community.

Monitor all units for racial, gender and age inclusiveness of the congregation and for inclusion of persons with disability.

The ministry units will be empowered to make decisions consistent with policies set by the Council.

The three ministry units, the Council, and the Church Conference will comprise the essential interactive organizational design for the local congregation. This proposal has many similarities with the structures for the local church as they are currently described in *The Book of Discipline*, 1992. Some significant differences are apparent, however.

Missional, administrative, and educational perspectives are brought together into a co-equal relationship within the Council for the purpose of making decisions collaboratively.

The Council focuses the spiritual, human and fiscal resources of the congregation on the vision and core values and beliefs, so that each decision can be made within the purpose and traditions of our church.

All parts of the body are held in mutual responsiveness and accountability throughout the decision-making processes.

Leadership within the congregation and its organizational life will be shared between clergy and laity.

Subcommittees, commissions, and task forces are determined by the congregation. They can be created and dissolved as needs change.

The coordinating functions of the interactive organization are drawn from, not imposed upon, the coordinated functional units.

The number of members needed to serve within each essential element is determined by the needs and available resources within the local congregation.

The decision of the ministries and Council are informed by the vision stated by the Church Conference.

Flexibility allows local churches to organize for their own missional needs.

The Leadership Ministries can focus attention on productive servant leadership skills for clergy and laity.

The Council would be expected to evaluate the ministries of the congregation regularly and to encourage refinements to enable the congregation to meet its ministry potential.

The General Council on Ministries believes that this interactive design will provide the continuity for local churches to participate effectively in the United Methodist connection, while allowing flexibility for the congregation to be in mission in its local environment. To implement this, descriptive and interpretive materials will be provided to assist local congregations in organizing.

This interactive organizational design will be flexible enough to meet the needs of congregations of all sizes. The organizational design may be transformed as needed to respond to the call of the Spirit and actively manifest the love of God and neighbor.

**The District Conference (Optional)**

Annual conferences choosing this option can provide a closer connection to local churches for the purpose of supporting and resourcing their ministries. Within this new interactive model, it is anticipated that this option for districts, sub-districts, clusters and the like would continue. Lay and clergy leadership, with the district superintendent, would design the necessary structures in each district.

**The Annual Conference**

In ¶ 701 of *The Book of Discipline*, 1992 the purpose of the annual conference is stated clearly.

The purpose of the Annual Conference is to make disciples for Jesus Christ by equipping its local churches for ministry and by providing a connection for ministry beyond the local church; all to the glory of God. (*The Book of Discipline*, 1992 - ¶ 701, p. 328)

In fulfilling this purpose, as the basic organizational body of The United Methodist Church, the annual conference supports and resources the ministries of the local church in its mission and provides its own outreach, nurture, and witness in ways that cannot reasonably be accomplished by its local churches. This design assumes the continuation of the annual conference session.

We understand that many annual conferences have already restructured their agencies, or are in the process of doing so, to be more effective in mission. We hope that our recommendation will provide guidance for continuity in structural patterns across the connection.

We believe the interactive structure provides an essential unity while still allowing for the flexibility necessary for the annual conference to meet its calling.

Membership on all organizational units within the annual conference will be selected to represent a cross-section of the annual conference membership, including ethnicity, gender, youth, young adults, older adults, lay/clergy, and persons with disabilities.

Toward this end, we recommend the following essential elements for annual conference organization across the connection:

Annual Conference Session

Outreach, Nurture and Witness Ministries

Leadership Ministries

Administrative and Fiscal Ministries

The Council

As noted above, each annual conference will identify the additional components to meet its unique ministry needs and resources.

**The Annual Conference Session**

Membership: Appropriate lay and clergy members as provided for in *The Book of Discipline, 1992* - The Constitution, ¶ 35, pp. 30-31.

It will:

Meet at least annually.

Evaluate the work of the Council in light of vision, core values and beliefs and traditions of The United Methodist Church.

Determine the number of members of the Council and three ministry areas.

Receive nominations and elect members for the three ministries areas and at-large members of the Council.

Approve budget for financial support of the annual conference.

Elect member(s) to the regional and global conferences.

Form a Vision Team to develop a vision for the annual conference. The Vision Team, in consultation with the three ministries, the Council and local churches, will recommend a vision to the annual conference for adoption and referral to the Council for implementation.

Fulfill the functions and responsibilities of the annual conference as presently stated in ¶ 701-749 of *The Book of Discipline*, 1992.

Monitor to assure racial, gender and age inclusiveness of the annual conference and for inclusion of persons with disability.

**Outreach, Nurture, and Witness Ministries**. The purpose of this unit is the same as it is for the local churches: to focus all of the human, spiritual, and financial resources available on mission and ministry to the world. Each annual conference will determine a detailed organizational design to support the outreach, nurture, and witness functions necessary for ministry. We anticipate that essential functions will include:

Providing resources and support for outreach, nurture, and witness ministries of local churches.

Missional activities within the annual conference that cannot reasonably be accomplished by local churches.

Social justice and advocacy activities that cannot be accomplished by an individual or group of local churches.

Advocate for all issues of inclusiveness within the annual conference.

Support for connectional ministries of the denomination and the interaction between the local church and the connection.

Communications among local churches for interpretation of connectional ministries.

New church development.

Revitalization of local congregations.

Self-monitoring for racial, gender and age inclusiveness of the annual conference and for inclusion of persons with disability.

**Leadership Ministries**. Opportunities for education and leadership ministries for clergy, laity, and diaconal ministers, will be initiated and implemented through this group. It will identify, provide and evaluate continuing education for ordained and diaconal ministers. This part of the body will provide resources needed for effective servant leadership within the annual conference and its local churches. Each annual conference will determine the necessary organization for leadership ministries. We anticipate these essential functions will be included:

Support for leadership ministries of local churches (see list under "local church")

Leader development and training for clergy and laity that cannot be accomplished by individual or groups of local churches

Organizational development and management improvement skills acquired by leaders across the annual conference

Development of a process for nomination of leadership to be used by the annual conference

Resource development and distribution of resources that are most appropriately designed by the annual conference

Support for persons in appointments beyond the local church, such as chaplains and campus ministers

Self-monitoring for racial, gender and age inclusiveness within the annual conference and for inclusion of persons with disability

Implementation of the functions of ordained and consecrated ministry in cooperation with the Cabinet

**Administrative and Fiscal Ministries**. The purpose of this unit is similar

to that for local churches. It is to provide the legal, financial, and administrative management services to carry out outreach, nurture, witness, and leadership of the annual conference. Each annual conference will determine the detailed organizational design necessary for administrative and fiscal functions. We anticipate that the functions of this body will include:

Support for administrative and fiscal ministries of the local churches

Providing budgeting and financial resourcing for the annual conference

Ongoing attention to improvement, cost effectiveness, and efficiency of annual conference ministries

Data management for annual conference ministries

Financial policies and procedures for the annual conference

Interpretation outside the connection for outreach, nurture, and witness

Responsibility for property and legal management

Recording and preserving the memory and tradition of the church in the Annual conference

Management of investments, insurance and pensions

Self-monitoring for racial, gender and age inclusiveness of the annual conference and for inclusion of persons with disability

**The Council**

*Membership:* Representative members of the three ministries areas (Outreach, Nurture, and Witness Ministries; Leadership Ministries; and Administrative and Fiscal Ministries), elected by them, and at-large members elected by the annual conference. The Council will provide communication and interaction among the three ministries areas. Membership will be selected to represent a cross-section of the Annual Conference, including ethnicity, gender, youth, young adults, older adults, lay/clergy, and persons with disabilities. This diversity will enrich the interactive approach to and carrying out of mission and ministry.

It will:

Be accountable to the annual conference session.

Utilize the vision established by the annual conference session, core values and beliefs, purpose, and mission to support the three ministry units in coordinating and focusing all spiritual, human and fiscal resources to meet identified needs for outreach, nurture, and witness.

Help define and resolve issues and other differences that may naturally arise within and among the ministry units.

Be the policy-setting and decision-making body for the annual conference between the sessions within limits set by the annual conference.

Foster and ensure vital ecumenical and interfaith relationships within the life of the annual conference in consultation with the annual conference cabinet.

Implement the vision for the annual conference.

Evaluate the work of the annual conference in light of the vision, core values and beliefs, and traditions of The United Methodist Church.

Hold leaders accountable to the vision, core values and beliefs, and traditions, of The United Methodist Church.

Confer with local churches (Church Conferences) regarding their accountability to the vision, core values and beliefs, and traditions of The United Methodist Church.

Listen and respond to the spiritual and physical needs of the local congregations, the annual conference and the global community.

Provide for communications among local churches for interpretation of connectional ministries.

Monitor all units for racial, gender and age inclusiveness of the annual conference and for inclusion of persons with disability.

The ministries units will be empowered to make decisions consistent with policies set by the Council.

The three ministry units, the Council, and the annual conference session will comprise the essential interactive organizational design for the Annual Conference. The functions envisioned for the annual conference in the interactive organization are not strikingly different from those currently fulfilled by the annual conference. In fulfilling these functions, the annual conference will, however, support our doctrinal heritage that declares:

*The outreach of the Church springs from the working of the Spirit. As United Methodists, we respond to that working through a connectional polity based upon mutual responsiveness and accountability. Connectional ties bind us together in faith and service in our global witness, enabling faith to become active in love and intensifying our desire for peace and justice in the world.* (*The Book of Discipline, 1992* - ¶ 65, p. 47)

Further, the interactive body supports the following innovations in the ministries of the annual conferences:

Interactive processes for decision-making in the annual conference council will generate a cooperative, rather than independent, and coordinated process .

Repeated ministry units make it easier for a member of the local church to understand and appreciate the organization of the annual conference.

The Council, by implementing the Annual Conference Vision, focuses its spiritual, human and fiscal resources so that each decision is made in the context of the purpose and traditions of the church.

All parts of the body are held in mutual accountability throughout the decision-making processes.

Leadership will be shared by clergy and laity.

Needed subcommittees, commissions, and task forces are determined as they emerge from perceived needs. Each can be created and dissolved as needs change.

The number of persons needed to serve within each essential organizational element is determined by the needs and available resources of the Annual Conference.

The covenant connection with local churches is facilitated through relationship and dialogue, rather than rigid regulations.

A conscious effort is made to deal only with issues that relate to the annual conference, while issues of wider scope are dealt with in the regional context and local issues in the local churches.

Given the global nature of our church these recommendations would apply equally to all Annual conferences in the church, including annual conferences in the central conferences.

The annual conference council would be expected to evaluate the effectiveness of the ministries of the conference regularly and to help develop responses to enable the conference more effectively to meet its unique calling.

The General Council on Ministries believes this interactive body for annual conferences will provide the support needed by local churches while allowing the annual conference to provide for its leadership and administrative roles within the annual conference. The interactive design has this flexibility.

**The Regional Conference**

The regional conference is a new body, so it is not currently described in *The Book of Discipline*, 1992. This concept envisions

several regional conferences around the globe. The number is not determined at this time. The regional conference will have responsibility and accountability for some current functions of the General Conference, the central conferences, and the jurisdictional conferences such as annual conference boundaries, the respective regional manuals for ordering the life and ministry of the church, consistent with *The Book of Discipline*, 1992 regional budgets, structures for mission and ministry. Many details concerning the regional conferences have yet to be worked out. The General Council on Ministries acknowledges that major work on the concept of regional conferences for the Church is being developed by the Council of Bishops. It has been in consultation with the Bishops Committee on the Global Nature of the Church. The General Council on Ministries will continue to collaborate with the Council of Bishops in the development of this concept.

At present the General Council on Ministries envisions the regional conference would perform six complementary functions:

Discern and articulate Gods vision for the Region

Provide support to annual conferences for outreach, nurture, and witness ministries; administrative and fiscal ministries; and leadership ministries

Perform outreach, nurture, and witness ministries; administrative and fiscal ministries; and leadership development ministries in the regional context as determined by the regional conference or requested by one or more of the member annual conferences or the global conference

Support the connection between and among the annual conferences in the regional and global conference

Elect bishops

Monitor all units for racial, gender and age inclusiveness of the region and for inclusion of persons with disability

The interactive design within the Regional Conference would be similar to that of the annual conference. The detailed organization to perform these functions in the region will be determined by each regional conference.

**The Regional Conference Session**

A regional conference session will be held to develop a vision for the regions mission and ministry and to care for the ministry concerns of the region.

**Outreach, Nurture, and Witness Ministries.** The purpose of this unit is to focus all of the human, spiritual, and financial resources available in the region on mission and ministry to the world. Each regional conference will determine the detailed organizational design to support these ministries. We anticipate that essential functions will include:

Support for outreach, nurture, and witness ministries of the annual conferences within the region.

Cooperative missional activities within the region and the world.

Social justice and advocacy activities within the region in partnership with the annual conferences.

Advocacy for inclusiveness and accountability for monitoring issues of inclusivity.

Support and interpretation for connectional ministries of the denomination and the interaction between the annual conferences and the broader connection.

Self-monitoring for racial, gender and age inclusiveness of the region and for inclusion of persons with disability.

**Leadership Ministries.** Opportunities for education and leadership ministries for clergy and laity will be supported through this body. This part of the body will provide support for effective lay and clergy servant leadership within the region. Each regional conference will determine the necessary organization for leadership ministries. We anticipate that some of the essential functions will include:

Leader development and training for clergy and laity that cannot be accomplished by the annual conferences, or are not determined by the global conference.

Support for ministries of theological education, higher education, and campus ministries which cannot be provided by the annual conferences or are not determined by the global conference.

Resource development and the distribution of resources within the region.

Self-monitoring for racial, gender and age inclusiveness of the region and for inclusion of persons with disability.

**Administrative and Fiscal Ministries.** The purpose of this part of the body is to provide the legal, financial, and administrative management services that are necessary for the execution of the outreach, nurture, and witness ministries and the leadership ministries of the Region. Each regional conference will determine the detailed organizational design necessary for the administrative and fiscal function. We anticipate that the functions of this unit will include:

Budgeting and financial resourcing for the regional conference.

Support for administrative and fiscal ministries for the annual conferences.

Continuous improvement, cost effectiveness, and efficiency for the regional conference ministries.

Data management for the regional conference ministries.

Financial policies and procedures for the regional conference.

Legal management for the regional conference.

Management of investment, property, and insurance for the regional conference.

Coordination and management of pension and health-care benefits for professional servant leaders in the Church within the Region where such management is appropriate.

Self-monitoring for racial, gender and age inclusiveness of the Region and for inclusion of persons with disability.

**The Council**

*Membership*: Representatives of the three ministries areas (Outreach, Nurture, and Witness Ministries; Leadership Ministries; and Administrative and Fiscal Ministries) and at-large members selected by the regional conference. Membership will be selected to represent a cross-section of the regional conference, including ethnicity, gender, youth, young adults, older adults, lay/clergy, and persons with disabilities. This diversity will enrich the interactive approach to and carrying out of mission and ministry.

This body would provide communication and interaction among the three ministry groups. It is anticipated that the regional conference council will perform the following functions:

Be accountable to the regional conference

Be the policy-setting and decision-making body for the region between the sessions of the regional conference

Evaluate the work of the regional conference in light of the vision, core values and beliefs, and traditions of The United Methodist Church

Foster and ensure vital ecumenical and interfaith relationships within the region in consultation with the bishops

Help define and resolve issues and other differences that may naturally arise within and among the ministry units

Listen and respond to the spiritual and physical needs of the annual conferences of the region and the global community

Monitor all units for racial, gender and age inclusiveness in the region and for inclusion of persons with disability

Implement the vision established by the regional conference, core values and beliefs, purpose, and mission to support the three ministry units in coordinating and focusing all spiritual, human and fiscal resources to meet identified needs for outreach, nurture, and witness

Each regional conference may have the option of establishing sub-regions to strengthen the effectiveness of mission and ministry and may delegate such responsibilities as are appropriate to the sub-regions.

It is anticipated that the regional conferences may covenant with each other to allow for shared ministries across regional boundaries.

The regional conferences will fulfill those responsibilities currently exercised by jurisdictional conferences and central conferences.

The General Council of Ministries believes this interactive body for the regional conferences will provide the support needed by the annual conferences while allowing the regional conference to provide for its leadership and administrative roles within the region. The interactive design has this flexibility.

**The Global Conference**

In the interactive organizational design, the purpose of the global conference will be to care for all matters distinctively connectional for The United Methodist Church, specifically, matters of faith, doctrine, polity, purpose, order and vision for the global connection. The global conference will have responsibility and accountability for the global design for mission. The design of the global conference is still being developed.

As the General Council on Ministries consults and develops this plan in collaboration with the Council of Bishops, the relationship with autonomous Methodist churches will need to be cared for in appropriate ways.

**Conclusion to the Report**

This report describes an interactive process. We have used on-going interaction of listening, reflecting, and recommending throughout the study process. We believe that the recommendations presented in this study will help the church move into the 21st century with a renewed vision, new energy and focus on mission and ministry.

On behalf of the General Council on Ministries we thank all who have participated with us in this journey of discernment—for their responses, prayers and commitment. We are confident that as we continue to discern and focus on Gods vision, the Church can be used for effective outreach, nurture and witness to the world.

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**Glossary**

1. IDENTITY, PURPOSE, AND MISSION: This is the guiding philosophy, the ultimate reason for being that is non-negotiable. It is the fundamental reason The United Methodist Church exists. It is the essence of The United Methodist Church stated in its Constitution, (Doctrinal Standards and Our Theological Task) as stated in *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church*, 1992. These are the core values and beliefs of The United Methodist Church. These guiding principles should permeate United Methodist ministry and give focus to the style and form of ministry appropriate to a particular context of ministry. This is the basis for mutual accountability and responsiveness as The United Methodist Church lives out its being.

2. VISION: A God-given picture of the preferred future for God's people. It is a shared and self-authenticating picture that energizes the whole body and gives unity and focus to the ministry of the whole United Methodist Church. A clear and compelling vision is essential for United Methodist people to see that the direction and importance of their ministry is allied with Gods will.

The Identity, Purpose, and Mission of The United Methodist Church are essential elements of vision for United Methodism. The vision for United Methodism is grounded in this self-understanding. God reveals to Gods people a picture of the preferred future for the whole world. God calls and empowers, through the Holy Spirit, the United Methodist people of God to live this picture into reality. The vision is always the outgrowth of the Identity, Purpose, and Mission that permeates The United Methodist Church and informs its policies, actions, and beliefs.

An effective vision for United Methodism must have a compelling overall goal that serves as a focal point of effort or ministry direction of The United Methodist Church. This overall goal should be achievable within a specific time frame. In contrast, Purpose and Mission calls The United Methodist Church toward the fullness of Gods coming Kingdom which is never fully achievable.

An interesting definition of vision is given from the GRACE UPON GRACE document:

*"There is a unifying vision: Jesus Christ. The vision of God's mission comes to us; it is neither engendered by the church nor is it projected from the church. The vision is God-given. We are people called by God, 'recipients of grace, we become witnesses to grace.' "*

3. INTERACTIVE ORGANIZATION: The community of United Methodism responds to the working of the Holy Spirit, intentionally working through a connectional polity based upon mutual responsiveness and accountability. Connectional ties bind us together in faith and service in our global witness. Any action, or decision making, generates a cooperative and focused direction that is based upon the announced/accepted vision that rings true within United Methodisms Identity, Purpose and Mission. The focus would be ministry action per se, not forms or groups preparing for ministry. Further, the energy of the organization is collaboratively directed toward the achievement of the overall goal of the organization or the goal of the local church, district or cluster of churches, annual conference, regional or global conference.

An interactive organization seeks to hold the parts of the body in mutual accountability through interactive discussion and dialogue as vision is clarified, Identity, Purpose and Mission is reflected upon, and decisions are made.

Accountability, supervision, oversight of the organization is primarily done

within the organization as parts of the body reflect upon its alignment with the whole body's commitment to the vision and verification that its programs, resources, and goals are expressive of and consistent with The United Methodist Church's Identity, Purpose and Mission and overall goal.

The decisions and directions for resourcing are made at the place nearest to the hands-on ministry being implemented and not from some outside source or body.

Decisions are made on the basis of need and creativity to accomplish the stated goal by the most inclusive and diverse grouping within the organization. Given the identity and purpose of United Methodism, this interactive decision making would involve both laity and clergy and would conform to the stated goals of inclusivity and diversity.

4.FLEXIBILITY: Much data has been collected and archived through the Connectional Issues Study that calls for some freedom within the annual conference and local church structures for practical ministry that does not comply with all the shalls of *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church*, 1992. Flexibility in this report refers to potential ways that could allow for limited freedom that strictly conforms to the Identity, Purpose and Mission of United Methodism. Flexibility does not mean freedom to act in any way a part of the organization chooses. All parts of the organization must remain faithful to the spirit of the whole organization of The United Methodist Church. The matters listed in this Report under the heading of **The Identity, Purpose, and Mission of The United Methodist Church** are seen as non-negotiable and could not be disregarded in principle or spirit as parts of The United Methodist Church organize to do ministry. Yet, in some churches, each ministries area might include just several persons, and the Council might include these persons and the pastor. Or, each ministries might incorporate several standing and ad-hoc committees to meet the ministry needs in its locale. Some congregations may find the need to focus on extensive leadership education, so its Leadership Ministries might be large. Another might expand its Outreach, Nurture, and Witness ministries for a short time to respond to a specific missional need.

5. CORE VALUES AND BELIEFS: These are familiar words used within organizational development language. We have chosen to use the words Identity, Purpose, and Mission as appropriate for identifying the bedrock of United Methodism. This Identify, Purpose, and Mission are set out and identified primarily through statements from *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church*, 1992. The Identity, Purpose and Mission of The United Methodist Church are the core values and beliefs of The United Methodist Church and are stated in the Interim Report under the following headings:

a.Annual Conferencei.Local Church

b.Connectionalismj.Ministry of All Christians

c.Doctrinal Heritagek.Mission

d.Ecumenismℓ.Mutual Accountability

e.Educationm.Scriptural Holiness

f.Evangelismn.Social Justice

g.Global Charactero.Stewardship

h.Inclusiveness of the Churchp.Vital Worship

6. CONNECTIONAL: The network of interdependent relationships among persons and groups on local, regional, national and international levels of The United Methodist Church. CONNECTIONALISM: The principle, basic to The United Methodist Church, that all leaders and congregations are connected in a network of loyalties and commitments that support yet supersede local concerns.

*The outreach of the Church springs from the working of the Spirit. As United Methodists, we respond to that working through a connectional polity based upon mutual responsiveness and accountability. Connectional ties bind us together in faith and service in our global witness, enabling faith to become active in love and intensifying our desire for peace and justice in the world. (The Book of Discipline*, 1992, ¶ 65, p. 47)

7.CONFERENCE: The organizational structure of The United Methodist Church including annual conference, central conference, charge conference, church conference, district conference, general conference, jurisdictional conference, missionary conference, provisional conference. The principal form of governing structure within The United Methodist Church, in the charge, district, annual, jurisdictional, and General Conference; deriving from Wesley's conferences (conversations) with his preachers and developed in America into a legislative body with lay and clergy participation at every level (compare *conciliar*).

8. CONCILIAR: A form of church governance by representative councils with authority, under their leaders, to determine doctrine and discipline; exercised in United Methodism through the connection of conferences.

**Implementing Recommendations of The Connectional Issues Study Report For The 1997-2000 Transition Quadrennium**

The General Council on Ministries respectfully requests that the 1996 General Conference adopt the following recommendations for the 1997-2000 quadrennium:

**Recommendation I**

~~It is recommended that the General Conference authorize the establishment of a Connectional Process Team (hereafter the CPT) which will manage, guide, and promote this transformational direction for The United Methodist Church during the 1997–2000 quadrennium. The CPT will continue the work begun in the Connectional Issues Study of the General Council on Ministries and the Global Nature Study of the Council of Bishops. The purpose of the CPT is to facilitate the ongoing process of self renewing within local churches, conferences, institutions and the general agencies.~~

~~a. The membership of the CPT shall consist of 30 persons:~~

~~1. 16 persons across the church to be nominated by a Nominating Committee composed of two representatives from GCOM and two representatives of The Council of Bishops and elected by the Council of Bishops.~~

~~2. Three persons elected by and representing GCOM.~~

~~3. One person elected by and representing GCFA.~~

~~4. Six bishops selected by the Council of Bishops (three from the Central Conferences and three from the United States).~~

~~5. Four persons at large, elected by the CPT to ensure inclusive membership on the CPT.~~

~~Of the 30 members, the CPT shall reflect the ethnic, gender, and geographical diversity of The United Methodist Church. It is further recommended that there be at least one person from each of the five ethnic groups: Asian American, African American, Native American, Hispanic American and Pacific Islanders. It is recommended that the membership incorporate one third clergy, one third laywomen, and one third laymen, including 3 or more youth and/or young adults and 3 or more persons over 60 years of age.~~

~~Three persons from the Affiliated and Autonomous Churches be invited to participate in the work of the CPT.~~

~~b. The purpose of the CPT shall be to:~~

~~Review the summarized data collected by the General Council on Ministries' Connectional Issues Study to assess the~~

~~missional and structural needs of The United Methodist Church.~~

~~Consider recommendations approved by the General Conference in principle and other findings of the GCOM's Connectional Issues Study.~~

~~Encourage all local churches and annual conferences to utilize the interactive organizational design. The proposed organizational design is found on page ___.~~

~~Establish processes to receive feedback from local churches and annual conferences using the interactive design for evaluation and refinement of the interactive organizational design.~~

~~Consider holding periodic hearings across the Church. The purpose of the hearings will be to identify the crucial functions for mission and ministry of The United Methodist Church into the 21st century and develop a viable organizational form to resource those functions for the mission and ministry of United Methodism.~~

~~Encourage general agencies to utilize the proposed interactive organizational design.~~

~~Utilize the interactive connectional design for mission and ministry of the Church as approved by the General Conference in principle to guide the UMC in self renewal during the transition quadrennium and recommend an organizational design to the 2000 General Conference.~~

~~Define the roles of directors, staff, and representatives of the general bodies of the church.~~

~~Clarify consistent procedures and guidelines for nominations in the Regional and Global Conferences.~~

~~Develop recommendations to the 2000 General Conference.~~

~~c. The CPT shall collaborate with the COB, the GCOM, and the GCFA, as its work is developed and report twice each year to these three councils on the progress of its work. The CPT shall engage in dialogue with other general agencies of the Church to facilitate general agencies concerns and responses into the work of the CPT.~~

~~d. The GCORR and GCSRW shall monitor the implementation of the CPT to insure there is racial and ethnic minority participation and participation of women and to insure that the work of the CPT shall move the denomination forward in building a community that represents the multi culturalism of our world.~~

~~e. Staffing for the CPT will be provided by GCOM; and funding for the CPT will be determined by GCFA.~~

The General Conference shall establish a Connectional Process Team (hereafter the CPT) for 1996 to 2000 to manage, guide and promote a transformational direction for The United Methodist Church to continue the work begun by the Connectional Issues Study of the General Council on Ministries and the Global Nature Study of the Council of Bishops.

A. The purpose of the CPT is to:

1. Review the summarized data collected by the General Council on Ministries Connectional Issues Study, the Council of Bishops Global Nature Study, and other pertinent studies and responses, to assess the missional and structural needs of The United Methodist Church, and to facilitate the ongoing process of renewal throughout the Church.

2. Consider recommendations received by the General Conference related to the General Council on Ministries Connectional Issues Study and the Council of Bishops Global Nature Study.

3. Arrange for communication and training in the interactive organizational process for implementation by local churches and annual conferences, using the resources of appropriate church agencies.

4. Establish methods to receive feedback from local churches, annual conferences, jurisdictional conferences, and central conferences which are using the interactive organizational process, and share with the Church those models being developed.

5. Establish methods for evaluation and refinement of the interactive organizational process.

6. Facilitate an interactive organizational process with the general agencies, boards and the Council of Bishops which will clarify the mission of the general church agencies in supporting and resourcing the Church. The second step in the discerning and interactive process will be to define and recommend the most faithful structure to enable the ministries of the local church, conferences and institutions of the Church.

7. Hold periodic hearings across the Church to continue discerning Gods vision for the Church.

8. Develop basic organizational forms to enable the mission and ministry of The United Methodist Church.

9. Define the nature, work and composition of the regional and global conferences.

10. Invite the affiliate and autonomous churches into dialogue regarding the Global Nature of the Church and the interactive organizational process, and encourage their ongoing feedback and participation in this process.

11. Report to The United Methodist Church no later than January 1999. Based on feedback and responses, make a final report and bring recommendations to the General Conference in the year 2000.

B. The CPT shall be composed of up to 38 members (plus 3 non-voting members from affiliated and autonomous churches) to be selected as follows:

1. Twenty-four (24) persons nominated by the Council of Bishops and elected by the 1996 General Conference. Three persons, including one clergy, one lay man, and one lay woman, shall be elected from each jurisdiction and the central conferences in Africa, Asia and Europe as follows:

North Central3

Northeast3

South Central3

Southeast3

West3

Africa3

Asia3

Europe3

2. Up to seven (7) persons nominated by the Council of Bishops in consultation with the General Council on Ministries to ensure continuity, inclusivity, expertise and representation of churches of different sizes. Attention should also be given to representation from region of greatest membership strength. These persons shall be elected by the CPT through mail ballot before the first meeting.

3. Six bishops elected by and representing the Council of Bishops: three Central Conference bishops and three U.S. bishops.

4. One person elected by and representing GCFA. This person shall coordinate the work of the CPT with the GCFA quadrennial Study of Connectional Ministry Funding Patterns (ADCA p. 322).

5. To ensure that the CPT reflects the breadth of The United Methodist Church, it shall:

a. Reflect the ethnic, gender, age and geographical diversity of The United Methodist

Church.

b.Include at least one person from each of the five ethnic groups in the United States:

African American, Asian American, Hispanic American, Native American and Pacific Islander.

c.A majority shall be laity.

C. The CPT shall collaborate with the COB, the GCOM and the GCFA as its work is developed and report twice each year to these three councils on the progress of its work. The CPT shall engage in dialogue with other general agencies of the Church to facilitate general agencies concerns and responses into the work of the CPT.

D. The GCORR and GCSRW shall monitor the implementation of the CPT to ensure there is racial and ethnic participation and participation of women and to ensure that the work of the CPT shall move the denomination forward in building a community that represents the multi-culturalism of our world.

E. Staffing for the CPT will be provided by GCOM and funding by GCFA. It is expected that all general agencies will cooperate with the CPT as it conducts its work and provide staff and resources as necessary.

F. The Council of Bishops shall name one of the bishops on the CPT to convene the first meeting no later than October 1, 1996.

G. It is hoped that united Methodists, wherever gathered, will seek to discern and articulate Gods vision for ministry as guided by the Holy Spirit. The vision for each part of The United Methodist Church should be consistent with Gods vision for the whole United Methodist Church.

Recommendation II

~~It is recommended that the 1996 General Conference approve in principle the interactive connectional model proposed in this report. This interactive design will be considered as a method for reorganizing The United Methodist Church for mission and ministry in every aspect of the Connection.~~

~~It is recommended that the General Conference authorize considerable flexibility in organizational forms in the local, district, and annual conference. This is to allow greater focus on resourcing and empowering their members, congregations and districts for hands-on mission and ministry during the 1997–2000 quadrennium. Specific legislation for accomplishing the flexibility has been submitted by GCOM and appears in various sections of the ADCA.~~

~~This is especially true in matters defined by annual conferences as their primary task. While this flexibility is specified by legislation in the Connectional Issues Study Report; the processes, linkages, and mandates related to the monitoring and advocacy roles for racial and gender inclusivity shall be fulfilled by every organizational part of The United Methodist Church, with guidance and resourcing from the GCORR and GCSRW. Inclusivity of race, gender, age, and class, a richness of community implicit in the Old and New Testaments and of the essence for Gods people called United Methodists, must be assured.~~

**The 1996 General Conference approves in principle the interactive organizational process as a method of discerning and implementing Gods will for mission and ministry in every aspect of the connection. An interactive organizational process in response to the work of the Holy Spirit seeks to hold the parts of the body in mutual accountability through interactive discussion and dialogue as a vision is clarified. Identity, Purpose and Mission is reflected upon and decisions are made. This method will allow flexibility for organizational forms in the local, district, and annual conference and allow greater focus on resourcing and improving the Church for hands on mission and ministry. This flexibility does not in any way diminish the need for racial and gender inclusivity by every organizational part of The United Methodist Church, with guidance and resourcing from the GCORR and GCSRW.**

Recommendation III

~~It is recommended that during the 1997-2000 quadrennium the present 13 general agencies seek to refine and reshape themselves best to carry out their responsibilities to enable the ministries of churches, conferences and institutions of the connection.~~**During the 1997-2000 quadrennium, the present 13 General Agencies shall work in cooperation with the Connectional Process Team to continue to refine and reshape their mission in order to carry out their responsibilities to enable the ministries of churches, conferences and institutions into the 21st century.** The GCOM has determined that more time is needed for a clearer discernment of a God-given vision for the people called United Methodists. As Gods vision is articulated it should guide the reforming of the general agencies during this time of transition.

It is further recommended that the total membership size of the 13 general agencies during the 1997-2000 quadrennium be reduced ~~in accordance with specific legislation it has submitted to the General Conference~~**to no more than 640 members in accordance with specific legislation to be enacted by the 1996 General Conference.**

The General Council on Ministries is recommending amended legislation to comply with changes approved by adoption of the CIS Report in regard to the reduction of the membership size being proposed by: General Council on Finance and Administration, General Board of Global Ministries, General Commission on Communication, General Board of Publications, General Board of Pension and Health Benefits, and General Commission on Archives and History.

It is further recommending approval of legislation submitted by GCOM for reduction in membership for the General Council on Ministries, General Board of Discipleship, General Board of Church and Society, General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, General Commission on the Status and Role of Women, General Commission on Religion and Race, and General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns.

Recommendation IV

Vision and leadership for the church will be critical in the future, especially during this time of discernment and transition. Relying upon the leadership of the Council of Bishops, we recommend that the church focus attention on working together to discern and articulate Gods vision for us as individuals and a church that works toward a world transformed into the likeness of Christ.

As the Council of Bishops discerns and articulates Gods vision for the whole United Methodist Church, it is hoped that United Methodists, wherever gathered, will seek to discern Gods vision for ministry as guided by the Holy Spirit. The vision for each part of The United Methodist Church should be consistent with Gods vision for the whole United Methodist Church.

Appendix

1. Copies of Grace Upon Grace may be obtained from the Graded Press, The United Methodist Publishing House, 201 Eighth Avenue, South, P.O. Box 801, Nashville, Tennessee 37202.

2. Process of Sharing Information Transforming Feedback Loop.

3. Flowchart for Interactive Reflection and Review Process for Connectional Issues Study.

MINORITY REPORT

Whereas, The majority of United Methodists are ready for fundamental reform in the size, function and cost of the structures and institutions of The United Methodist Church; and

Whereas, The Council of Bishops has offered to the church its vision of a strengthened global church with a more flexible structure to meet the needs of local congregations and conferences in each region of the globe; and

Whereas, A number of Annual Conferences and individuals have submitted a variety of petitions to right size and reform the structure of our United Methodist Church, being faithful both to current economic realities and the need to fulfill our global mission; and

Whereas, 70% of the delegates to the 1996 General Conference named structural concerns as the major issue facing this General Conference, and even as we celebrate that many changes are beginning to pass at this General Conference to allow flexibility for local congregations and Annual Conferences, we realize that our church still has far to go; and

Whereas, Since 1968 the general agencies have increased in number and size, and that since 1985 the purchasing power of general apportioned funds has increased 4% in real dollars (ADCA P. 269), while since 1972 The United Methodist Church in the United States (which funds all these general agencies), has declined in membership by 18%; and

Whereas, The General Council on Finance and Administrations Summary Report on the Annual Conference Listening Project study has discovered that Attitudes toward the general church and general funds were described most often in terms that ranged from neutral to negative: **general church**—mixed, lack of understanding, indifference, feeling ignored or rejected by the general church, alienation, distant, beyond repair; **general funds**—a necessary requirement...like taking medicine, alarm about administrative overhead, a burden. In this GCFA study, of those surveyed from throughout the connection: 60.9% disagree or strongly disagree that general church staff and board members are sensitive to the economic conditions in local church and annual conferences; 61.9% disagree or strongly disagree that the general church budget includes an equitable balance of administrative expense and program expense; 75.6% disagree or strongly disagree that the general church does a good job of reviewing new needs and eliminating outdated programs before adding new ones; 72.8% disagree or strongly disagree that most people in local churches believe general church agencies use the money they receive wisely. (GCFA Report); and

Whereas, the GCOMs Connectional Issues Study itself discovered that the local congregation is understood as the primary base for mission and ministry and the foundation for everything that happens in the denomination,...many parts of the church are preoccupied with maintenance of the institution,...structural flexibility at the annual conference, district and local church is needed to allow all to carry out mission and ministry,...many in our church express a lack of satisfaction with the general agencies of The United Methodist Church,...the general agencies did not generally acknowledge expression of dissatisfaction voiced toward their specific agency, and the size of the general church organizations needs to be reduced, (ADCA pp. 556-557), but in response, after four years of work and study, the recommendations of the Connectional Issues Study appear seriously unconnected to these fundamental concerns, offer only a vague interactive-connectional model as an alternative, and offer no specific or measurable goals; and

Whereas, The General and Judicial Administration Legislative committee of this General Conference in its majority report has been unwilling to name an independent committee fully representative of our church, yet allows the proposed committee to be dominated by GCOM staff and agendas, introduces anew another unclear interactive organizational process as the principle of reorganization, and is unwilling to specify that the general agencies will be significantly downsized with measurable goals;

Therefore, Be it resolved that:

The General Conferences authorize the creation of a Connectional Reform Committee (hereafter named CRC) for the 1996-2000 quadrennium. The CRC shall be made up of 31 members selected as follows:

1. Sixteen persons shall be elected by the 1996 General Conference. Persons for election from each jurisdiction shall be nominated by each College of Bishops. Based on the members of ordained clergy and laity in the jurisdictions on ratio the members shall be:

North Central3

Northeast3

South Central4

Southeast5

West1

2. To ensure that 20% of the CRC will represent the Central Conferences, three lay persons from the Central Conferences (who shall serve with three Central Conference bishops) shall be elected by the Central Conference bishops at the 1996 General Conference.

3. Five persons elected at the first meeting of the CRC by CRC to ensure inclusivity, continuity and expertise.

4. Six bishops elected by and representing the Council of Bishops: three Central Conference bishops and three U.S. bishops. One of the bishops shall serve as the chair of the CRC.

5. One person elected by and representing GCFA. This person shall coordinate the work of CRC with the GCFA quadrennial Study of Connectional Ministry Funding Patters (ADCA p. 322).

Of the 31 members, the CRC shall be as much as possible one half women and one half men. It is recommended that the membership include at least one person from each of the five ethnic groups: Asian American, African American, Native American, Hispanic American and Pacific Islander. It is also recommended to ensure that a clear majority of the committee will be laity that the membership include 8 ordained clergy, 6 bishops, 17 laity.

Further, be it resolved that in the conduct of its work the CRC shall be instructed to:

1) affirm that the local congregation is the primary based for mission and ministry and the foundation for everything that happens in the denominations (ADCA p. 556),

2) conduct its work with the church at all levels and in all regions of the globe,

3) envision and recommend a new model for the general agencies and the whole denomination in the work and mission to resource local congregations and Annual Conferences, in which maximum flexibility will be affirmed,

4) develop consistent and fair processes for election of the directors of the recommended general agencies to ensure just and inclusive representation,

5) collaborate with the Council of Bishops and the GCFA and report its progress to each group and to the church at large twice each year,

6) receive the Council of Bishops Study of the Global Nature of the Church and the COMs Connectional Issues Study including its report, research and methodology of listening to the church at all levels and in all regions of the globe, along with the proposals arising from all Annual Conferences, other group, and individuals recommending changes to the general church structure.

7) define the nature, work, and composition of the regional and global conferences,

8) lead the general agencies and commissions in redesigning their organizations and work, with the expectation that there will be a minimum reduction of 15 to 20% of the budget of the general agencies over the 2001-2004 quadrennium, plus a significant reduction of the number of the general agencies,

9) make a full report to the church in January 1999, and then, based on critique, make a final report to the delegates to the 2000 General Conference in Spetember 1999;

Further, be it resolved that the GCORR and the GCSRW shall monitor the implementation of the CRC to ensure racial/ethnic and womens participation and to ensure that the work of the CRC shall move the United Methodist Church toward a more inclusive community;

Further, be it resolved that staffing for the CRC will be provided by the staff and resources of all the general agencies as necessary for its work. GCFA will provide funding. It is expected that all General Agencies will fully cooperate with the CRC with staff, money and enthusiasm as it conducts its work.

Major differences:

1. Local church: While the Connectional Issues Study often speaks of the local church as foundational, the majority report does not name the local church as locus of ministry. The minority report grants central priority to the ministry and mission of the local church.

2. Cost: The estimated cost of the majority reports committee will be approximately $350,000 over the quadrennium just for travel and housing. There is no estimate on the cost of printing, staff, mailings, hearings, etc. The estimated cost of the minority reports committee will be approximately $220,000 for travel and housing, a reduction of approximately $120,000.

3. Representation: The majority reports committee consists of 32% Central Conference members (who comprise 12% of the total membership of the connection). Additionally, the Southeast Jurisdiction, which comprises 30% of the churchs membership and pays 34% of the World Service budget (that will pay the bills), has three representatives or 8% of the majority reports committee. Other inequities are also present. Justice demands a more equitable distribution.

4. Relationship to the General Agencies: The majority report committee will continue to depend heavily on the current staff and agenda of the GCOM. The minority report frees the CRC to use whatever agencies and resources of the church are necsessary to complete its work.

5. Budget and General Agency Implications: The majority report refuses to address concretely the budget implications of its work, and specifically refuses to name whether the report in 2000 will reduce the size of the general church or the number of general agencies. No measurable goals or targets are set. No accountability by the general agencies is assured. The minority report addresses the budgets, size and number of general agencies.

Thomas A. (Andy) Langford, IIIWestern North Carolina

Rudy BakerNorth Georgia

Monty StablerNorth Alabama

Riley ShortFlorida

David DodgeFlorida

Anna G. WorkmanNorth Carolina

Joe WhittemoreNorth Georgia

Jimmy CausbyWestern North Carolina

Hiram BoboNorth Georgia

Randy SmithTexas

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 765-803
**Subject: Definitions, Structures, and Titles**
Committee Item: GJ223-803-R
Petition:
22767-GJ-803-D, Pg. 1328
Membership: 98; Present: 87;
For: 57; Against: 25; Not Voting: 5;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends referral to the General Council on Ministries.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 766-827
**Subject: General Administrative Council**
Committee Item: GJ224-827-R
Petition:
22771-GJ-827-D, Pg. 1331
Membership: 98; Present: 89;
For: 70; Against: 17; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends referral to the General Council on Ministries.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 767-1407.2
**Subject: Committee on Audit and Review**
Committee Item: GM79-1407.2-N
Petition:
20080-GM-1407.2-D, Pg. 752
Membership: 126; Present: 100;
For: 88; Against: 8; Not Voting: 4;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 768-1411.3
**Subject: Reaffirmation of Bishop's Working Group on Mission**
Committee Item: GM84-1411.3-N
Petition:
20220-GM-1411.3-D, Pg. 754
Membership: 126; Present: 103;
For: 93; Against: 8; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 769-NonDis-$
**Subject: Special Program on Substance Abuse and Related Violence**
Committee Item: GM90-NonDis-C$
Petition:
21342-GM-NonDis-O$, Pg. 771
Membership: 126; Present: 107;
For: 106; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 770-NonDis
**Subject: Teens at Risk**
Committee Item: GM91-NonDis-A

Petition:
20219-GM-NonDis-O, Pg. 763
Membership: 126; Present: 107;
For: 96; Against: 10; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Whereas, we recognize that teens dealing with questions about sexual orientation are at a greater risk of suicide; and

Whereas, an individual of any age confronting their own homosexual orientation and/or that of a close family member, friend or associate often experiences isolation, confusion, and fear when they need information, guidance and support; and

Whereas, United Methodist Women **and other church agencies** have many effective channels for disseminating information ~~and are known for providing a supportive community~~; ~~and~~

~~Whereas, the concerns and action embodied in this resolution were originally proposed by the Troy Annual Conference United Methodist Women Mission Team;~~

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Womens Division **as well as other appropriate agencies be** ~~is~~ directed to use**all** ~~its~~ available channels ~~(such as the Response magazine, reading program, program book, spiritual growth study and others)~~ to provide factual information, program ideas and resources on this topic**that are consistent with the social principles of our church** ~~for use by individuals and groups~~. These materials could include: books, guides for developing support groups, suggestions for ways to find counselors/therapists, supportive clergy and/or congregations and organizations in a particular area.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 771-731.2
**Subject: Membership of the Conference Board of Global Ministry**
Committee Item: GM92-731.2-N
Petition:
20453-GM-731.2-D, Pg. 750
Membership: 126; Present: 107;
For: 100; Against: 6; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 772-1519.4-MR
**Subject: Requirements for Church Affiliation in Institutions of Higher Education**
Committee Item: HE9-1519.4-N
Petition:
22274-HE-1519.4-D, Pg. 1381
Membership: 86; Present: 80;
For: 55; Against: 24; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

MINORITY REPORT

Amend paragraph 1519.4

Add to read: ...maintain appropriate academic accreditation **and protect the civil and basic rights due to all persons, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, national origin, sexual orientation, or physical disabilities.**

1.Stefanie A. Gray
2.Eli S. Rivera
3.Roslyn Sykes
4.Rebecca C. Carver
5.Amanda Carruth
6.Thomas V. Wolfe
7.Kristen Dowdy
8.William Holmes
9.Warner Brown
10.Jared Newman

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 773-1509.2
**Subject: Support of General Board of Higher Educationa and Ministry**
Committee Item: HE25-1509.2-N
Petition:
20630-HE-1509.2-D, Pg. 823
Membership: 86; Present: 74;
For: 65; Against: 8; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 774-1514.4
**Subject: Provisions regarding inquiries of United Methodist Related Schools, Colleges and Universities**
Committee Item: HE27-1514.4-C
Petition:
21278-HE-1514.4-D, Pg. 823
Membership: 86; Present: 78;
For: 58; Against: 16; Not Voting: 4;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 775-NonDis-!
**Subject: Funding the Evangelical Seminary of Puerto Rico**
Committee Item: HE43-NonDis-A!
Petition:
22788-HE-NonDis-O!, Pg. 1383
Membership: 86; Present: 72;
For: 70; Against: 1; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

In the paragraph following Therefore... and beginning with 1), delete continue and insert in its place give strong consideration to the continuation of.

In the same paragraph, after Puerto Rico, delete at the 1992 level.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 776-1513.4-MR
**Subject: Objectives of the Division of Higher Education**
Committee Item: HE46-1513.4-N
Petition:
22665-HE-1513.4-D, Pg. 1380
Membership: 86; Present: 81;
For: 67; Against: 13; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

MINORITY REPORT

Amend by moving to end of paragraph 1531

United Methodist Schools of Theology shall ensure that biblical, historical and theological studies are faithful to the churchs positions as stated in Doctrinal Standards and our Theological Task.

1.Gregory McGarvey
2.Ronald L. Hardman
3.John Ed Mathison
4.Keith M. Ladd
5.Pat Stroman
6.Jack Brewer
7.J. D. Dixon
8.Amy Spachman
9.J. Anthony Holifield
10.Jack W. Plowman

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**777**-NonDis-$
**Subject: National United Methodist Native American Center**
Committee Item: HE50-NonDis-C$
Petition:
22037-HE-NonDis-O$, Pg. 1356
Membership: 86; Present: 75;
For: 66; Against: 6; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**778**-NonDis
**Subject: A Call for Truth, Fairness and Accuracy**
Committee Item: IC20-NonDis-A
Petition:
21380-IC-NonDis-O, Pg. 927
Membership: 71; Present: 64;
For: 52; Against: 9; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Our Christian heritage includes hearty critique of religious institutions, led by Old Testament prophets, Jesus of Nazareth, Martin Luther, John Wesley, Sojourner Truth, Evangeline Booth, Martin Luther King, Jr. and others. Their words and actions were necessary to call the people of God to goals of righteousness, justice and mercy. Their motives were to reform and heal, to bring purity through the refiner's fire.

The United Methodist Church endorses an open, uninhibited flow of information regarding its policies and actions. The church's health depends on an informed membership and the opportunity for that membership to participate in a non-threatening, responsible dialogue with church agencies and leaders.

Given its firm commitment to fair, accurate and truthful communication, the church today is deeply concerned about the miscommunication of information emanating from groups ~~from~~ within and outside the church. ~~The goals of these groups seem more political than spiritual, more dedicated to tearing down than to building up. Their tactics are divisive and fracturing, rather than reconciling and healing.~~ **Criticism which is more political than spiritual, more dedicated to tearing down than building up is divisive and fracturing, rather than reconciling and healing.**

Recent attacks on this denomination overlook or downplay the ways God is working through communities of faith. There is a growing spirituality in the United Methodist Church as evidenced by the tremendous success of the Disciple Bible Study program in which many thousands have participated. The Walk to Emmaus, a Christian renewal effort, is experiencing steady growth around the world.

Todays United Methodist Church is doing substantial good around the world. We are in the Midwest, years after devastating floods, helping people recover. We are in South Florida easing the pain of Hurricane Andrew victims. The church is in Bosnia and Africa. In Oklahoma City, First United Methodist Church received $100,000 from the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) to help recover from the federal building bombing.

The United Methodist Church rests on a strong foundation of seeking to address societys ills. Ours is a communion which provides for diversity, guards the ability of pastors to preach the gospel and affirms the priesthood of all believers. Our connectional strengths are needed by a world clearly experiencing isolation, alienation and loneliness. Members deserve to rejoice in what their church is doing.

We encourage our critics to engage in a dialogue to make our church stronger. Recognizing the value of true theological diversity, The United Methodist Church calls for a discussion of church issues, using the honorable principles of truth, fairness and accuracy in reporting the words and actions of church people and agencies.

The United Methodist Church recognizes the right of any group to inform those who have common interests. It honors the idea of free speech in an open forum. And it encourages the healthy discussion of diverse viewpoints so long as it is conducted with dignity and respect.

To all who truly love the church and pray for its future we say, Come, let us together listen to the Spirit of God, calling us to New Creation, where none are intimidated and all are valued for their gifts, passion and viewpoints. Let us share our pain and our dreams, that Christs new church may be born through the travail.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**779**-742
**Subject: Small Membership Church Commission**
Committee Item: IC53-742-C
Petition:
22020-IC-742-D, Pg. 1386
Membership: 71; Present: 67;
For: 31; Against: 27; Not Voting: 9;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**780**-NonDis-MR
**Subject: Proposal for the Adoption of Church in Covenant Communion**
Committee Item: IC81-NonDis-A
Petition:
20970-IC-NonDis-O, Pg. 921
Membership: 71; Present: 70;
For: 60; Against: 8; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence with the petition as amended:

Whereas, the Scriptures call us to one hope; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all, who is above all and through all and in all (Ephesians 4:4-6); and

Whereas, Jesus prayed for the church that they may all be one (John 17:20); and

Whereas, despite the brokenness of the Church, the Holy Spirit works among us to break down the dividing walls between Christians; and

Whereas, the diversity of gifts among Christians is for building up and strengthening the Body of Christ; and

Whereas, The United Methodist Church has pursued and supported the unity of the Church through prayer, study, and leadership in the ecumenical movement; and

Whereas, The United Methodist Church has been a member of the Consultation on Church Union (COCU) from its beginnings, giving leadership to the work of the nine churches in the U.S.A. as they have sought to make visible the unity of the Body of Christ; and

Whereas, *The COCU Consensus: In Quest of a Church of Christ Uniting* was given overwhelming support by the 1988 General Conference, as an expression of the Apostolic Faith, and a sufficient theological basis for the covenanting acts to be proposed by the Consultation... (1992 *Book of Resolutions*, p. 206); and

Whereas, the COCU covenanting proposal, *Churches in Covenant Communion*, has been developed by the representatives of the nine member churches of the Consultation and studied by The United Methodist Church over the past eight years; and

Whereas, The United Methodist Church Council of Bishops stated in May ~~1992~~ 1992, we celebrate Gods call to the concept of covenant relationships expressed in *Churches in Covenant Communion*...[and] long for the day when the covenant may be realized among us, and acknowledge with joy our eagerness to enter into covenant (1992 *Book of Resolutions*, p. 217); and

**Whereas, the United Methodist Council of Bishops, on May 5, 1995, unanimously adopted a resolution in support of** *Churches in Covenant Communion;* **and**

Whereas, this covenanting proposal offers to open doors to greater unity in theology, worship, sacraments, ministry, and mission among Christians in the U.S.A.;

Therefore, be it resolved, that the following changes be made in *The Book of Discipline* on the issue of the covenanting proposal:

1. Article 5, Div. 1 of the Constitution, after the word Union insert the words **and covenantal relationships...**

2. ¶ 2402 in the heading after the word Churches add **and covenantal relationships.**

3. ¶ 2402.1 in the heading, after the word Union add **and the Church of Christ Uniting.**

4. Add a new ¶ 2402.1*b*: **The United Methodist Church is in covenantal relationship with other churches in the Church of Christ Uniting.** Present ¶ 2402.1*b* becomes ¶ 2402.1*c*.

5. ¶ 918.2 after Church Union add **and the Church of Christ Uniting.**

Be it further resolved, that the 1996 General Conference of The United Methodist Church adopt the covenanting proposal of the Consultation on Church Union and approve the text *Churches in Covenant Communion: The Church of Christ Uniting* as the basis for agreement to join with other participating churches in covenant communion, including the acts sufficient to enable it;

Be it further resolved, that The United Methodist Church declares its willingness to enter into a relationship of covenant communion with the member churches of the Consultation on Church Union and other churches which similarly approve this agreement and *The COCU Consensus* which is its theological basis, sealed by the proposed inaugural liturgies;

Be it further resolved, that The United Methodist Church will begin to identify for itself such steps and procedures as may be necessary to prepare for the reconciliation of ordained ministries and for entering into covenant communion as set forth in this document. **And that The United Methodist Church shall maintain its own standards for ministerial training and the ordination of ministers which shall also apply to our reception or transfer of ministers of other denominations, including any prohibitions set by General Conference**

Be it further resolved, that the Council of Bishops shall oversee The United Methodist Churchs participation in the Church of Christ Uniting and shall develop and present to future General Conference such changes in *The Book of Discipline* as may become necessary as we live into this covenant.

Be it further resolved, that the 1996 General Conference of The United Methodist Church entrusts to the Council of Bishops, in cooperation with the General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns, the guidance of The United Methodist Church at national, regional, and local levels into the covenanting acts and relationships described in *Churches in Covenant Communion*, including the steps and procedures necessary to prepare for the recognition and reconciliation of ordained ministries.

Be it further resolved, that the 1996 General Conference of The United Methodist Church send greetings of grace and peace in Christ to the other member churches of the Consultation, offering prayers that we may *all be one so that the world might believe.*

MINORITY REPORT

Whereas , there are lingering questions around issues of theology and polity among Episcopalians and Presbyterians and these are not yet resolved;

Whereas, our new commitment to Pan Methodist union (AME, AMEZ, CME and UMC), proposed to be acted upon in the year 2000 requires priority emphasis in our ecumenical efforts;

Whereas, the creation of further ecumenical institutions and programmatic relationships will not significantly affect Christian unity among lay Christians at the local level;

Therefore, we receive the Proposal for the Adoption of Church in Covenant Communion and urge its continued study. We commit ourselves to further participation in the Consultation on Church Union (COCU) and ask:

-That the viability of COCU at the regional and local church level be tested by organizing worship services, studies and ministries among participating communions.

-From these experiences annual conferences shall evaluate and report their insights and recommendations to the General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns.

-From this information any changes or recommendations shall be brought with the new proposal to the 2000 General Conference.

Riley Case
William K. Quick
Guy C. Ames, III
Jeff D. Ruff
James H. Rush
Ruth Brown
David L. Brazelton

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 781-NonDis-$

**Subject: Establish a Commission on Union (Pan-Methodist)**
Committee Item: IC91-NonDis-C$
Petition:
21726-IC-NonDis-O$, Pg. 931
Membership: 71; Present: 70;
For: 70; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 782-5

**Subject: Ecumenical Relations**
Committee Item: IC94-5-C
Petition:
20084-IC-5-C, Pg. 901
Membership: 71; Present: 70;
For: 70; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 783-1904

**Subject: Amenability of General Commission on Communication**
Committee Item: IC101-1904-A
Petition:
20637-IC-1904-D, Pg. 908
Membership: 71; Present: 64;
For: 31; Against: 30; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Amend the second sentence of ¶1904:

As an administrative general agency...and be evaluated by the General Council on Ministries **and Council of Bishops** in program matters...

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 784-2005.6
**Subject: Organization**
Committee Item: IC126-2005.6-N
Petition:
20551-IC-2005.6-D, Pg. 910
Membership: 71; Present: 67;
For: 44; Against: 18; Not Voting: 5;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 785-264
**Subject: Local Church Program Agencies**
Committee Item: LC41-264-C
Petition:
20672-LC-264-D, Pg. 961
Membership: 89; Present: 77;
For: 41; Against: 33; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 786-113
**Subject: Called to Inclusiveness**
Committee Item: LC54-113-C
Petition:
22105-LC-113-D, Pg. 1405
Membership: 89; Present: 79;
For: 56; Against: 18; Not Voting: 5;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence with the following ammendment: substitute the following sentence at the end of the third paragraph of P113: a further mark of inclusiveness is setting of church activities in facilities accessible to persons with disabilities.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 787-2525
**Subject: Seasonal Local United Methodist Church Trustees**
Committee Item: LC56-2525-N
Petition:
22682-LC-2525-D, Pg. 1421
Membership: 89; Present: 78;
For: 61; Against: 17; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 788-2545
**Subject: Conservation and Dedication of Local Church Buildings**
Committee Item: LC90-2545-N
Petition:
21091-LC-2545-D, Pg. 966
Membership: 89; Present: 79;
For: 67; Against: 12; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence. This a normal courtesy and not appropriate to mandate attendance at an optional ceremony.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 789-210
**Subject: Church Membership**
Committee Item: LC124-210-C
Petition:
21084-LC-210-D, Pg. 946
Membership: 89; Present: 78;
For: 70; Against: 7; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 790-245
**Subject: Organization and Administration of the Local Church**
Committee Item: LC134-245-N
Petition:
22439-LC-245-D, Pg. 1410
Membership: 89; Present: 77;
For: 66; Against: 11; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 791-408
**Subject: Categories of Local Pastor**
Committee Item: MN51-408-C
Petition:
21863-MN-408-D, Pg. 1008
Membership: 113; Present: 98;
For: 89; Against: 9; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 792-324
**Subject: Ministry of an Elder**
Committee Item: MN150-324-A
Petition:
21843-MN-324-D, Pg. 1002
Membership: 113; Present: 107;
For: 92; Against: 12; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Plain text added by committee

Add a new ¶ 324:

**Ministry of an Elder. Elders are ordained ministers who, by Gods grace, have completed their formal preparation and have been consecrated and served as a probationary member, ~~or dained and served as a deacon~~, have been found by the Church to be of sound learning, of Christian character, possessing the necessary gifts and evidence of Gods grace, and whose call to ordination has been confirmed by the Church. Elders** are ordained to a lifetime ministry of Service, Word, Sacrament and Order. **They are authorized to preach and teach the Word of God, to administer the Sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion, and to order the life of the church for mission and ministry. The servant leadership of the Elder is expressed by leading the people of God in worship and prayer, by leading persons to faith in Jesus Christ, by exercising pastoral supervision in the congregation, and by leading the Church in obedience to mission in the world. Elders continue their service responsibility as Deacons while serving as Elders and, as such, are bound by the meaning of that ordination.**

**As members of the Order of Elder, all elders are in covenant with all other elders in the Annual Conference and shall participate in the life of their Order.**

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## Removed from Consent Calendar

**102**-608.8

Removed from consent calendar A02 by the following delegates:

Fooshee, Dale L.;
Goudie, Robert F.;
Crickard, Elsie;
Hausman, Sharon A.:
Cronin, Deborah K..

**103**-71

Removed from consent calendar A02 by the following delegates:

Goldschnidt, Victor W.;
Granger, Philip R.;
Morgan, Sharie;
Ottjes, Jim H.;
Case, Riley.

**104**-71

Removed from consent calendar A02 by the following delegates:

Olson, Harriett Jane;
Mitchell, Beth Whalley;
Young, Betty Jane;
Lyght, Ernest S.:
Brandt, Robert.

**133**-216

Removed from consent calendar A02 by the following delegates:

Goldschnidt, Victor W.;
Gordan, Jimmy;
Brown, Ruth;
Ottjes, Jim H.;
Case, Riley.

**141**-230

Removed from consent calendar A02 by the following delegates:

Stover, Gregory:
Wogaman, J. Philip;
Ervin, Jr, Paul R.
Granger, Philip;
Hassinger, Susan W.

**145**-1604

Removed from consent calendar A02 by the following delegates:

Trotter, Frank;
Keels, Bernard;
Ferguson, Sandra;
Matthews, Marcus;
Keels, Christine.

**165**-2622

Removed from consent calendar A02 by the following delegates:

Sager, Stanely C.;
Hutchinson, William W.;
Crutchfield, Charles N.;
Goodwin, Dick;
Wilson, David B.

**194**-245

Removed from consent calendar A02 by the following delegates:

Abram, Charlotte;
Gray, Aaron M.;
Caldwell, Kirbyjon;
Foley, Emma Dell;
Crump, Anita H.

**306**-2554

Removed from consent calendar C02 by the following delegates:

Keels, Christine;
Matthews, Marcus;
Ferguson, Sandra;
Keels, Bernard;
Trotter, Frank.

**397**-245

Removed from consent calendar C02 by the following delegates:

Abram, Charlotte;
Trumble, Bette T.;
Johnson, H. Sam;
Crump, Anita H.;
Hasemeyer, Bill.

# Proceedings of the 1996 General Conference of The United Methodist Church

## The Committee On Journal

The Committee On Journal hereby certifies as accurate the proceedings as printed in the *Daily Christian Advocate* for Saturday, April 20, 1996.

**William Reasner,**
**Chair, Committee On Journal**
(C13, seat 2)

*(Continued from page 183)*

*General Conference and the World Wide Web*

SUSAN PEEK: Good morning. This General Conference marks a significant change in the way news and information from the sessions are made available to all of us attending the conference and to friends back home who wonder just what it is you do for two whole weeks. The World Wide Web on the internet provides a capability for us to take the news releases and petition updates, put them on a computer here, and then share them with as many people as request to see them. From inside this convention center and from around the world people can follow the proceedings of the 1996 General Conference.

If you've never tried the internet or don't know exactly what it is, it could be described simply as a system of computers that can connect and exchange messages and files. And if you're wondering if anybody is reading, yesterday alone, the United Methodist Information Home Page had over 4,000 inquiries.

Now, Susan Brumbaugh, who is Web Master for these General Conference pages and John Brawn, who is behind the curtain, who designed and created this system, will demonstrate it. If you have any questions about it or would like additional help using PETS, come to one of the 30 minute demonstrations led by United Methodist Communications staff, each day from 1:30 until 2:00 in Ballroom One. That's the press room, and it's on the lower level. Seating is limited, so come to the press room reception desk to get a ticket. The demonstrations are designed for people who have never used the internet, and they will go slower and cover more than we will have time to do this morning. And more information is available about United Methodism on the internet at the United Methodist Communications display in room C102.

*Instructions for Using Internet*

SUSAN BRUMBAUGH: First, I want to let you know that instructions for accessing the online information that we have here in the conference center can be found on page 92 of today's *DCA*. And the second thing I'm going to do today is show you how this online information looks when you access it on the screen and how to move around and find the information you are looking for. We're going to be getting the page on screen so you can see what it looks like when you first open it up.

The General Conference main page is on the screen now. What we're going to do is go to the updated information section, which is where you will usually want to go first. The first thing you see is "What's New." You can click on "What's New," and you can see what has been added for the day. We haven't added anything yet today, but we will. If we go back to the index, we can find the status of a petition or calendar item in "Information on the Status of Petitions and Calendar Items." All 3,076 petitions are online, and you can use this program to read those 92 calendar items you are supposed to be reading on these pages. So pay attention. On the "Information on the Status of Petitions and Calendar Items" page, we can search for petition information, calendar item information, or you can look at *Discipline* paragraphs.

What we want to do right now is search for the status of a particular petition. We'll click on "Search For Information About a Petition" and, for an example, let's try searching for Petition number 22019. So we click on "Search By Petition Number." On that page, you need to select the range of numbers that contain 22019. So we scroll down, select that range. When we get to that page, you scroll through and find the particular petition number that you're looking for. In this case, we find 22019. You click on the underlined number next to the petition title. When we get to the petition information screen, you can find all kinds of information about the petition, and I'll just run through what we see on the page. The petition title is "Commission on Small Membership Church." It was submitted by .CIL, which is Central Illinois. If you don't know what CIL stands for, you can click on the list of acronyms. You can see the petition text which can be seen in the *ADCA* on page 1386.

If you click on the text, you can see the original petition that was submitted. If we go back to the index, now, you can see that that particular petition references paragraph 742 from the '92 *Book of Discipline*. We can click on the paragraph number to see the paragraph text from the *Book of Discipline*. The entire *Book of Discipline* is online. We can go back to the index and this particular item was assigned to the Independent Commissions Committee.

The next line shows the calendar item status and, if it has been assigned, you can click on "Calendar Item Number" to go to the calendar item information. This particular item

is number 15742. And, again, there's a list of information about the calendar item. It's the same subject, the same *Discipline* paragraph. It has been assigned to Consent Calendar A01. You can cross-reference back to the petition number from this level. We can see that the calendar item involves no financial implications. Again, it was assigned to the Independent Commissions Committee. And here, you can see the committee recommendation.

For this particular petition, the recommendation was "concurrence as amended." And you can click on the text of the committee's recommendation to see how it was amended, if it was amended, to see the recommendation itself, and if there was a minority report included, that would be at the bottom underneath the recommendation.

If we go back to the index page, there was not a minority report in this particular petition. Under "Plenary Action", you can see that the plenary session has not yet acted on this calendar item, but once it has acted on the calendar item, the votes appear on this page.

Let's go back to the original Home Page. I wanted to let you know that everyone in the world can see all of these pages. Your friends and family at home and anyone who is interested in these pages can see them. The address that you'll want to give your friends is printed in the *DCA*, again on page 92, and it is http://www.umc.org.

If we click on "This is What the United Methodist Information Page Looks Like," you can see what it looks like. Visitors to that page will click on "General Conference" at the top of the page or inside the topic menu. If we click on "General Conference", you see that it is exactly the same page that we have here online. The pages will also be available after the conference is over, so you can visit them when you get home and can see what you did. The entire world is connected to the conference for the first time ever, and we are really, really excited about that. Thank you from both Susans.

*(applause)*

BISHOP SHERER: We are a bit overwhelmed, but thank you. Microphone two.

*Judicial Council*
*Nominating Process Clarified*

THOMAS EBLEN (Louisville Conference): Point of information. Will we at this session be allowed opportunity to make nominations from the floor for the Judicial Council?

BISHOP SHERER: The nominations for the Judicial Council will be printed today, and the floor will be open for nomination tomorrow for additional persons. Then all of the biographical information will be printed and that will be available to us on Monday, and we will vote on Wednesday.

EBLEN: So tomorrow morning, then, will be the nominations?...

BISHOP SHERER: Yes. Is there anything you would like to add to that, Ms. Marshall?

CAROLYN MARSHALL: No, that's correct.

BISHOP SHERER: Thank you. Microphone three, please. Would the delegates please stay in your seats until you are called on? Thank you.

*Enforced Time Limitations*
*for Proceedings*

DON PIKE: I move that for the balance of the 1996 General Conference, that the schedules printed in the *Daily Christian Advocate* be designated as the Order of the Day for the purpose of enforcing time limitations for all segments of our proceedings. If I have a second, I'll speak to that. (second from the floor)

PIKE: As we met as legislative committee chairs this morning, we all expressed a deep sense of frustration that we have so much to deal with in our legislative committees, but we are consistently running over in plenary. We are acting as if we have an infinite amount of time. But we don't have an infinite amount of time. We have a finite amount of time, and we have so much to deal with, and as we understand it, we have this afternoon, this evening, and probably Saturday afternoon. For those of you here new at conference, if you relish the thought of meeting from 10 until 2:00 a.m. next week, in legislative committees to finish your work, then you won't want to vote for this. I will urge us to support this.

BISHOP SHERER: Is there any other discussion? If not, the motion is properly before us, and would you please vote when the light appears? [Results: yes, 815; no, 97; abstained, no 19]

BISHOP SHERER: The motion was affirmed. That means that the time this morning is up—for all of those green cards. I would ask Bishop Ben Oliphint to come and dismiss us with prayer. Oh, before we do that, we have some announcements. So, Ms. Marshall, would you share those?

CAROLYN MARSHALL: Thank you. There are three announcements. One, a query has come here as far as tomorrow's plenary as to whether or not there will be worship and when. Yes, there will be worship. As you will notice, that is the order of the day, every day with choral music at 8:15 and worship at 8:30. This morning, from this morning on, too, there are motion forms available for you. We have the pages advised to bring them to you. Please write your motions on those pads or attach an extra page if that is necessary. Returning the top form, the white one, to the platform and keeping the yellow one, the second sheet, for your own reference. And the third and final announcement, is that the Council of Bishops will meet in executive session this afternoon at 2:00 p.m. at Trinity Church Fellowship Hall. Thank you.

BISHOP SHERER: Bishop Oliphint, would you dismiss us with prayer?

BISHOP BENJAMIN OLIPHINT: May we stand?

*(prayer)*

## Morning Session Saturday, April 20, 1996

*Bishop Bruce Blake, presiding*

BISHOP WILKE: Let us be in prayer. May we begin in silence as each of us offers our own soul concerns to the Lord.

*(hymn)*

WILSON-FELDER: Why don't you give God a hand clap of praise? Amen.

BISHOP WILKE: Please remain for a moment, for we'll move into the time of discernment. But now receive this, let's take hands for our MYF benediction? How about that? Been a long time. "The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. Amen." Please be seated.

BISHOP BRUCE BLAKE: We would move into our time of discernment at this moment, taking the spirit of worship that we have experienced together, the Word in preaching and in song. I would like to invite you now to the two questions, to join a partner in visiting about "What is my most earnest hope for these next few hours of the General Conference?" and "What do I believe is God's most fervent hope for these next few hours?" Would you turn now to the person next to you. Share about these questions, and in four minutes, I will remind you to share with each other in prayer.

And now, God, may the words of our mouths and the meditation and thoughts of all of our lives be acceptable, God, not to each other, but to you, for you are our strength and salvation. Amen.

This is to remind you that the choir, as they are exiting will be in concert this afternoon at two o'clock, and we would remind you of that time.

We'll now turn to Bill Cook for the Committee on Courtesies and Privileges. Bill. Let us be in order, please.

*Resolution Honoring Robert K. Feaster*

BILL COOK (Oregon-Idaho): I would like to present a resolution this morning on the retirement of Robert Feaster. "Whereas, Robert K. Feaster was named president and publisher of the United Methodist Publishing House on June 1, 1983, and led the publishing ministry of the United Methodist Church in its celebration of two hundred years of service, while providing visionary leadership to undertake significant changes to make the publishing house an effective agent for advancing the cause of Christianity now and in the twenty-first century. And whereas, his commitment to assuring the highest quality in services and resources inspired and motivated major attention by the staff to share with more people in more places will come to know God through Jesus Christ, love God, serve God, and their neighbor. Now therefore, be it resolved that we, the delegates of the 1996 General Conference of the United Methodist Church, meeting in Denver, Colorado, April 16 through 26, 1996, do hereby express our heartfelt gratitude and sincere appreciation for the dedicated leadership, exceptional competence, and abiding vision of Robert K. Feaster, as he has led the United Methodist Publishing House in its service to the church and to the world, on the occasion of his retirement, we give thanks for all that he has contributed, and pray God's continued blessings on him, his wife, Barbara, and their family in the years to come." I move that this resolution become part of the official record of the General Conference.

BISHOP BLAKE: And I'm sure that you would want to respond in the appropriate way that that would be done.

*(applause)*

*Presentation of Secretary of Education Richard W. Riley*

WILLIAM COOK JR.: I would like now to present Bishop Meadors to make an introduction and presentation. Bishop Meadors.

BISHOP MARSHALL L. MEADORS JR. (Mississippi Area): Bishop Blake, brothers and sisters. It is a high honor and a personal privilege to present to the General Conference a life-long United Methodist; a man committed to family values; devoted to his parents throughout their lives; a responsible and caring husband, father, and grandfather; an active churchman; administrative board member; sunday school teacher; education pioneer and reformer; former two-term governor of the state of South Carolina; the United States Secretary of Education, the honorable Richard Wilson Riley.

*(applause)*

RICHARD WILSON RILEY (U.S. Secretary of Education): Thank you so much. Thank you so much. It's a great honor for me to be with you this morning. I had the great pleasure of being the speaker at Higher Education Night last evening, and what a grand experience that was—music from the African University group that was just beautiful.

I'm going to receive a book in a moment entitled *Education, the Gift of Hope*, and I think this conference will consider the book.

It is a statement of how important education is to all of us as United Methodists in this education/information era.

John Wesley had a strong belief that education really informed faith, and that education was the stepping stone to spirituality that was part of his great mission. The bishops and their spouses last year agreed to a statement which some 36 other religious groups agreed to, saying that they would urge all United Methodist fami-

lies to support their own children's education, from early childhood right on through college and university and through life. That's a grand statement of support, and this book, I think, entitled *Education, the Gift of Hope* will be a very positive statement. I urge your positive consideration of it. It's a grand opportunity for me to be with you and God bless you all.

*(applause)*

ROGER W. IRESON (General Board of Higher Education): Mr. Secretary, we thank you for your speech last night to the concerns of education. We are grateful for your ministry as a United Methodist layman. Last night we presented you with a presentation copy of *Education, the Gift of Hope* which we would pray would be discussed in every church, so that churches and educators can make a difference for our young people. Today we have a presentation for the president of the United States, and I call upon Dr. Allen Norris, who chaired the committee which produced the book and is chair of the Legislative Session on Higher Education, to make that presentation.

*Book Inscribed for President Clinton*

J. ALLEN NORRIS (North Carolina): Mr. Secretary, I would like to read the inscription on the book that will be presented to you for the president. "*Education, the Gift of Hope* presented to President William J. Clinton by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry of The United Methodist Church. The church must join hands with educators as we seek more effective ways to prepare our children for a future in which they will find personal fulfillment and will make significant contributions to our world." Mr. Secretary, we ask that you present this copy to the President of the United States.

*(applause)*

RILEY: Thank you very much.

BISHOP BLAKE: Thank you. As we move ahead in our calendar, I would remind the conference of your action yesterday which is my responsibility to implement as your presiding officer. It is not in the *DCA* today, but this is the official record, and the motion was that for the balance of the '96 General Conference, that the schedule printed in the *Daily Christian Advocate* be designated as the order of day for the purpose of enforcing time limitation for all segments of our proceedings. This was passed. It simply says that you want us to adhere to the calendar as the order of the day, and under our procedure, the rules would have to be suspended to vary from that.

So we turn now to the report that is in your calendar for the National Plan for Hispanic Ministry report, and Bishop Joel Martinez will be responsible for this report and introduce it. Bishop Martinez.

*National Plan For Hispanic Ministry*

BISHOP JOEL MARTINEZ (Nebraska): Buenos Dias, pueblo de Dios. Good morning, people of God. When you adopted the National Plan for Hispanic Ministry in 1992 in Louisville, you asked us to report here in Denver in 1996. The national committee which it is my privilege to chair, is now prepared to report to you and to share with you exciting events and blessings of God as we have worked during the quadrennium.

We will begin our report with song, and I call on Mr. Lockwood to come and lead us in the opening song.

JORGE LOCKWOOD: I invite all who are able to please stand and sing with us "De colores," one of the most beloved traditional Hispanic songs.

*(song)*

*(applause)*

REBECCA A. YOUNGBLOOD (Mississippi): You may be seated. And grace and peace to you this day. I am Rebecca Youngblood, Mississippi Conference, and vice-chair of the Committee on Hispanic Ministries.

"De colores" is a lively song of faith, but expresses very well our purpose here this morning. "De colores," and so must all love be. God's love is indeed made evident to us in people of every color.

Four years ago this committee came before the General Conference to propose the adoption of the National Plan for Hispanic Ministry. With this report today, we come to give account of our work and we invite you to celebrate with us what God is doing, through The United Methodist Church, as we implement this plan together.

*(video)*

YOUNGBLOOD: What has been accomplished since the 1992 General Conference? Reports from across the annual conferences, reports from you, indicate that significant progress has taken place this quadrennium. Earlier this week, all delegates received on your desks two maps, which are copies of maps you will see before you this morning. And I remind you of those maps so that you can refer to them today and later.

Before the initiation of the national plan, 38 of our 72 annual conferences were already involved in some type of ministry with Hispanics. As you can see on the first map, so far this quadrennium 18 additional annual conferences have begun new ministries with Hispanics, including faith communities and new congregations. The next map highlights these conferences for you.

The number of annual conferences participating in some form of ministry with Hispanics has increased during this quadrennium by nearly 45 percent. Today, as our next map shows, 55 conferences across the church have Hispanic ministries, and several others are preparing, even now, to respond to the growing Hispanic population in their midst.

Within the conferences that already have established ministries, growth has taken place as well. Twenty of these conferences have expanded their ministries during the last several years. Conference reports reveal to us that 494 faith communities have been started in 40 conferences, plus 199 church school extension programs in 19 conferences. These ministries are symbolized on the map by a book or a square. Sixty-six new congregations have been started in 24 conferences. And there are 59 revitalized congregations. These are indicated by a church topped with a cross. Seven hundred ninety-nine outreach ministries have been begun in 41 conferences, and these are symbolized by two clasped hands. Five hundred fifty lay missioners have been recruited and are now trained. And these persons are indicated by a stick figure on the map. We rejoice together in this abundant evidence of God at work in us.

*Hispanic Program Training Curriculum Developed*

One of the most impressive accomplishments of the National Plan for Hispanic Ministries this quadrennium has been the design and utilization of a curriculum for training teams of lay missioners and pastor mentors. Collaborating in an exemplary way with the four general program agencies of our church, the Committee on Hispanic Ministries has developed a resource for the whole church that did not exist three years ago. Two of three modules are already available and are being used extensively in local, conference, and regional training centers throughout this country and Puerto Rico. Further cooperation among the four program agencies and the other agencies of the church has produced resources for developing new Hispanic ministries, for Hispanic and non-Hispanic leaders and churches who desire to be involved in Hispanic ministries, and for interpreting the plan across the church.

These statistics and resources, however, cannot begin to fully tell the story of what God is doing as the National Plan for Hispanic Ministry is implemented. The plan is first and foremost about people and congregations responding to God's spirit.

Today we welcome three persons whose lives have been impacted by the plan. Our witnesses are Ana Velasquez Stone, a lay missioner from Kansas City; Mel Muchinsky, a pastor from Phoenix; and Lavinia Lavoy, a lay woman from Orlando. We welcome them. Ana.

*(applause)*

*Hispanic Ministries in Kansas City*

ANA VELASQUEZ STONE (Kansas City): *Buenos dias.* I am a lay missioner at Grace United Church in Kansas City, Missouri. I was working as a drywall finisher when I first heard the call to become a lay missioner. I was raised as a Roman Catholic and became a United Methodist Church member at Lynnwood United Church, because, as a Catholic, I did not feel encouraged to grow spiritually, nor did I see the opportunities that were calling, tugging at my heart.

When I was approached by my pastor for this position at Grace United, he asked me to think about it, pray about it—excuse me, this is very touching to me— and discuss it with my family. On that particular Sunday morning, it was as if God was talking to me, because the sermon was entitled, "How Can I Serve Thee?" and the hymn was, "Here I Am, Lord." How can you refuse when God whispers your name?

I began as the director of Outreach Hispanic Ministries in September of 1992, on a very part-time basis. Within months, I was very full time. I attended one of the first lay missioner training programs at Perkins School of Theology in Dallas, Texas, in 1993. When I began as the director of Outreach Hispanic Ministries, there were no programs at Grace United or anywhere else in northeast Kansas City for this rapidly growing Hispanic population. I began by helping to translate for people and to obtain the most basic of needs: food, clothing, and shelter. I was also developing and locating programs that would enhance the lives in adjustment to the United States and Kansas City.

I have spent days and nights in hospitals and homes helping get a young boy out of jail; keeping a 14-year-old girl from getting married and dropping out of school; opening my heart and my home to a homeless family. I have worked with others in the programs implemented at Grace United during the last four years, including: Project Strength, a nutrition-based education and budgeting class; a medical staff to meet basic medical needs; English as a second language; tutoring classes for youth and adults; Hispanic women's support group; counseling group for youth and adults; and parents as teachers, just to name a few.

A Hispanic women's shelter is part of our long-range plans, as there are none in the city at this time. This will include planning and implementing everything in Spanish and will emphasize a strong spiritual base. Our ministries have influenced the community by bringing together people of different cultures, finding harmony in our diversity, bringing peace, understanding, and acceptance where none existed. Providing for the spiritual needs of the Hispanic community was and is a challenge. I have led Bible studies and worship services, prayed with and for persons and families, and have just been here when needed by our Hispanic brothers and sisters.

As a lay missioner, I believe that I am an instrument of God. All that we have accomplished and all of the growth that we have experienced at Grace United and in the community has been as a result of God moving in my life and in the life of Grace United. Grace United is a combined Methodist and Presbyterian Church. Together, they have been instrumental in reaching out to the Hispanic community. Without this combined effort

of both, this valuable effort would not have been possible. I am thankful to God that he has seen me worthy to be his disciple. As a United Methodist, I have been given the opportunity to serve Christ and the people of Kansas City. *Gracias!*

*(applause)*

*Hispanic Ministries in Phoenix*

REV. MEL MUCHINSKY (Phoenix, Arizona): A Hispanic man came to my door on the afternoon of May 27, 1994. "Can I use your telephone," he asked. Well, never having met the man, I was rather taken aback, but something within me said, "Yes. This just might be an answer to your prayer." He did use the telephone; he didn't call Miami, Arizona. As I thought, it was Miami, Florida. As it turned out, Orlando Garcia Cara was a Cuban refugee who had just got off the plane in Phoenix, Arizona, a few days before. Experiencing culture shock and disorientation, he looked for a church closest to his apartment. The restrictive chains that he knew around him in Cuba were now thrown off, and he could worship as he pleased, he could evangelize, he could start a faith community. He asked for Spanish Bibles and hymn books, and this our church gladly bought for him. Shortly thereafter we bought Spanish Sunday school material, and Spanish video tapes to enhance his ministry. Initially, the faith community composed mainly of children and youth, but slowly others have been incorporated in that fellowship, adults and whole families.

Seeking to respond to the demographics of the community, Aldersgate United Methodist Church conducted a house-to-house visitation. Each household received a video on the life of Jesus Christ free in the spring of 1994. This survey revealed a population group of Hispanics, anywhere from 12 to 30 percent within a mile radius of the church. Now the time was to act now. We needed to respond to this particular population group, rather than wait until our Anglo-speaking congregation had dwindled in numbers and in strength. And we all know that most churches wait until it's too late.

We made a conscious decision to be in partnership in ministry with Hispanics and Koreans at a special church conference in June of 1994. I believe, during this time, the work of the Spirit was mostly manifest within our local church. Our congregation has been engaged in cross-cultural ministry to those in our neighborhood, and we've really found a new sense of mission to those around us. Five times a year, English, Korean, and Hispanic ministries come together for what is known as a Festival Sunday. Cross-cultural events and fellowship have enlarged both our vision as well as our ministry to the whole world. The faith community established by our Hispanic outreach ministry, continues to grow, and we are constantly involved also in refugee resettlement.

This new Hispanic ministry was a result of my own personal prayer. I had been praying since 1988 for the Lord to send me someone whom I could be in partnership with to this particular community. And, like Abraham, I many times tried to answer my own prayer, and of course I failed. The Lord provided the answer in his own terms, in his own time. I believe that this is the foundation of any ministry—that is prayer. I believe today, that through prayer and our cross-cultural ministry, Aldersgate United Methodist Church is an exciting place to be, and I invite you to celebrate this with us. Thank you. *Gracias.*

*(applause)*

*Called to Hispanic Ministries*

LAVINIA LABOY: Ever since I came to Denver, I have felt all sorts of aches and pains, but nothing has been compared to what I felt this morning, when I had a million butterflies on my stomach just thinking that I have to talk to you today. So if I faint, complain to him, he sent me here. (points toward heaven)

*(Laughter)*

I'm Lavinia Laboy, and all my life I consider myself a Christian. I thought that by taking my family to church on Sundays, I had fulfilled the divine mandate. Sometimes the material things in my home had more importance than spiritual ones. And in order to ask a favor from the Lord, we use intermediaries—saints, candles, promises. I have not known of that private line that lets you talk directly to Jesus.

Quite a while ago, I went to visit a friend. He had a terminal illness. When I went there, they had the faith community going on, and I was invited to attend. I was able to see that man, that he testified how God sustained him in this moment in his life. I began to attend those groups and I watched him very closely. I never saw in him signs of sadness, bitterness toward anyone. He inspired me. His character showed me that no matter how alone, sick, and hopeless you might find yourself in life, there is always the friendly hand to sustain one's soul, that of Jesus Christ.

I remember the phrase, "Grow and multiply." Deep inside I began to feel something I had never experienced before, a new-found desire to serve my family, my neighbors, my community, but from a Christ-centered approach. I have been growing spiritually, multiplying my services, my talents, and my love to others, all for one purpose, to please Christ in the best possible way.

In order for the Lord to increase my growth in faith, strength, resignation, and tolerance during this year, I've had the experience of seeing my daughter go through six major operations. If this living Christ whom I met through the faith community group would not have been there with me, I don't think I would have been able to withstand so much suffering and pain. Praise God, for he is real and he can be found! He is with me. I have let him

act, and I have accepted his will without questioning why things happened to us. Through him there is no fear, no doubt, no worry, no sadness. This is why I exhorted my friends to consider joining one of these faith communities; for it is the only way to grow, to find real value into your life, the only goal that will satisfy you, for in him lies the answer to all our heart desires. I have discovered the way. I have discovered the light, and I have discovered the truth, thanks to my friends in the faith community group. God bless you all.

*(applause)*

*Continuing the Hispanic Ministries Plan*

BISHOP MARTINEZ: You have heard the voices, and seen the faces of those who hunger for righteousness and hope, in the videos and the slides. And you have just experienced the deep conviction and been caught up in the joy of a lay missioner and a pastor, and a faithful participant in a faith community. Our committee has proposed, and you will be considering a quadrennial extension of the national plan. We have made this recommendation for continuation for three reasons.

Firstly, many annual conferences are taking good first steps in implementing the plan, while others are just beginning to initiate new ministry. The need to resource our annual conferences is stronger than ever.

Secondly, in just three years the national plan has managed to provide training for 550 lay missioner-pastor teams. This falls short of our original goal, but we feel that we can train an average of 250 additional lay missioner-pastor teams through the new quadrennium and that will move us toward our goal of 2,000 lay missioners.

And thirdly, major work in curriculum development, resources for evangelization, training networks and institutes, and ongoing work with our seminaries and general agencies, will require the plan's continuation.

The plan's effort to develop new ministries, and to strengthen the church's outreach to an ever-growing Hispanic population, has simply not been completed in the period of three years. In the new quadrennium, we propose major financial resources of the plan to go toward annual conference and local church ministry development grants. One of the urgent requests we have heard across the church is for seed money to fund new ministries and revitalization efforts. Our proposal includes a commitment of a million dollars through the quadrennium for such grants. We also want to accelerate the training of lay missioner-pastor teams, as I just indicated. And finally, we intend to increase user-friendly resources in all media, printed, and audio, and video. We have great demands, especially in the area of worship materials, educational resources, and planning resources.

Sisters and brothers of the 1996 General Conference, in its better moments, United Methodism has been characterized by boldness and a passion for the gospel. It has been willing to adapt its strategies to reach people where they are. While some have walked by on the other side, United Methodists in our more faithful moments, have been willing to risk for others. We have been most clearly the church when gospel claims have overcome institutional caution.

Sisters and brothers, ...Hermanos y hermanas, we are a colorful gathering here in Denver this week. We're a multilingual community that sings of the one Lord in diverse accents. We're also part of the Pentecost people, which is God's ecumenical church. We share the same Pentecost experience of the Jerusalem market place and of Aldersgate Street. As the Spirit comes among us, hearts are warmed, empty lives are filled, the captives are set free, the weak are empowered, and the timid are emboldened to proclaim the gospel and resurrection power.

This General Conference, all of us together, can be part of such a Pentecost moment in United Methodism—a bold moment, a faithful moment, as our church recommits to support the National Plan for Hispanic Ministry. We conclude, therefore, our report this morning, as we began, inviting you to join us in song as Mr. Lockwood comes to lead us.

LOCKWOOD: The title of our song "Unidos" means united, and it is only "unidos," together, that we can join in doing God's work. It is only hand in hand "tomados de las manos," that we can announce God's love to everyone.

*(song)*

*(applause)*

*Mil Voces Para Celebrar*

BISHOP BLAKE: Thank you, and now we turn to Bishop Galvan concerning the presentation of the Hispanic hymnal.

*(applause)*

BISHOP ELIAS GALVAN: Bishop Blake, sisters and brothers in Christ, for Spanish speaking United Methodists, this is, indeed, a most meaningful moment. For this is the first time in the history of our church, that the General Conference approves an official Spanish hymnal for the use of the entire church. Your approval came through the consent calendar, item 28, printed in Friday's *DCA*. We're indeed grateful to the General Board of Discipleship and the United Methodist Publishing House for listening to the voice of the Hispanics, accepting the challenge to publish a Spanish hymnbook, and investing the necessary funds in the production of *Mil Voces Para Celebrar*.

Just as the United Methodist Hymnal that the General Conference approved in 1988, it created a liturgical renewal in our church. We fully expect this new hymn book to bring a revival in worship in our Hispanic congregations. *Mil Voces Para Cele-*

*brar* has sought to preserve the best translations and the most-liked traditional hymns of our church, but at the same time, it has incorporated the best indigenous hymns from the wealth of a new hymnology coming out of the different Hispanic communities and throughout Latin America. We can say to you without reservations, that *Mil Voces Para Celebrar* is a worthy contribution to the total church.

We are pleased at the reception that this hymn book has already received. In the short time since its publication, sales have exceeded our expectations, and the edition in red is sold out.

*(applause)*

Finally, let me mention that *Mil Voces Para Celebrar* has also become an ecumenical project, when the Disciples of Christ joined us in using our material to produce their own Spanish hymn book. We rejoice that our work has assisted a sister church in meeting their own needs among the Hispanic people. In page two of the sampler that has been distributed to you, you find the names of all the members of the committee. Some of them are here to assist us in the presentation of this hymn book. They come from different regions of the United States and represent a variety of sub-cultures among Hispanics. To them, a special word of gratitude for their invaluable contributions. I also want to express a word of appreciation to the choir that assists us today with the presentation: Coral Metodista Unida Hispana de Nueva York under the direction of Jorge Lockwood, who by the way, will offer a concert at 1:30 p.m. today, just in front of the ballroom downstairs, and all of you are invited.

And finally, let me express a special word of thanks to our editor, Mrs. Raquel Martinez, for her able leadership.

*(applause)*

And I'm going to ask our editor at this point to begin our presentation in worship.

*Worship from Hispanic Hymnal*

RAQUEL MARTINEZ: Just a brief word of explanation about the first page of the Order of Worship which you have received for this presentation: In the Call to Worship you may respond in the language of your choice. Now a very brief word about the central theme of the hymns of praise. The first one, "Al despuntar en la loma el dia"—"As Dawn Breaks, and as I see your creation, I feel your presence, just as creation sings to you, I sing to you, O God."

The second one, "Solo tú eres santo": Only you are holy, and worthy of praise. Pour out your Spirit and let your light shine. Let your glory fill this place.

The third song, "Para la gloria de Dios"—"To the glory of God": I sing to the glory of God, I praise God with all my heart.

And the last song: "Cristo es la Peña de Horeb"—"Christ is the Mountain of Horeb", is one of our bi-lingual hymns, and you may sing in the language of your choice.

For the prayer of the day, again, you may pray in the language of your choice. Let us stand as we worship God together. We'll have our Call to Worship.

MINERVA CARCAÑO: (*Call to Worship in Spanish, then English*)

RAQUEL MARTINEZ: You may be seated. Let us turn to the sampler, page 10, and we will sing stanzas one and two only.

*(song)*

RAQUEL MARTINEZ: Turn to page 15 in your sampler, "Solo tú eres de santo,"—"Only You are Holy."

*(song)*

RAQUEL MARTINEZ: Turn to page two of your program book, and we will sing together, "Para la gloria de Dios" from the Dominican Republic, page two.

*(song)*

RAQUEL MARTINEZ: Page four, we will sing one stanza only of "Cristo es la peña de Horeb"—"Christ is the Rock of Horeb"—one stanza, and you may choose the language.

*(song)*

Let us pray.

*(prayer)*

RAQUEL MARTINEZ: We will do verses one through six of Psalm 24 found on page 30 of your sampler.

*(song)*

ERADIO VALVERDE: [*in Spanish*]

*[song/musical response in Spanish]*

ANNIE GONZALES: Please stand, and we will sing together "Somos uno en Cristo"—"We are One in Christ Jesus." Turn to page six in your program. Page six. We will sing it once.

*(song)*

MINERVA CARCAÑO: If you would remain standing for the Hispanic Creed found on page seven. [*translation in Spanish*] With Latinos from around the globe, let us affirm our faith: [*in unison spoken in English*] We believe in God the Father Almighty, Creator of the heavens and the earth; Creator of all peoples and all cultures; Creator of all tongues and races.

We believe in Jesus Christ, his son, our Lord, God made flesh in the person for all humanity; God made flesh in an age for all ages; God made flesh in one culture for all cultures; God made flesh in love and grace for all creation.

We believe in the Holy Spirit through whom God incarnate in Jesus

Christ makes his presence known in our peoples and our cultures; through whom God, Creator of all that exists, gives us power to become new creatures; whose infinite gifts make us one people, the Body of Christ.

We believe in the Church universal because it is a sign of God's reign, whose faithfulness is shown in its many hues, where all the colors paint a simple landscape, where all tongues sing the same praise.

We believe in the reign of God, the day of the great Fiesta, when all the colors of creation will form a harmonious rainbow; when all peoples will join in joyful banquet; when all tongues of the universe will sing the same song.

And because we believe, we commit ourselves to believe for those who do not believe; to love for those who do not love; to dream for those who do not dream; until the day when hope becomes reality. Amen. You may be seated.

RAQUEL MARTINEZ: For the passing of the peace in a minute, you will have to stand again. We will sing that song on that first page, "La Paz Esté Con Nosotros." It's a Hebrew melody: "Peace Be With Us." May peace always, always be with us. We will stand and sing it together through once. The second time around, I will invite you to greet your neighbors around you with signs of love and peace. Let us stand. "La Paz Esté Con Nosotros."

*(song in Spanish)*

RAQUEL MARTINEZ: You may be seated.

BISHOP BLAKE: As the—before the final liturgy of the hymnal being presented, I do want to note that as we began the order of the day after worship we were some minutes behind. I'm sure you will want to extend the time for this presentation of the hymnal, and without objection, we will do so. Thank you.

*(laughter)*

*Presentation and Acceptance of*
Mil Voces Para Celebrar

BISHOP GALVAN: Thank you very much. Will you please turn to the offering section? On behalf of the Spanish Language Hymnal Committee, I present a new hymnal, *Mil Voces Para Celebrar Himnario Metodista*, to the General Board of Discipleship and The United Methodist Publishing House. We're confident that this hymnal will build up the church as we seek to serve the Hispanic community in the spirit of the Wesleyan tradition of good music and joyful praise.

EZRA EARL JONES, ROBERT FEASTER, NEIL ALEXANDER, BISHOP DAVID LAWSON: We receive *Mil Voces Para Celebrar* with deep thanksgiving to God for your labor of love. We offer this hymnal to the Methodist Church around the world. We especially commend it to our Hispanic United Methodist Church as well as other Methodist Spanish-speaking churches in Latin America and the Caribbean.

[*in unison*] We rejoice in the publication of *Mil Voces Para Celebrar*. We celebrate with our Hispanic sisters and brothers in their faithful ministry of singing with 1,000 tongues the wonders of God's grace.

*(applause)*

MARTINEZ: Page eight of your programs, and we will close with one stanza only of "Sois la Semilla"—"You are the Seed." One stanza.

*(song)*

BISHOP GALVAN: Will you receive the benediction? [*Benediction in Spanish*] Amen.

BISHOP BLAKE: I'm sure you would want to express your appreciation to Raquel Martinez, who made this all possible in many, many ways. [*applause*] Wonderful historic moment in the church, and that's one of our privileges as we are in this place together in these weeks to experience history in the making. And we've experienced that this morning.

Let me share with you that we will move now into the nominations for Judicial Council and the University Senate. This is a time of nominations. After the nominations of the Council of Bishops are placed in nomination, nominations will be open from the floor. These—is it a point of order? We must proceed with the order of the day. What? The nominations will be in a few minutes. Yes, we will recognize you for those nominations.

To prepare you for those nominations, as you make the nominations, they're not to be made with speeches. They're made with names and identification of conference. Be sure you state your name first as the person making the nomination before the nominations are placed before the house. We turn to Bishop Melvin Talbert, the Secretary of the Council of Bishops, to bring you the nominations of the Council of Bishops.

*University Senate Nominations*

BISHOP MELVIN G. TALBERT: Thank you Bishop, members of the General Conference. I call your attention to page 86 of the *DCA*. You will find there on page 86 the list of the nominees coming from the Council of Bishops for the University Senate and the Judicial Council. As you reflect upon these nominations coming from the council, I call your attention to paragraph 1517.2 regarding the University Senate.

The first four names, you will discover, have been indeed appointed by the Council of Bishops pursuant to that paragraph. Then I call to your attention the next 12 names, six who are executive officers of United Methodist-related educational institutions and six holding other positions relevant to academic or financial affairs or church relations. You will find those six listed.

Now Mr. President, would you want me to go ahead with the Judicial Council or do you want to stop here for nominations?

BISHOP BLAKE: Let's stop here and receive nominations for the University Senate.

BISHOP TALBERT: All right.

BISHOP BLAKE: I would read to you out of paragraph 1517 in the *Book of Discipline* that the same daily session at which the above nominations are announced additional nominations be made from the floor, but at no other time. Nominations are now in order for the University Senate. I would recognize the person at microphone three.

JEANNIE TREVINO-TEDDLIE (Central Texas Conference): I would like to put in nomination Dr. Justo L. Gonzales from the Rio Grande Conference.

BISHOP BLAKE: Right over here, microphone four.

BENITA ROLLINS (East Ohio): I'd like to place in nomination Dr. Willa Bing-Harris. She's a member of the Metropolitan United Methodist Church and a member of the Alabama-West Florida Annual Conference.

BISHOP BLAKE: Microphone three.

GREGORY V. PALMER (East Ohio): A question before a possible nomination. Is Dr. Fred Blumer still on the Senate and therefore does not need to be nominated?

BISHOP BLAKE: Is there someone in the house who can speak to that? Would you hold your question, and we'll try to get an answer and come back to you before the nominations close? I'll recognize microphone 13.

WILLIAM H. HINSON (Texas): I nominate Dr. Maxie Dunham of the Kentucky Conference.

*Categories for Eligibility for Election*

BISHOP BLAKE: If I could remind the persons that, including the person that just made the nomination, those persons who have made nominations thus far, there are categories of election. It will be very helpful for the house to know. These will be printed later, but it will be very helpful for the house to know which category these persons are being nominated, whether or not they are chief executive officers of United Methodist-related institutions or the others holding positions relevant to academic or financial affairs or church relationships. Would the persons who have made those nominations return to the same microphone to, yes, to state those in order, and again, state your name to make this clarification.

BISHOP TALBERT: And Bishop, as they're coming, Roger Ireson is prepared to answer the question that was asked down here, when you get to recognize him.

BISHOP BLAKE: Thank you, we'll get to that in order. Microphone three.

TREVINO-TEDDLIE: Dr. Justo Gonzales would be in the category of a person holding an academic position.

BISHOP BLAKE: Microphone four.

ROLLINS: Likewise, Dr. Willa Bing-Harris is also one who holds academic qualifications.

BISHOP BLAKE: Microphone 13.

HINSON: Dr. Dunham also holds a position relevant to academic.

BISHOP BLAKE: Roger Ireson, which microphone are you at?

ROGER IRESON: Fifteen.

BISHOP BLAKE: Fifteen, please. Thank you.

IRESON: Thank you, Bishop. The question was raised about Dr. Fred Blumer. He is a professor at Baldwin-Wallace, which falls into the non-CEO category, has served the past four years on the Senate, and would be eligible for nomination.

BISHOP BLAKE: We'll turn now to microphone three.

PALMER: I would like to place in nomination Dr. Frederick Blumer of the Baldwin-Wallace College for the category, as Dr. Ireson has mentioned.

BISHOP BLAKE: I do not see other nominations; therefore, I will declare that the nominations for University Senate are closed. We'll turn now to the nominations for Judicial Council, and Bishop Talbert will again review the nominations from the Council of Bishops.

*Judicial Council Nominations*

BISHOP TALBERT: Bishop Blake and members of the General Conference, I again call your attention to page 86. At the bottom of the page, left hand corner, you will find the nominees coming from the Council of Bishops for Judicial Council. I reference paragraph 2602 of the *Book of Discipline*. We are being called upon to select and place before you six clergy to fill two places and six lay persons to fill two places. The names are so indicated.

BISHOP BLAKE: Reminding you, from *The Book of Discipline*, that in this year you will elect two ordained ministers, other than bishops, and two lay persons. After the Council of Bishops will nominate these persons, and the Council of Bishops is required to nominate three times the number of persons to be elected. That is the reason for the number that have been nominated. I would remind you that each of the jurisdictions and central conferences as a group shall be represented by in nomination, which has been done, and therefore there are no other requirements of that nature before the house, and nominations are in order for the Judicial Council. I would turn first to microphone five, over here, the person in the third row, please. Yes.

JANET STEPHENSON (Iowa): I would place in nomination the name of Tom Matheny from Louisiana, and he is a lay person.

BISHOP BLAKE: I would like to facilitate this process, because the cookies wait. Would those of you who wish to make nominations, simply go to a microphone, and I will then be able to call it. If you would allow that, I think that would save us some time. I would turn to microphone eight.

TAL ODEN (Oklahoma): I wish to place in nomination Ed Hill, lay person, Northwest Texas Annual Conference.

BISHOP BLAKE: I turn to microphone three.

JO ANN FUKOMOTO (California Pacific): I would like to nominate Judge Levan Gordon from the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference.

BISHOP BLAKE: Microphone 14.

ROBIN E. BARR (Pacific Northwest): I would like to nominate Jerry Eckert of the Wisconsin Annual Conference. He is a clergy.

BISHOP BLAKE: Microphone seven.

VERGIL L. DAUGHTERY JR. (South Georgia): On behalf of the delegation from the South Georgia Annual Conference of the Southeastern Jurisdiction, I place in nomination lay person Judge H. Arthur "Mike" McClain to be a member of the Judicial Council of The United Methodist Church.

BISHOP BLAKE: Microphone two.

THOMAS W. EBLEN: I nominate Dr. Charles W. Brockwell Jr. Dr. Brockwell is a clergy member of the Louisville Conference.

BISHOP BLAKE: Microphone four.

VICKI WOODS (New England): Our delegation nominates Robert K. Sweet Jr., New England Conference, clergy.

BISHOP BLAKE: Microphone nine.

WARNER H. BROWN JR. (California-Nevada): I place in nomination Dr. John Corry, clergy member of the Tennessee Conference.

BISHOP BLAKE: Microphone eight.

JOSEPH D. HUSTON (West Michigan): I nominate Steven T. Lett, lay delegate from West Michigan Conference.

BISHOP BLAKE: Microphone seven

MARY E. AKERS (Northern Illinois): I place in nomination Dr. Larry Dwayne Pickens, clergy member of Northern Illinois Conference.

BISHOP BLAKE: Microphone eight

WILLIAM K. QUICK (Detroit): I'd like to place in nomination the name of Reynard Kolasa. Thank you.

BISHOP BLAKE: Microphone seven.

J. PHILIP WOGAMAN (Baltimore-Washington): I wish to place in nomination the name of Dr. Sally Brown Geis of the Rocky Mountain Annual Conference in the lay category.

BISHOP BLAKE: Microphone seven.

LIMERIO C. GARIBAY (East Philippines): I place in nomination Justice Rustico Panganiban, lay leader and lay delegate from East Philippines Annual Conference.

BISHOP BLAKE: I declare that the nominations for, I'm sorry, six, excuse me.

BARBARA W. RIDDLE (Florida): I place in nomination the name of Terrell Sessums in the lay category.

BISHOP BLAKE: I declare that the nominations for Judicial Council are closed. Now let me have your attention. I've got an announcement to make about these nominations. We've got an announcement to make before the break, and then we will have the break.

The names of all nominees, identified with the conference to which each belongs, and the biographical sketch, which does not exceed 100 words, shall be published by the *Daily Christian Advocate* prior to the time, at least 48 hours prior to the time of election. Those persons who made nominations are responsible of submitting this information to the office of the Secretary of the General Conference—by what time today? By 5 p.m. today. Let me make that announcement again. By 5 p.m. today the requirements of the *Discipline* for the biographical information must be submitted to the secretary for the nominations to be in good order for your elections. We turn to our secretary for an announcement, and then hold just before the break so I can tell you when we will begin again.

CAROLYN MARSHALL: During these last few minutes, it has come to the attention of the platform that there has been a misprint, which has appeared in several copies, a good many copies so it appears, of today's daily edition of the *Daily Christian Advocate*. It seems to be something that looks like a superimposed reprint on each of the pages, beginning about a third of the way through. If yours is a defective copy, if you will go to the *DCA* sales office, they will replace it for you. We figured that it would be well for you to have that announcement prior to the break so that might be another thing you can do during the break.

BISHOP BLAKE: Now I have two announcements. First of all, would Alvin Deer of the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference move to a microphone please. This is a matter that the General Conference Commission has requested because arrangements have been made for this announcement. And it was inadvertently omitted from the publication. It will not take long, but it will have to do with our, something we will do as we move to our break. They will usually make an announcement for the visitors. But for the visitors, please do not move to the refreshments until the delegates have moved there, because they're required to be back in time, and you are not. And it will be very helpful when we have the break for the visitors to move away from the refreshments so the delegates can move.

Is it a point of order? What is the concern here?

### *Churches Destroyed by Tornados In Illinois*

RICHARD E. REEVES (Central Illinois): I expect many of you know that a series of tornadoes have hit the Illinois area. And three churches have been destroyed, and a parsonage has been destroyed. Many homes have been destroyed and will have to be rebuilt. We covet your prayers. Thank you very much.

BISHOP BLAKE: Thank you very much for that word. Mr. Alvin Deer, a lay delegate of Oklahoma Indian Mis-

sionary Conference. As I say, this was an arrangement made by the general commission on our behalf. And Alvin, we turn to you on microphone number eight.

*Native American Awareness Sunday*

ALVIN DEAR (Oklahoma Indian Missionary): Thank you bishop. I'd like to begin by quoting a scripture from 1 Peter 3, I mean chapter 2 verse 9, where it says, "But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, his own special people; that you may proclaim the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light, who once were not a people, but now are the people of God, who have not attained mercy, but now have attained mercy."

I'm addressing you this morning about a special Sunday offering designated by the 1988 General Conference to observe and remind the United Methodist Church of the gifts and contributions made by Native Americans to the church and to society. Native American Awareness Sunday is celebrated annually on the third Sunday of Easter, which will be tomorrow. Since the General Conference will not be in session tomorrow, the General Conference Committee has graciously allowed us time this morning to reflect on the positive impact that this special Sunday offering has made in the lives of Native American United Methodists.

One half of the special offering taken for Native American Awareness Sunday stays at the annual conference level to support the needs of the Native American ministries. In the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference, a portion of the 1995 Native American Awareness Fund benefited the conference enlistment program and local church revitalization campaign. The Minnesota Annual Conference used its funds to send Native American pastors and youth to national training events.

The other half of the offering goes to seminary education for Native Americans and to undergird an urban ministries initiative coordinated by the General Board of Global Ministries.

We, as the Native American community, thank you as a church for helping our people. For instance, we have two observers here, Shirley Montoya, a Navajo scheduled to be ordained in June; Twitty Sombrero, who through Native American Awareness Sunday scholarships is able to work on a doctorate at the School of Theology at Claremont. With these contributions, you are making a difference in the lives of Native American people. This morning as you exit, there will be volunteers located near the exit doors to receive your Native American Awareness Sunday offertory envelope. And in consultation with the general secretary of GCFA, Sandra Kelly Lakore, we have requested that if you fill this out that you put your name, address, your local church, and your annual conference, and the GCFA will make sure that proper credit is made. And as we say in one of our many Native American languages, "Aho."

BISHOP BLAKE: Thank you. We will break, and I will look at my clock, and we will begin with calendar items, which will introduce new delegates to the way we act on legislation. We will be doing that in 20 minutes from this minute. Thank you.

*(song—"We're Marching to Zion")*

BISHOP BLAKE: Thank you. Let's come to order. Please be seated. Let us be in order so that we work together towards our adjournment time at 12:30. That is binding by your action. We will move now into calendar items. This is the first time in the conference we're dealing with calendar items. We will have an orientation for this from Fitzgerald Reist who is the Coordinator of Calendar. Let's give our attention to be oriented to the handling of calendar items by Fitzgerald Reist. Fitzgerald.

*Consent Calendars Explained*

FITZGERALD REIST (Coordinator of Calendar): Thank you. This General Conference we are proceeding in a way that differs from preceeding general conferences, in that we have three distinct types of consent calendars. These will expedite the work of the General Conference a great deal by making it more clear what we are doing as we vote on the various calendars.

Consent Calendar A consists of all of those items which have come from committees with five or fewer dissenting votes, and which relate to changes in the *Discipline*. The support for Consent Calendar A means that you affirm those changes in the *Discipline* that have been recommended by the legislative committees.

Consent Calendar B consists of all those items which have come through the legislative committees, again with five or fewer dissenting votes, and addresses non-disciplinary items.

Consent Calendar C are those things for which the legislative committees are recommending nonconcurrence, including disciplinary and non-disciplinary items. And your support of Consent Calendar C means that you agree with those legislative committees that there should be nonconcurrence with those items.

Breaking it into three categories means that there will be less confusion about what we're doing and should make it easier for us to understand also that we're not voting a mixture of concurrence and nonconcurrence items. Consent Calendar A is concurrence. Consent Calendar B is concurrence. Consent Calendar C is nonconcurrence. A vote of support for Consent Calendar C means nonsupport for those suggested changes.

If we could have the graphics on the screen. I'd like you to just take a note. The red bar is the number of petitions that we have received. The tan bar represents the ones that are in committee. The yellow bar are the ones that are calendared. The green bar are

the ones that have been voted. In order for us to get through our business and get out of here, all of those bars need to reach the top. You can see we have a lot of work to do. If you will follow the rules with the consent calendars, we can do it very expeditiously.

The consent calendars will, from time to time, be modified. If you would turn in today's *DCA* to page 176, you will note that Calendar Item 2 has been removed from the consent calendar. It was incorrectly placed on the consent calendar, and it was removed when we received the correct information. Calendar Item 49 was removed from the consent calendar at the request of the five delegates whose names appear below the number.

BISHOP BLAKE: Thank you, Fitzgerald. We have an announcement to make in terms of this process to be clear, because there are persons on the platform that are chairpersons or presenters from legislative committees. Heads of the delegation: Do not replace these delegates who are on the platform representing legislative committees. They will have key pads for their voting. Let me say this again. Persons who are on the platform, presenting for legislative committees have key pads. Chairs of delegations: Please do not replace them with reserves, for the obvious reason.

We move now to page 93 and turn to Sarah Miller to make motions concerning the consent calendar, and Sarah, I will remind you as you come and remind all the delegates when they move to the microphone, please state your name and conference.

*Motion on Consent Calendar A01*

SARAH S. MILLER (Wyoming): Bishop, I move the adoption of the Consent Calendar A01 as amended.

BISHOP BLAKE: Consent Calendar A01 with the deletion of number two. To vote "yes", if you support the recommendation of concurrence. If you vote "no," you are not for concurrence. Please vote when your light goes on. [813 approved]

Consent Calendar A01 is approved.

FITZGERALD REIST: Reminder, Consent Calendar B01 concurs with the non-disciplinary items listed.

MILLER: Bishop, I move the adoption of Consent Calendar B01.

BISHOP BLAKE: Please vote when the light appears. [825 approved]

Consent Calendar B01 is approved.

REIST: Consent Calendar C01 with the removal of Calendar Item 49 represents nonconcurrence with these items.

MILLER: Bishop, I move the adoption of Consent Calendar C01 with the exception of number 49.

BISHOP BLAKE: The motion is before you. Please vote when the light appears.

[846 approved] Consent Calendar C01 is approved.

Thank you. Now we will move to calendar items on page 100 and 101. These will be taken in order as they appear. We will be dealing with item number 78 first, and we would turn to the respective committee chairs. Let us be clear again, that your vote "yes" is to support the recommendation of the committee. If the recommendation of the committee is concurrence, and you agree with that, you will vote yes. Otherwise, vote no. If the recommendation of the committee is for nonconcurrence, and you support that recommendation, you vote yes; otherwise, no.

So you are voting whether or not to support the recommendation of the committee, and the committee chair will state clearly what their recommendation is. As they come forward, they are being asked to, first of all, we know that we are on pages 100 and 101. We know that already. In terms of the reference to the petition, they will indicate to you where it is located, either in the red *DCA*, or the white *Daily Christian Advocate* that you all received when you arrived. So we will move in order, and for the legislative Committee on Conferences, we turn to George Hunter III. George.

*Committee on Conferences Actions*

GEORGE HUNTER III (Florida): I begin with one announcement to the members of the Committee on Conferences, we're asking that you meet in your sub-committees at 2 o'clock today instead of the pre-announced time of 2:30, and then we'll try to meet in full committee at 2 o'clock.

Our committee brings two calendar items to you today, number 78 and number 79. The first you will see is a petition that calls for a mission statement for the General Conference. While the petition itself had merit, ...

BISHOP BLAKE: Would you identify where that petition is for those who want to refer to it? And what page number?

HUNTER: Yes, it's on page 100, well let's see.

BISHOP BLAKE: I believe it's noted on page 178 of the *DCA*. That would be helpful, so that if delegates have a particular interest, they can have that petition before them. Many times they will not, but that will facilitate our action. Thank you, go ahead.

HUNTER: Thanks. The committee voted 45-15 for nonconcurrence. The petition had merit, but we felt that a mission statement for the General Conference was redundant, since a mission statement prefaces the entire constitution in the front of the *Discipline*, and therefore, this repeat was not needed.

BISHOP BLAKE: The recommendation of the committee is nonconcurrence. Microphone 12.

FLO S.MARTIN (South Georgia): I move to postpone Calendar Item 78 until the conference has acted on the mission statement for the church which is currently under consideration in the legislative committees on discipleship and the local church.

BISHOP BLAKE: This is a motion to postpone. Is there a second? (second from the floor) Is there discussion? If you would vote?

MARTIN: May I speak to that?

BISHOP BLAKE: Okay, speak to it.

MARTIN: This is an important matter that deserves consideration at the proper time. And it depends on the outcome of the other petitions, so I would move to postpone the action.

BISHOP BLAKE: The motion is before you to postpone. Please vote when the light appears. [Results: yes, 542; no, 346; abstained, 8] Requires a majority vote, and the action is postponed. Move to the next item.

HUNTER: The next item is number 79, a petition recommending that each conference encourage its people to join the annual conference historical society. We judged by a vote of 71-9, that this was not needed, and would set an unwarranted precedent for filling the *Discipline* with endless recommendations.

BISHOP BLAKE: The recommendation is nonconcurrence. Please vote when the light appears. [852 approved] The recommendation of the committee is sustained as nonconcurrence. George.

HUNTER: Thank you, Bishop. We have nothing further.

*Legislative Committee on Church and Society Actions*

BISHOP BLAKE: We turn to the legislative committee on Church and Society. Don Pike.

DON M. PIKE (Central Texas): We're beginning in the red book, page 128. It is Calendar Item 83, petition 20943, right hand column, third down. The title is "Executive Committee Delete 1109" if you're interested in where paragraph 1109 is, it's on page 485 in your *Discipline*. Let me simply tell you that this is a petition to delete this particular paragraph for the purposes of allowing the rules of operation and the by-laws of the General Board of Church and Society to be contained within their by-laws to remove elements of this nature from the *Discipline*.

The *Discipline* continues to grow, so it simply puts the by-laws as the governing factors of the board, and of course, it has to operate within the restrictions of the *Discipline*, and so the committee recommends, in this particular regard, concurrence.

BISHOP BLAKE: This item is before you. Please vote when the light appears. [850 approved] The committee is sustained in concurrence on Calendar Item 83.

PIKE: All right, continuing on page 128, petition 20942, immediately above that, dealing with the officers listed in paragraph 1108 of the *Discipline*, on page 485 of the *Discipline;* the same exact type thing; therefore the committee recommends concurrence.

BISHOP BLAKE: Is this Calendar Item 84?

PIKE: Calendar Item 84.

BISHOP BLAKE: Calendar Item 84, recommendation of concurrence. Please vote when the light appears. [877 approved] The committee's recommendation of concurrence is sustained on number 84.

PIKE: Next we would direct your attention to Calendar Item 80. And if you would do so, turn to page 1230 in your white *DCA*. We'll be dealing with petition number 22331, right hand side of the page, second from the top; dealing with paragraph 728.4, can be found on page 363 in the *Discipline*. The petition calls for the inclusion of the words "in rural and urban areas" in terms of the work of the Board of Church and Society. The sub-committee and the board simply felt like the world is our parish. We shouldn't begin to define this many specific areas. Therefore, the recommendation for Calendar Item 80 is nonconcurrence by a vote of 87 to six.

BISHOP BLAKE: Item 80 is before you. The recommendation of nonconcurrence. Please vote when the light appears. [830 approved] The recommendation of the committee is sustained for nonconcurrence on Item 80.

*Calendar Item 81*

PIKE: Calendar Item 81 in the white *DCA* on page 1231. You will find it, it's petition 22332; right hand side of the page, second from the top. It is a petition to amend the first paragraph 1104. You can see the inclusion of statement there. The committee, in turn, recommends nonconcurrence on the basis of the fact that it's a duplication of language and policy that is already in existence within the *Discipline*, and therefore is unnecessary. Recommendation is nonconcurrence by a vote of 77 for, 15 against.

BISHOP BLAKE: Calendar Item 81 is before you. Please vote when the light appears. [818 approved] Recommendation of the committee is sustained, nonconcurrence on Calendar Item 81.

PIKE: Calendar Item 82 can be found in your white *DCA* on page 1231, petition 22333, at the very bottom of the right hand column; reference to paragraph 1104 which can be found on page 484 in the *Discipline*. It is the vote of the committee for nonconcurrence. The committee believes that the lines of accountability are sufficient in terms of our protocol as a denomination and, therefore, this is unnecessary. Nonconcurrence by a vote of 79 to 12.

BISHOP BLAKE: Calendar Item 82 is before you. Please vote when the light appears. [777 approved] Committee's recommendation of nonconcurrence is sustained on Calendar Item 82.

PIKE: Calendar Item 85, white *DCA*, page 1232, petition 22726, left hand column, very bottom of the page. Amending paragraph 1104. Change the word "prime" to "a significant." The committee did not feel like there was enough distinction in the change of those two words to merit its approval, and therefore, the recommendation is nonconcurrence by a vote of 83 to 7.

BISHOP BLAKE: Calendar Item 85 is before you. Please vote when the light appears. [862 approved] Recommendation of the committee of nonconcurrence on Calendar Item 85 is supported.

PIKE: Calendar Item 86, page 1232, petition 22335, immediately above the one on which we just acted. Committee votes nonconcurrence by a vote of 72 to 17. The committee

believes that what is asked for in this particular statement is already provided for in the language we have in the *Discipline* and therefore is unnecessary.

BISHOP BLAKE: Calendar Item 86 is before you. Please vote when the light appears.

The committee's recommendation of nonconcurrence is sustained on Calendar Item 86. [837 approved]

PIKE: All right. This completes our report, and I will assume that the balance of the reporting of the Legislative Committee on Church and Society will go equally well.

*(laughter)*

BISHOP BLAKE: We turn now to Higher Education and Ministry. J. Allen Norris Jr.

*Calendar Item 87*
*Chaplains and Related Ministries*

J. ALLEN NORRIS JR. (North Carolina): We are looking at Calendar Item 87. This will be found in the red *DCA*, page 823, on the right hand column near the bottom, petition number 20631, funding of the Division of Chaplains and Related Ministries. And the committee recommendation is nonconcurrence. The rationale of the committee for the recommendation of nonconcurrence: the Division of Chaplains and Related Ministries, as a part of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, receives World Service monies. The majority of the legislative committee supports this method of funding and nomenclature and, therefore, nonconcurred with the change proposed in the petition. Bishop, I move approval of the recommendation for nonconcurrence.

BISHOP BLAKE: Calendar Item 87 is before you. Please vote when the light appears. [851 approved] The committee's recommendation of nonconcurrence is sustained on Calendar Item 87.

J. ALLEN NORRIS: Thank you. That's our only item at this time.

BISHOP BLAKE: I turn to Carl Stewart for Independent Commissions.

CARL E. STEWART (Louisiana): Thank you, Bishop. I am joined on the platform by Becky Haase from California-Pacific Conference and subcommittee chair of one of the subcommittees. We will consider Calendar Item 88 of the *DCA* and petition number 20483 found on page 904 in the Advance Edition of the *DCA*, the red book. The petition calls for the elimination of the annual conference Commission on the Status and Role of Women. The committee recommends nonconcurrence. The rationale is that the *Discipline* appropriately provides for an annual conference Commission on Status and Role of Women. I move the adoption of the committee recommendation of nonconcurrence.

BISHOP BLAKE: Calendar Item 88 is before you. Please vote when the light appears. [705 approved] The recommendation of the committee for nonconcurrence is sustained on Calendar Item 88.

*Calendar Item 89*
*Membership of Status and Role of Women*

STEWART: We will next consider Calendar Item 89, which involves two petitions: 20381 and 20465. These are found on page 905 in the red book, Advance Edition One. The essence of both the petitions is to amend para. 741.2 of *The Discipline*, which provides for the membership, the number, and composition of the annual conference Commission on Status and Role of Women. The petition would, first, delete language in the second sentence which gives the number; and secondly, the petition would substitute text allowing for membership to be determined by the annual conference. The committee recommends nonconcurrence, and the rationale of the committee is that the current wording of para. 741.2 gives appropriate guidance and latitude to the annual conference with respect to the membership and composition. Bishop, I would move the adoption of the committee report.

BISHOP BLAKE: Calendar Item 89 is before you. Please vote when the light appears. [799 approved] Recommendation of the committee of nonconcurrence on Calendar Item 89 is sustained.

*Calendar Item 91*
*Gideons International*

STEWART: We are now considering Calendar Item 91, and it involves petition number 21557. It's found on page 1391 in the white book, Advance Edition, Vol. 2. The essence of the petition is a resolution which affirms the ministry of Gideons International yet strongly encourages the Gideons to reconsider its membership criteria, which currently excludes women. The committee concurs in the resolution, with an amendment in the last paragraph which substitutes the word "gender" for the word "sex." The committee recommends concurrence with the petition as amended, and the rationale of the committee is that the Gideons ministry will be enhanced by a membership which includes women. Bishop, I move the adoption of the committee report.

BISHOP BLAKE: Calendar Item 91 is before you. Microphone two.

CAROL A. SMITH (Missouri East): I am a member of the Independent Commissions committee, and there was dissent to the report in the committee, and I wish to speak in opposition to the committee decision. When the vote was takcn on this petition, information regarding the guidelines for membership in Gideons International was unavailable. There are three criteria for membership. You must be a born-again believer; you must be a member in good standing in your local church and recommended for membership by your pastor; you must be employed in a supervisory position, i.e. business and professional occupations. Men of evangelistic denominations are welcomed in membership. Many United

Methodists are members. Wives of members are active in auxiliary work. The organization is a world-wide, independent, ecumenical organization to win people to Christ.

I would encourage the General Conference to endorse the work and mission of the Gideons International, leaving the composition of their membership to their prayerful decisions of Gideons International themselves, recognizing, thereby, the dignity of their polity without endorsing or condemning their membership policies. I would encourage a vote of nonconcurrence of the committee action on this petition. Thank you.

BISHOP BLAKE: This is a speech against the committee's recommendation. Is there a speech in favor of the committee's recommendation. Microphone five.

DONNA JONES (Kentucky): I'm a single woman. There's no place in the Gideon organization for someone like me. Therefore, I would support the committee's recommendation.

BISHOP BLAKE: I believe you're ready to vote. The committee's recommendation on Calendar Item 91 is concurrence. Vote when the light appears. [636, yes; 307, no;] Recommendation of the committee of concurrence on Calendar Item 91 is supported by the body.

STEWART: Thank you, Bishop. This concludes our work at this time. I appreciate it.

BISHOP BLAKE: Turn to Janice Huie for the Local Church.

*Legislative Committee on Local Church Actions*

JANICE RIGGLE K. HUIE (Southwest Texas): Calendar Item 92 please. It can be found in your white book, right hand column, page 1405. Page 1405. Left hand column, excuse me. Para. 113, the petition number is 22671. This is placed in the section on the *Discipline* under the ministry of all Christians in the subsection on inclusiveness. The committee voted for nonconcurrence based on the concerns that the definition of the word "exaggerated" is open to many interpretations. Who will decide the definition raises other questions; and the context in which the word "exaggerated" will be defined raises still more questions. We believe that, regardless of your position on this issue, that this legislation creates more problems than it helps. We recommend nonconcurrence.

BISHOP BLAKE: Calendar Item 92 is before you. Number seven, microphone number seven, please.

VICTOR W. GOLDSCHMIDT (North Indiana): Based on the comments we just heard, I'd like to move an amendment that the word "exaggerated" be deleted.

BISHOP BLAKE: The amendment is before you to delete the word "exaggerated." Is there a second. It is supported. I believe you're ready to vote. Those who would support the amendment to eliminate the word ...

HUIE: Bishop. Bishop. May I speak to the amendment?

BISHOP BLAKE: Yes, Janice, pardon me. Yes, you may.

HUIE: I believe that we would not support the amendment, that we would prefer that it remain as it is. This is the intent of the legislation, and just vote it up or down the way the maker intended it.

BISHOP BLAKE: Please, the amendment is to delete the word "exaggerated." Please vote when the light appears.

[375, yes; 555, no; 9, abstained]

BISHOP BLAKE: The amendment is defeated. The main motion is before you on calendar 92. The main motion is the committee's recommendation of nonconcurrence. Please vote when the light appears. The recommendation of the committee for nonconcurrence on Calendar Item 92 is sustained.

JANICE HUIE: This completes our report at this time.

BISHOP BLAKE: Thank you. Please, I think you will be able to receive this word with some satisfaction. I'm going to ask Carolyn to bring some announcements. Please hold your chairs, because I do want to say one thing.

*Requests to Commission on General Conference*

First, John Thomas, would you stand. John was introduced to you at the beginning of the conference. He's right here. We've had some requests to come to the floor with information concerning schedule, invitations, and such. We do operate with the commission. And these items should be referred to the commission first and not come to the floor for plenary time. And so, the reason I am asking John to stand is to know, if there are requests and considerations, please turn to your commission first instead of the floor plenary.

I also would like to have William Cook stand. William Cook, who was before you earlier with courtesies and privileges. If you have items that you believe you would like to have brought before the conference in terms of special privileges, it really helps all of us to have those organized by that committee. These often times are concerns about—that have already been expressed in this conference, for instance. William Cook is the chair of the Committee on Courtesies and Privileges. Please channel those through him, because as a committee chair, he always has access to determine whether or not those items should be on the agenda. Thank you for your cooperation.

Ok now, what is your item? Number three? Please come to the microphone number three.

YOUNGSOOK C. KANG (Rocky Mountain): Point of order. Calendar Item 90 was not considered.

BISHOP BLAKE: We are aware of that, and when a legislative committee chair makes a presentation, it is their option when, whether or not they call every item that's in the *DCA*. That's not necessarily required. Do you have an answer to that? Fitzgerald?

FITZGERALD REIST: Calendar Item 90.

BISHOP BLAKE: Please identify yourself.

REIST: Fitzgerald Reist, Coordinator of the Calendar. Calendar Item 90 has been moved to the Consent Calendar. The vote was incorrectly recorded. The correct vote places it on the correct, on the Consent Calendar. It is now on Consent Calendar A02. If you look in your *DCA* for today, you'll find it as the first item as a correction on the calendar.

BISHOP BLAKE: Thank you for that information. Thank you. Let's turn to the secretary for announcements.

CAROLYN MARSHALL: A reminder that the Hispanic ensemble and the mariachi band will sing at a special concert time from 1:30 to 2:00 this afternoon, with the St. Luke's choir singing from 2:00 to 2:30 in what after two days has become the usual area, the prefunctionary area near Hall A.

We've been reminded several times to bring to the attention of the entire body that the Sunday evening performance of the Montana Logging and Ballet Company will be at 8 p.m., not at 7:00, which has been published in several places.

An announcement that the legislative committee on General and Judicial Administration will meet at 2 p.m.

And a reminder that those 100-word bios—we urge you to keep them to 100 words, because that is what will be published—for both the University Senate and for the Judicial Council are to be in the secretary's office, room C204, by 5 p.m. this afternoon. The University Senate is not judicial—or is not disciplinary, a disciplinary requirement; however, it was a recommendation which came from the body at the 1992 General Conference, and we are prepared to publish them.

Bishop White, who is President of the Council of Bishops, has asked for a moment to make an announcement.

BISHOP BLAKE: No, we still have our committee chairs to report. We got finished much earlier than we anticipated, so I wanted to be sure that Bishop White comes ahead. And we do have our committee chairs to report to us.

BISHOP WOODIE WHITE: Thank you very much. I think the members of the conference and my colleagues would like to know that word has been received that Bishop Kulah is on his way to the General Conference.

*(applause)*

BISHOP BLAKE: And we are aware that the lay delegate from Liberia, Mr. Cox, has arrived, and we celebrate his arrival and the anticipation of Bishop Kulah. [*applause*] In both of them, you will have an opportunity to greet them later in the conference.

I believe, John, did you have a request as a person I just introduced? And then we will turn to the Committee on Presiding Officers report and the Committee on Agenda and Calendar report.

JOHN THOMAS (South Indiana): Bishop Blake, you just—my name is John Thomas, South Indiana. You just called the attention of the conference to where I was seated. I now need to announce that there will be a meeting of the members of the Commission on General Conference at 2 p.m. this afternoon in room A210. Thank you.

BISHOP BLAKE: He did say thank you, which surprised me. [*laughter*] We'll turn to the Committee on Presiding Officers report. Rex Bevins.

### *Committee on Presiding Officers Report*

C. REX BEVINS (Nebraska): Bishop Blake and members of the conference, one bishop in the Council of Bishops has referred to me as the "fickle finger of fate" [*laughter*] as I've approached bishops about their presiding assignments. The "fickle finger of fate" has rested on three bishops for Monday, Monday's session, April 22nd. On Monday morning, Bishop William Grove of the Albany area; Monday afternoon, Bishop Elias Galvan of the Phoenix area; Monday evening, Bishop Thomas Stockton of the Richmond area.

BISHOP BLAKE: Thank you. We turn to Sarah Miller for the Committee on Agenda and Calendar report.

SARAH S. MILLER: Thank you, Bishop. This is probably the last time we will adjourn early, don't you think?

BISHOP BLAKE: I hope not. [*laughter*] This group hopes not as well.

MILLER: We've had an unhurried consideration of business this morning. As the week progresses, the time will get shorter and things will be more urgent. I think the body is to be commended for the way in which they handled the legislation this morning. For the remainder of the day, we'll be in legislative committees afternoon and evening. While there is some time suggested on the agenda for that, of course you can adjust those times—meeting earlier, meeting later, as you wish.

I want to note the agenda that is proposed for Monday April 22nd. Is that on the screen? It should be on the screen soon. We will be having in the morning the Native American Ministries report and the Baptism Study report. And the remainder of the day will be devoted to calendar items in the afternoon and evening.

BISHOP BLAKE: Thank you for that report. We have one additional announcement from our secretary.

MARSHALL: The Committee on Ordained and Diaconal Ministries will meet this afternoon at 1:30; 1:30 Ordained and Diaconal Ministry legislative committee.

BISHOP BLAKE: As Bishop Emilio de Carvalho from the nation of Angola comes—I'm sorry, I see—number 12 do you have an item of privilege? What is your request for microphone 12? Go to the microphone, please. Microphone seven.

VERGIL L. DAUGHTERY, JR. (South Georgia): V.L. Daughtery Jr., South Georgia Conference. A point of information and a point of clarity concerning the Judicial Council nominations. At the end of the process, I think the chair instructed us to take the biographical sketches to Carolyn Marshall's office. Some of us have

done that. We've now been handed a document instructing us to take them to the *DCA* office. Which should we do?

BISHOP BLAKE: We'll have the secretary respond.

MARSHALL: We'd appreciate if you could bring them to the secretary's office. The *DCA* office will be provided with them, but we do need to coordinate them. Thank you very much.

BISHOP BLAKE: Thank you for the inquiry. I do want to complement you on the way you have worked to accomplish your tasks. Enjoy the lunch hour tremendously with the extra minutes you have. And we will ask Bishop Emilio de Carvalho from Angola to dismiss us with prayer.

BISHOP de CARVALHO: Shall we stand and receive the benediction? [*benediction*] Amen.

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*Daily Report*

# Daily Christian Advocate

THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**Denver, Colorado** **Tuesday, April 23, 1996** **Vol. 3 No. 7**

## Delegates Applaud Native American Ministries Report, Baptism Study

After a Sunday of worship at local churches, visits to Colorado's beautiful countryside and a hilarious, moving concert by the Montana Logging and Ballet Company, it was hard for some delegates to turn again to General Conference desks, committees, agendas and orders of the day. Others, whose legislative committees were still buried in a pile of petitions, got very little rest and relaxation.

But by mid-afternoon, when they returned to legislative committees, delegates had given the church a new core statement on baptism and endorsed major programs intended to strengthen work with four major racial and ethnic minority groups.

A motion from the floor suggested that Elizabeth Dole be invited to address the conference. General Conference Commission chair John Thomas said the commission had considered that possibility, but decided not to "inject partisan politics into the matter." First Lady Hillary Clinton is to address the conference Wednesday

(continued on page 282)

### Agenda

### Tuesday, April 23

| | |
|---|---|
| 8:15 a.m. | Choral Music |
| 8:30 a.m. | Worship |
| 9:10 a.m. | Call to Order and Discernment |
| 9:15 a.m. | Bishop of the Methodist Church in Indonesia |
| 9:25 a.m. | Presentation of Ecumenical Visitors |
| 9:50 a.m. | COCU Presentation |
| 10:00 a.m. | Consent Calendar |
| 10:05 a.m. | Calendar Items |
| 10:30 a.m. | Break |
| 10:45 a.m. | General Council on Ministries<br>Connectional Issus Study Report |
| 11:15 a.m. | Council of Bishops<br>Global Nature of the Church Report<br>Introduction of Delegates from Central Conferences |
| 11:45 a.m. | Calendar Items |
| 12:25 p.m. | Announcements |
| 12:30 p.m. | Lunch Recess |
| 2:00 p.m. | Call to Order |
| 2:05 p.m. | Africa University Report and Choir |
| 2:35 p.m. | Calendar Items |
| 3:30 p.m. | Break |
| 3:45 p.m. | GBGM Site Relocation<br>Calendar Items |
| 5:00 p.m. | Dinner Recess |
| 7:00 p.m. | Calendar Items |
| 9:50 p.m. | Committee on Presiding Officers Report<br>Committee on Agenda and Calendar<br>Announcements |
| 10:00 p.m. | Adjournment |

### A Conference Moment



Some of the most important United Methodists are not visible to the delegates at General Conference. Two of them, behind the plenary curtain, are Caitlin and Bryan Curtis, but there are millions of other children like them in United Methodist churches across the connection.
*—photo by John C. Goodwin*

(continued from front page)

afternoon. Later it was decided to send a letter of greeting, good wishes and appreciation to Mrs. Dole for her contributions to United Methodism, the nation and the world.

### Native American Ministries Report

The Native American Ministries Report was preceded by a drumming group from the Blackfeet Reservation. The drummers led delegates and visitors in singing the Blackfeet Tribal Flag Song. Samuel Wynn, North Carolina clergy delegate, reminded delegates that the 1992 General Conference passed the Native American Comprehensive Plan and assigned implementation to the General Board of Global Ministries. A broadly inclusive task force was established to carry out the plan and "provide Native Americans within our own community to share the struggles, hopes and dreams about the future," he said.

Marvin B. Abrams, California-Pacific clergy delegate, introduced the plan's logo, developed to illustrate the circle, "a powerful symbol among Native Americans." It focuses on the four directions to symbolize new life, healing, traditional values and power. The task force used the directions as a guide to develop four committees: Denominational Presence, chaired by Ann Saunkeah, Oklahoma Indian Missionary lay delegate; Witness, chaired by Robert Mangum; Native American Spirituality, chaired by Anne Marshall; and Congregational Development, chaired by Billie R. Nowabbi. Work of each committee was illustrated by Betty J. Admussen, lay delegate, Missouri West; Alvin B. Deer, clergy delegate, Oklahoma Indian Missionary; Mr. Mangum; Shirley Montoya; and Joe Parker, lay delegate, New England. Full text of the plan report and its accomplishments begins on page 1342, *Advance DCA*, Volume II.

The conference approved the plan's continuation, referring a $1.2 million funding proposal to the Legislative Committee on Finance and Administration. Similar action was taken on the Hispanic Plan presented on Friday and proposals for an Asian-American language ministry study.

### Strengthening the Black Church

An equally enthusiastic response was demonstrated for a personal and video-graphic presentation on "Strengthening the Black Church for the 21st Century," led by Indiana Area Bishop Woodie W. White and Walter L. Kimbrough, North Georgia clergy delegate. The plan calls for 25 congregational resource centers, a 19-member coordinating committee and resource development. A $1,779,000 budget was referred to the Legislative Committee on Finance and Administration. Presenters said the plan relies on successful churches to provide support and encourage success for others.

Mark C. Trotter, California-Pacific clergy delegate and Baptism Study Committee chair, presented the report "By Water and the Spirit: a United Methodist Understanding of Baptism." He characterized the report as "a foundation document for discussing our unity . . . and a resource for renewal of ministry for many pastors." Committee member Gayle Felton led delegates through the report which the conference approved unanimously and commended for church use. The study clarifies issues of rebaptism, confirmation and church membership.

Another report "A Shared Mission Focus on Young People," from the General Council on Ministries, was undergirded by a dramatic presentation by Cecilia Williamson who described her journey from welfare recipient to Ph. D. student. She credited much of her success to the support of The United Methodist Church. Stefanie A. Gray, California-Pacific lay delegate, added: "Institutions do not change from the outside. We must reach within the institutions of gangs, drug circles and poverty to provide leadership and guidance for young people." The report proposes a $270,000 budget which was referred to the Legislative Committee on Finance and Administration.

In the evening the conference received a dramatic video and personal report on The Advance for Christ and His Church. (See related story in tomorrow's *DCA*.)

*—Roger Burgess*


## Daily Christian Advocate

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# Conference Demonstrates Commitment to Hispanic Ministry

Since the 1992 General Conference approved the National Hispanic Plan, annual conferences in the United States and Puerto Rico have been working on its implementation. For the North Georgia Conference, the process has been exemplary.

"When I was hired by the conference in 1993, there were no funds for Hispanic ministries, only a vision," said the Rev. Aida Beltran-Gaetan, a Hispanic congregational developer and national missionary of the General Board of Global Ministries. "Today, our total budget for Hispanic ministries is $101,000."

From this vision, which Ms. Beltran-Gaetan credits to Atlanta Area Bishop J. Lloyd Knox, numerous programs have been created. "Our aim is to revitalize existing congregations [Anglo and Hispanic], develop new ones and establish faith communities," she said.

Before Ms. Beltran-Gaetan was hired, only two established Hispanic Methodist congregations and five mission congregations ministered to the ever-growing Hispanic population in North Georgia. Today nine mission congregations and many newly created faith communities are in ministry there. Ms. Beltran-Gaetan attributes a large part of this growth to the work of Olga Mercado de Rodriguez, Carlos Gonzalez and Daisie Coloma.

Originally from Mexico, Ms. Mercado embodies the spirit of how Hispanic ministry is done in North Georgia: "creation from nothing." As a pastor of two new Hispanic congregations, she marvels at the response she has received from the two congregations in Cedartown. "In July of '95, we started with nothing. By November, 175 people attended our Thanksgiving dinner.... The time to reach out to Hispanics is now."

"Because there aren't many Hispanic churches in North Georgia, there is a spiritual void in the Hispanic community," said Ms. Beltran-Gaetan.

Lay missioner Carlos Gonzalez works with a historically Anglo church as he tries to address the needs of its Hispanic community. As director of Hispanic ministries at Mount Pizgah United Methodist Church, he is pastor of the 40-member Hispanic mission, which holds Saturday worship services. In addition to having a Spanish Christian radio program, Mr. Gonzalez also deploys "mission troops" to other Hispanic communities in the conference. Each provides communities with food, clothing and Bibles.

Daisie Coloma, a Spanish-speaking Filipino, directs the Atlanta Hispanic Neighborhoods Outreach Center (AHNOC), which operates out of Grant Park-Aldersgate United Methodist Church. The center works to address immediate needs of the community as well as their root causes. These programs include a food and clothing pantry, English-as-a-second-language classes and pastoral counseling. "AHNOC is successful because it is supported by other United Methodist churches in the community," said Ms. Coloma. "This ministry is a group effort."

*—Adrian Vega*

## *Prayer List*

We at the *DCA* invited delegates and visitors to share their prayer concerns with the entire General Conference. The following prayer requests were received Monday:

- Alexandra, 4, undergoing treatment;
- Bob and Karen Guerra;
- Lindsey Cobb;
- Dr. Andre Pieters, former superintendent of the United Methodist Church of Belgium and retired president of the United Protestant Church of Belgium. He is hospitalized in critical condition;
- The Rev. Nathaniel T. Grady, New York Conference, in his 10th year of imprisonment. His appeal for freedom is being considered;
- For the greater church and its education ministry through church schools, teachers, students and ecumenical community served;
- Wini Grizzle




**The Coral Metodista Unida de Nueva York, a Spanish-speaking congregation in New York City, praised God with ward and song on Monday morning.**

***photo by Mike DuBose***

## Sunday Cyclers Conquer 20-Mile Ride

"Where did you go to church?" someone asked me.

"To St. Cycling United Methodist Church," I responded.

I worshiped with a small "congregation" of 11. We traveled 60 miles south to Colorado Springs to cycle in the Cheyenne Canyon National Park.

As we were measured for our cycling gear, I mused: What a beautiful day for cycling! As we traveled up the mountain, on what was once used as a stagecoach path, the more my thoughts shifted to: It's going to be a cool day for cycling! As I approached our starting point, about 11,000 feet in elevation, I revised my expectations to: It's going to be a freezing day for riding!

Descending the mountain on the rugged terrain, our prayers were fervent: Oh God, please part those clouds to allow the sun to come bursting through and warm these frozen bodies of ours. Please, God, please. As we tried to keep the blood circulating in our feet and hands, we experienced breathtaking views and a spirit of community.

Despite the 30-degree temperature, with mild winds and light snow dustings, we successfully conquered the 20-mile mountain bike ride. Thanks be to God.

*—Dawn M. Hand*

## Joys and Concerns

Birthday greetings are extended to J.D. Phillips, Central Texas Conference clergy delegate, who has celebrated his April 26 birthday at every General Conference since 1976 (except 1980).

Wini Grizzle, Disciple Bible Study director, collapsed early Saturday as she entered the convention center. She was admitted to Denver General Hospital for observation. Doctors have ruled out neurological problems, but are continuing to run tests. So far, tests results look good. Wini appreciates the prayers of her friends and colleagues. Disciple groups everywhere will add her to their prayer list.

## Corrections

p. 194 — Change the conference for Sally AsKew from South Georgia to North Georgia.

Item before COCU ecumenical gift list: the correct church for Dr. James Diehl is Church of the Nazarene.

## A STATEMENT TO THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Denver, Colorado - 1996

We, the Council of Bishops of The United Methodist Church, acknowledge the serious differences that exist among United Methodists on issues related to homosexuality. These differences are also reflected within the Council of Bishops. We have been praying together and have been talking with one another in a new spirit of honesty and openness that is both painful and hopeful.

The Council understands the present language in the *Book of Discipline* to be a faithful expression of faith and discipleship and are committed, collectively and individually, to teach and uphold our church's doctrine and discipline.

We prayerfully support the General Conference delegates as they struggle with these issues during the current session. As General Superintendents and servants of the whole church, we affirm and respect the legislative authority of the General Conference. Together we remain open to God's continued guidance.

With the entire church, we seek to address all issues, including homosexuality, with biblical, theological, and personal integrity, and in ways that reflect God's love incarnate in Jesus Christ. As Bishops, we share in the church's pilgrimage and pray anew what we prayed at the Table: "By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world.... "

Our life together is not based upon uniformity of mind or conscience. We are a community of grace centered in Jesus Christ who makes us one.

We call upon all United Methodists to join us in bearing witness to God's gift of unity in Jesus Christ.

# Can You Top This?

The competition builds! The April 20 *DCA* asked for contributions to the "Can You Top This?" hall of fame, and readers continue to respond!

### A FAMILY AFFAIR

We've heard of at least three sets of spouse delegates: Cheryl Phillips (lay) and J.D. Phillips (clergy) from Central Texas Conference; Inday Day (lay) and R. Randy Day (clergy) from New York Conference; and Judy A. Nutter (lay) and Randy P. Nutter (lay) from West Virginia Conference.

East Ohio Conference boasts a familial trio of delegates: Charles D. Yoost (clergy), his son Timothy R. Yoost (lay), 17, and his nephew Daniel R. Griffith (lay). (Is Tim the youngest delegate?)

West Ohio Conference has two sets of parent/child delegates: lay delegate Alfred C. "Al" Rhonemus and his clergy daughter, Sharon A. Hausman, and clergy delegate Margaret M. Mallory and her lay daughter, Gabrielle G. Mallory.

Bruno C. Schmidt, a retired elder from the Southwest Texas Conference, is a page. His granddaughter, Laura A. Merrill, is attending General Conference as a member of the National Committee on Hispanic Ministries. Ms. Merrill, a candidate for deacon's orders in the Southwest Texas Conference, says: "My grandfather is 85 years old. He graduated from Perkins School of Theology in 1935 and last summer celebrated 60 years in the ordained ministry. I am excited and proud to be sharing my first experience at General Conference with my grandpa!"

### A LONG SHORT LEGACY

Bishop Roy H. Short was a ministerial delegate to the last General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in Birmingham and represented his conference for many years. Now his son, Riley P. Short continues the legacy as a clergy delegate from the Florida Conference. Bishop Short, who was elected a bishop in 1948, died in 1994. His widow, now 90 years old, attended General Conferences with Bishop Short and is present at the 1996 General Conference. "This spans over 60 years of General Conferences!" she says. The Rev. Phillip Short, Bishop Short's grandson, is visiting this conference.

### FREQUENT GENERAL CONFERENCE ATTENDEE

Retired Judicial Council member Hoover Rupert has attended 15 General Conferences and two Uniting Conferences. In 1939 he sang with the Boston Seminary Singers at the union of the Methodist Episcopal Church; the Methodist Episcopal Church, South; and the Methodist Protestant Church. The group sang again the following year at General Conference. In 1944 he served on the host committee for General Conference in Kansas City, Mo. Four years later, in Boston, as national director of youth work, he wrote legislation. He missed the 1952 General Conference but returned as a delegate from Michigan and Detroit conferences (1956-68). He was elected to Judicial Council in 1968, which he served until his retirement 20 years later. In 1992 and 1996 he has attended General Conference as a consultant to the Judicial Council.

### MOST DELEGATES FROM ONE CHURCH

From Fayetteville [N.Y.] United Methodist Church come five North Central New York Conference delegates: Kathleen B. Barden (lay), Elizabeth J. Burlew (lay), Stephen T. Deckard (clergy), Deborah L. Pritts (clergy) and Thomas V. Wolfe (clergy).

Snellville [Ga.] United Methodist Church has three North Georgia Conference delegates Beth L. Cook (lay), James B. Mooneyham (clergy) and Hershel S. Sheets (clergy), as well as one reserve, Mark A. Westmoreland (clergy).

Dakotas Conference delegates Peary Wilson (clergy) and Marion Muthiah (lay) are both reserve delegates from McCabe United Methodist Church, Bismarck, N.D.

### THEY TRY TO TELL US WE'RE TOO YOUNG

The average age of the North Central New York clergy delegation is 44 years young.

### Top Ten Theme Songs for General Conference

10. Achy Breaky Heart
9. Momma Told Me Not to Come
8. Rocky Mountain High
7. Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen
6. I Did It My Way
5. Take Me out to the Ballgame
4. What if God Was One of Us
3. There'd Be Day's Like This, My Momma Said
2. Somewhere out There
1. The Party's Over

*—Brad Motta (With a Little Help from My Friends)*

## Baptism Study Approved

"By Water and the Spirit," the Baptism Study document under construction for the past eight years was affirmed unanimously by the Discipleship Legislative Committee and by the General Conference body as a part of Monday morning's consent calendar. It thereby becomes the defining document on the sacrament of baptism for United Methodists.

What this action does, in effect, is to establish a interpretation of the sacrament of baptism as it appears in the *United Methodist Hymnal* adopted by the 1988 General Conference. The study clarifies issues of rebaptism, confirmation and church membership which have been discussed across the connection for the past two quadrenniums. During the past four years the study committee has responded to input from local churches and annual conferences in crafting the final draft approved Monday.

The Rev. Mark Trotter, California-Pacific Conference, served as chairperson of the committee and presented its report to the plenary with the assistance of the Rev. Gail Felton, Duke Divinity School faculty member and a member of the study committee.

Dr. Felton explained that the study brings together both the sacramental and evangelical traditions of the church's history for an individual's personal response to that grace in the form of his/her profession of faith and commitment to discipleship, through the ceremony of confirmation.

While baptism is to happen only once, a reaffirmation of that baptism may be done as many times as desired and using either sprinkling or immersion.

In a press conference following the plenary session, Dr. Trotter emphasized that the method by which local churches count members for the purposes of determining apportionments would not change. The rolls of professing members (currently known as "full members") will be used.

Dr. Trotter, pastor of the 3,800-member First UMC of San Diego, described the Baptism Study as one of the clearest affirmations of who we are as United Methodists. . . allowing us to recover the wholeness of our tradition, both evangelical and sacramental.

*—Lynne DeMichele*

## Turn Sorrow into Song—Bishop Jones

"Faith is hearing tomorrow's music. Hope is dancing to it today." These were the words of Charlotte Area Bishop L. Bevel Jones III, preaching at yesterday's worship service. "When the church loses its capacity to sing, [it] loses its power."

Responding to the challenge to sing their faith, Bishop Jones said the Hasidic tradition has three levels of response to suffering: crying, silence and turning sorrow into song.

To become the church confident, the bishop said, we need to be a singing people with vital worship. Our church needs a new epiphany, a fresh manifestation of Christ in and through the church.

Reflecting on the timidity and tentative quality of our church's life, he cited the lament of the late Flannery O'Conner who admitted that her virtues were as timid as her vices. This contrasts, he said, with Paul's counsel, "God did not give us the spirit of fear . . . but the spirit of power, love and self discipline."

As an introduction to the legislative work week, the service began with the lively and spirited Hispanic songs and rhythms of Coral Metodista Unida de Nueva York of New York. Morning liturgist was Denver Area Bishop Mary Ann Swenson, with Francisco Quibonda, Western Angola lay delegate, reading the account of Jesus' first sermon from Luke's Gospel.

*—Dick Thornburg*

### ♀♀ *Blessed Be the Women: Be Counted!* ♀♀

- Mon (am) Plenary - Native American Ministries & legislative session: Women are 35% of the body & made 29% of the comments; laity participated 33%. Note: 81% of the comments were from mikes #2-9. Thanks to Bishop Grove for recognizing the need to include back rows.
- Church and Society - Full com deliberation on ¶71F Human Sexuality: Women were 25% of the group & made 16% of comments; clergy were 47% of group & made 69% of comments. Note of appreciation to Chair Don Pike for regularly checking the monitoring data during the session to guide his own self-monitoring efforts for inclusion.
- Discipleship - Full com action on proposal for commission on men: Laity 53% of group making 72% of comments. Full comm action on Baptism Study: Women were 21% of group making 23% of comments, near parity.
- Local Church - Full com action on LC Nominating Com: Women were 30% of group making 18% of comments. Laity were 27% of group making 40% of comments. We note with commendation that the participation has steadily improved since Day 1 of GC. ***Blessed Be!!!***

Information by the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women

# Announcements

Bishop Leontine Kelley will preach at an AIDS Memorial Service, Tuesday, April 23, in the ballroom of the Adams's Mark Hotel. All delegates and visitors to General Conference are invited to participate. The service will begin at approximately 12:45 p.m.

Bishop Susan M. Morrison will be honored by delegates from the Peninsula-Delaware and Eastern Pennsylvania annual conferences with an appreciation and affirmation dinner at the Holiday Inn on Tuesday, April 23, 5:30 p.m.

The Oklahoma Area Reception will be held Tuesday night, April 23, following the 9:30 p.m. adjournment at the Executive Tower Inn Forum room, 14th and Curtis streets. All Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference and Oklahoma Conference delegates, reserves, pages and spouses and Oklahoma visitors are invited. Guests of honor will be all bishops and spouses who are from or have served the Oklahoma Area.

GBOD Board Members luncheon is changed from Wednesday, April 24, to Thursday, April 25, at 12:45 p.m. at the Adams Mark Hotel in the Silver Room.

The Rev. Robert Martin Walker will be at the Cokesbury Book Display on Tuesday (April 23) and Wednesday (April 24) to offer solace to humor-deprived persons with his new book, *Politically Correct Parables.*

The Council of Bishops Worship Committee initiated provision of prayer chapels for delegates and visitors at the 1996 General Conference. The prayer chapels are located in C-207 of the convention center. Each was prepared by a different congregation in the Denver area. Chapel A by Simpson UMC; Chapel B by Asbury Korean UMC; Chapel C by People's UMC, and Chapel D by La Luz/Berkeley UMC. The Upper Room provided the devotional resource for each chapel. Local arrangements for the chapel were worked out by Gary and Claire Ziln. Please make use of the chapels during your time at General Conference.

Marilyn Bennett Alexander and James Preston, authors of *We Were Baptized Too: Claiming God's Grace for Lesbians and Gays* (forward written by Archbishop Desmond M. Tutu) will be signing books and greeting the public Tuesday, April 23, from 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. Sponsered by the Reconciling Congregation Program, the event will be held in the W.A.R.M. Hospitality Room at the Holiday Inn - Denver Downtown. Books will be available.

Want to talk to a missionary working with the National Hispanic Plan? Aida Beltrán-Gaetán and Mario Rodriguez can be found in the Hispanic Ministries Hospitality center, Suite 1701, Hyatt Regency, Welton and 17th, and the Advance tent across from the convention center.

Learn how to start a congregation from faith communities! Come speak to Adrian García in the Hispanic Ministries Hospitality Center, Suite 1701, Hyatt Regency, Welton and 17th.

Bible Study using the Judge, See, and Act methodology will be held Wednesday 7:00 -8:00 a.m. in Room A102 at the convention center.

Whoops! We didn't know that 500 people were arriving at DIA in a two-hour period, so many of you had to wait too long for your bus. But, now we know departure times and have extra buses scheduled at the peak departure times. We will return people to the airport from 12 noon to 7:30 p.m. on Friday and 5:00 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. on Saturday. Allow yourself two hours before your plane departure time. You may buy a return-to-DIA ticket for $5.00 at the information disk in Lobby A until 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 24. Look for specific hotel pick-up times in the lobby of your hotel.

The Women's Bean Project Tour is no competition to Hillary Clinton! We have cancelled this tour, which was scheduled for Wednesday, April 24, during the lunch break. You may turn your ticket in at the information desk in Lobby A for a refund.

A Reception honoring Fritz and Etta Mae Mutti will be held Wednesday, April 12, from 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. at Warren U.M.C., 1630 E. 14th (use the Gilpin Street entrance). Pass the word along to others who know Fritz and Etta Mae.

The Montana Logging and Ballet Company has cassettes, ($10) and CD's ($15), available of "We Don't Get IT" and "Take the Barriers Down." T-shirts are $15. Specify size and color: M, L, or XL, grey or purple. Send request and check, plus $2.50 shipping and handling to Upstream Records, 1515 Winne, Helena, MT 59601.

Delegates and friends of the Pacific Northwest Annual Conference will honor Bishop Calvin D. and Mrs. Velma McConnell, as well as other bishops who have led us, or who were elected from among us, at a dinner Tuesday evening at 5:30 p.m., at the Holiday Inn, Matilda's Resturant. Reservations required.

Central Texas Conference delegates and friends will meet for dinner immediately following the afternoon plenary on Wednesday, April 24. Meet at Ocean Palace Restaurant (backroom) at 15th and Curtis.

The bishops' secretaries will meet Tuesday, April 23, at 10:30 a.m., room A-268.

# Additions and Changes to Listing of Voting and Reserve Delegates

(Pages 32-71, *Advance DCA I*)
(Pages 25-31 *DCA, Tuesday, April 16, 1996*)

**California-Nevada**

Remove: *Arjona, Juan J.* (resigned)
Add to end of reserve lsit: *Elsea, Madeline K.*, pastor, 5401 Freeport Boulevard, Sacramento, CA 95822

**Great Britain**

Chair of Delegation: *Beck, Brian E.*

**Mexico**

Chair of Delegation: *Travino, Luis Ernesto*

**Middle Philippines**

Chair of Delegation: *Magno, Catalino P.*

**Mindanao Philippines**

Exchange order for the following reserve delegates:
*Soriano, Leo and Villanueva, Lina*
Garrett, Doris Ann and Cabaltica, Romeo

**North Shaba**

Chair of Delegation: *Nkulu Ntanda, Ntambo*

**West Middle Philippines**

Chair of Delegation: Magno, Elvira D.

## Changes in Standing Legislative Committees

**Church and Society**

Remove: Ilunga, Kaseya (North Shaba)
Kapend, Musumb (Southern Zaire)
*Lenge, Lasongo* (North Shaba)
*Lupaka, Tshita* (Central Zaire)
Add: Bravo, Gilberto (Mexico)
Galang, Ernesto C. (Middle Philippines)
Magno, Elvira D. (West Middle Philippines)
*Travino, Luis Ernesto* (Mexico)

**Conferences**

Add: Spelman, Jeffrey R. (Northern New Jersey)
Remove: *Streiff, Patrick* (Switzerland-France)

**Discipleship**

Remove: Mumba, Djamba (Central Zaire)
*Namej, Sul A.* (Southern Zaire)
Smith, Randy (Texas)
Add: *Inere, Oscar C.* (North Central Philippines)
*Magno, Catalino P.* (Middle Philippines)

**Financial Administration**

Remove: Moore, James W. (Texas)
*Pennell, James T.* (South Georgia)
Add: Francis, Lufunda (Southern Zaire)
*Gomes, Antonia Z.* (Western Angola)
*Horton, John E.* (South Georgia)
Ilunga, Kaseya (North Shaba)
Kafimbo, Shimbi (North Shaba)
Kapend, Musumb (Southern Zaire)
*Kapumba, Isolo* (Southern Zaire)
*Konge, Makese* (North Shaba)
*Mendonca, Benvinda* (Eastern Angola)
*Ngoy Kyungu, Matanga* (North Shaba)
*Simbine, Jossias* (Mozambique)

**General Administration/Judicial Administration**

Remove: *Inere, Oscar C.* (North Central Philippines)
Kafimbo, Shimbi (North Shaba)
*Kapumba, Isolo* (Southern Zaire)
*Ngoy Kyungo, Matanga* (North Shaba)
Add: Smith, Randy (Texas)
*Streiff, Patrick* (Switzerland-France)

**Global Ministries**

Remove: *Gomes, Antonia Z.* (Western Angola)
Add: Cooke, Victor (Methodist Church of the Caribbean and the Americas)
*Granado, Simplicio T.* (Northern Philippines)
Kiebling, Dieter (German East)
*Kumbe, Alua* (Central Zaire)
*Lupaka, Tshita* (Central Zaire)
Mukala, Musenge (North Shaba)
*Nawej, Sul A.* (Southern Zaire)
Zvinoira, John (Zimbabwe)

**Higher Education and Chaplaincy**

Add: Asparuchov, Asparuch (Bulgaria Provisional)
*Lenge, Kasongo* (North Shaba)
*Mafondokoto, Jairus* (Zimbabwe)
*Mbukula, Koy* (Central Zaire)
Mumba, Djamba (Central Zaire)

**Independent Commissions**

Remove: *Granado, Smplicio T.* (Northern Philippines)
Kiebling, Dieter (German East)
*Mbukula, Koy* (Central Zaire)
Spelman, Jeffrey R. (Northern New Jersey)

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**Local Church**

Remove: Francis, Lufunda (Southern Zaire)
*Horton, John E.* (South Georgia)
*Konge, Makese* (North Shaba)
*Kumbe, Alua* (Central Zaire)
*Mendonca, Benvinda* (Eastern Angola)
Add: *Bagwell, Timothy J.* (South Georgia)
*Fernando, Ruben* (West Middle Philippines)
*Moore, James W.* (Texas)

**Ordained and Diaconal Ministry**

Remove: *Bagwell, Timothy J.* (South Georgia)
Mukala, Musenge (North Shaba)
*Ntaboneka, Simeon* (Burundi)
Add: *Pennell, James H.* (South Georgia)

**Nominations to the Interjurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy**

North Central Jurisdiction
Southern Illinois
Remove: Orville May
Add: Gloria Blacklock

## Thanks, Marshals and Pages!

Seventy-one marshals and 67 pages from across The United Methodist Church quietly make the General Conference run as smoothly as possible. They are laity, diaconal ministers and ordained ministers. They are young and old. They are conference staff and local church volunteers from every jurisdiction. They come from rural and urban congregations. Five husband-wife teams serve as marshals, and five husband-wife teams serve as pages.

During these two weeks, marshals and pages walk miles, delivering messages, worship liturgies and other approved documents. They are responsible for checking credentials and seeing that only voting delegates enter the bar. They stand guard, usher and answer questions. Pages deliver mail and messages to delegates as needed, help count votes and assist in other ways. They rotate assignments so that they get to experience as much of General Conference as possible.

Laura and Mark Wharff are the co-chairs of the marshals. Laura is a support staff person for the California-Nevada Conference Center. Mark is an ordained minister serving in Modesto, Calif. This is Mark's fifth time to provide volunteer services at General Conference. They coordinate and assign services.

Marshals and pages work 15 hours every two days. They are all volunteers. They pay their own way here, including all expenses, to serve the General Conference. Your offering on Wednesday is your token of appreciation for their hard work. The offering and your thanks are the only payment they receive besides the satisfaction of a job well done.

*—Patty Meyers*



Page Anne Ferguson delivers messages on the floor of the 1996 General Conference.

*UMNS photo by Mike DuBose*

## *Meet the Authors*

*Tuesday, April 23*

*Leighton Farrell*
*12:30 - 1:30 p.m.*
*Cries from the Cross*

*Eddie Fox*
*12:30 - 1:30 p.m.*
*Faith Sharing*
*(coming in June)*
*The Faith Sharing New Testament with Psalms*

*William Willimon*
*1:30 - 2:00 p.m.*
*A New Connection*

*Andy Langford*
*1:30 - 2:00 p.m.*
*Christian Wedding Book*
*and*
*A New Connection*

*James Harnish*
*1:45 - 2:30 p.m.*
*Men at Midlife*

## Additional Petition

¶2625

Petition Number: 23078-GJ-2625.3-D; Saint Paul's UMC, Coronado, Calif.

Amend the fifth sentence of ¶2625.3(a):

Should a member of the Committee on Investigation have been a party to any of the prior proceedings in a case which finally comes before the committee, **or should any member of the committe be a potential witness,** he/she shall be disqualified from sitting on the committee during its consideration of the case, and his/her place shall be taken by an alternate member.

# Judicial Council Decisions

## MEMORANDUM NO. 776

IN RE: Review of Bishop's Decision of Law in the Iowa Conference Concerning Validity of Request for Surrender of Credentials.

The additional documents from the Board of Ordained Ministry and Bishop Charles Wesley Jordan, which were requested in Decision 772, related to the bishop's rulings on items 20 and 21, submitted during the June 1995 Annual Conference. The rulings of the bishop are affirmed to the extent that suspension from clergy responsibilities were recommended by the executive committee of the Board of Ordained Ministry and the reference on page 412 of the Pastoral Record of the Iowa Conference Journal 1995 constitutes consent to the continuation of suspension of the clergy member until the verdict of the Trial Court is effected.

Under Par. 454.1(b), the bishop is allowed to suspend a person for a period of sixty days from all clergy responsibilities upon recommendation of the executive committee of the Board of Ordained Ministry. Or, suspension may be applied when five or more members of the Committee on Investigation under Par. 2625.3(d) recommend temporary suspension from all clergy responsibilities. (Note Decision 498)

The Constitution in Paragraph 36 of the 1992 Discipline grants to the ministerial members of the Annual Conference the right to vote "on all matters relating to the character and conference relations of its ministerial members." At no place in the Constitution is this power given to the bishop. The only submitted reference on page 412 of the Pastoral Record of the Iowa Conference Journal 1995 simply indicates that the clergy member was not appointed in 1995.

In this instance, the Judicial Council's recommendation for remedy would be to remand the case back to the executive committee of the Board of Ordained Ministry of the Iowa Conference to the point of recommendation to the bishop for the suspension process of Par. 454.1(b). Since recent data indicate that the properly requested trial was set for February 26, 1996, this issue is moot.

In Par. 2626.1(a)(3) on Trial Procedures, the process allows opportunity for correction of errors of procedure by appeal to the presiding officer of the Trial Court before the convening of the Trial Court. Otherwise, the right to appeal on such matters is forfeited. There was no information provided to the Council on any such appeal. If the February 26, 1996 trial is completed, the Council concludes that any error in procedure is moot.

The conference is commended for properly providing the clergy person under suspension from all clergy responsibilities with compensation, housing allowance, and benefits during the period prior to the trial.

Digest

The additional documents from the Board of Ordained Ministry and Bishop Charles Wesley Jordan, which were requested in Decision 772, related to the bishop's rulings on items 20 and 21, submitted during the June 1995 Annual Conference. The rulings of the bishop are affirmed to the extent that suspension from clergy responsibilities were recommended by the executive committee of the Board of Ordained Ministry and the reference on page 412 of the Pastoral Record of the Iowa Conference Journal 1995 constitutes consent to the continuation of suspension of the clergy member until the verdict of the Trial Court is effected.

April 22, 1966

## DECISION NO. 777

IN RE: Review of Bishop's Decision of Law in the Alabama-West Florida Conference Concerning Leave of Absence and Grievance Procedures.

### Digest

The decision of Bishop William W. Morris is reversed at some points and modified at others. The case on which it was based lacked a timely, signed grievance and a complaint specifying the chargeable offense in Disciplinary terms, both of which are indispensable requirements for any such matter referred to the Joint Review Committee for possible punitive action.

### Statement of Facts

The case is much too long and complex to detail fully in this decision. The essential facts are summarized.

It originated in 1989, when the resident bishop of the Alabama-West Florida Conference, C. A. Hancock, received word of the discharge from naval chaplaincy of a clergy member of that conference. The bishop sent a letter to the chair of the Board of Ordained Ministry informing him of the discharge for "conduct unbecoming an officer and fraternization," and directing the chair of the Board of Ordained Ministry to "call the Joint Review Committee to perform its duties."

The clergy member was placed on involuntary leave of absence, effective September 1, 1989, and was required to engage in counseling and career evaluation. From 1990 until 1994, the clergy member was listed in the conference journal as on leave of absence "with consent." Dur-

ing that period, he repeatedly requested that the leave be terminated and he be given an appointment. In 1994, he requested a church trial. The Board of Ordained Ministry filed charges with the Committee on Investigation, but the committee found that the filing did not constitute proper charges as defined by Discipline. The Board of Ordained Ministry submitted revised charges. We are informed that in July of 1995, these were also found to be inadequate by the Committee on Investigation.

The 1995 session of the Annual Conference did not extend the leave of absence, and the clergy member was appointed to a pastoral charge, effective July 1, 1995.

At the 1995 session, a seven-question request for a decision of law concerning the case was presented to the presiding bishop, William W. Morris. His decision came to the Judicial Council for review at the fall session in 1995, and was deferred to the spring of 1996 to allow time to seek additional information.

## Jurisdiction

The Judicial Council has jurisdiction under Par. 2613 of the 1992 Discipline.

## Analysis

In making his decision of law, Bishop Morris was disadvantaged in that the case had its origin long before he became the resident bishop. He has been most cooperative with the Judicial Council as we sought essential information and documents.

The questions and the bishop's responses are summarized briefly, with the Judicial Council's analysis of each.

1. Is the submission for the second time of a charge by the Board of Ordained Ministry a violation of Par. 2622.5 (1992)?

2. Does it violate Par. 453 (1988) when a bishop conveys an unspecified allegation and an unspecified complaint to the Board of Ordained Ministry without having followed the grievance procedures and supervisory response spelled out in that paragraph?

3. May an issue not previously specified in a grievance or complaint nor addressed by the Joint Review Committee be acted upon in a substantive way and/or presented to the Committee on Investigation without violating Fair Process?

4. Since the Administrative Review Committee found that Fair Process was not followed when the respondent was placed on involuntary leave of absence, is the respondent due compensation for the period he was without appointment?

5. Could the respondent be legally listed on voluntary leave of absence when he had made no such request and, instead, had asked to be removed from that category? Should the record be changed?

6. In view of the fact that there is no signed grievance and no valid complaint as defined in Par. 453 (1988), has the statute of limitations not expired?

7. Does the use in judicial procedure of material generated in administrative procedure violate Par. 2622.5 (1992)?

The crucial issue, on which the entire case hinges, is raised in Question 2, which refers to "an unspecified allegation in an unspecified complaint," and in Question 6, which includes a similar reference. Par. 453 (1988) defines a grievance as "a written and signed statement claiming misconduct or unsatisfactory performance of ministerial duties." It further requires that a "complaint must be based on incompetence, ineffectiveness, or any one or more of the offenses listed in Par. 2621. . . ." The complaint is dependent upon the timely filing of a grievance: "No complaint shall be considered for any misconduct or unsatisfactory performance which shall not have been committed within two years immediately preceding the filing of the grievance."

The Judicial Council repeatedly requested a copy of the signed grievance on which the complaint was based, but received none.

The Judicial Council repeatedly requested a copy of the complaint citing one or more of the offenses listed in the Discipline. We were provided only a copy of the letter from Bishop Hancock to the chair of the Board of Ordained Ministry, dated June 23, 1989, which refers to a "charge of behavior unbecoming an officer and fraternization."

"Behavior unbecoming an officer" and "fraternization" are military terms which have no precise translation into the language of the Discipline or the performance of parish ministry as a civilian pastor. There are actions inappropriate for an officer in a military setting which may be perfectly appropriate for the pastor of a local church. If the clergy member is accused of actions which are listed as offenses in the Discipline, they must be clearly and specifically spelled out. Otherwise, the respondent has nothing on which to base a response, and there is no tenable basis for reconciliation, corrective action, termination, or vindication.

Bishop Morris and others in the Alabama-West Florida Conference have been fully cooperative in our inquiry. We have no reason to doubt that, had the material we requested been available, it would have been provided. Therefore, we must conclude that a signed grievance and specific complaint which would have established a legitimate basis for action against the clergy member do not exist, and that the process was fatally flawed from the outset.

There were other lapses. Some were noted by the Administrative Review Committee in its report to the Clergy Session of the Alabama-West Florida Conference on May 28, 1995. Major deficiencies caused the Committee on Investigation to notify the Board of Ordained Ministry on May 23, 1995, that the committee was unable to proceed because of the lack of properly drawn charges.

Given the procedural errors and the absence of essential documents, we must reverse the bishop's decision at several points.

To Question 1, the bishop responded that there was no violation because the second presentation of the complaint was "an expansion of the original process," and it was offered before a judgment had been rendered.

The Judicial Council finds the question and answer moot in this case, since the original complaint failed to meet Disciplinary requirements as detailed above. The decision of the bishop is not affirmed.

To Question 2, the bishop responded that the previous bishop had stated "forthrightly and with sensitivity the process and the charge," and that there was no violation of Par. 453.

The Judicial Council finds that, as previously explained, the complaint was couched in military, not Disciplinary terms, and did not meet the requirement of Par. 453. The decision of the bishop is reversed.

To Question 3, the bishop's answer was that the issue before the Board of Ordained Ministry was the respondent's failure to complete all of the Joint Review Committee's recommendation of personal counseling, and that the Board of Ordained Ministry had "the right to make a judgment . . . based on the current knowledge it possessed."

The Judicial Council finds that this question is also made moot by the fact that the original complaint, on which the recommendation of the Joint Review Committee and the requirement of personal counseling were based, was invalid. The Board of Ordained Ministry could not recommend termination under the circumstances. The decision of the bishop is not affirmed.

On Question 4, the bishop ruled that remuneration is due "a minister in good standing unless the person is on sabbatical leave or disability leave or is on leave of absence or retired. The (respondent) was on leave of absence . . . (and) is not entitled to remuneration in that the process is still pending since no judgment has been made, and at no time did he report to his Charge Conference as required by Par. 448.2 of the 1992 *Book of Discipline*."

The Judicial Council finds this question the most difficult of all those raised in the case. There is irreconcilable dispute over whether leave of absence was with or without consent.

The clergy member repeatedly requested termination of leave of absence and appointment to a parish. However, there was also correspondence in which he indicated his intention to request or willingness to accept leave of absence. It is not possible for the Judicial Council to determine whether this reflected voluntary willingness or resignation to the inevitable.

It is clear, though, that in 1994 the clergy member requested removal from leave of absence in a timely manner, and that the request was considered and rejected by the Board of Ordained Ministry and by the Annual Conference. In addition to the finding of the Judicial Council that the case originated without the requisite signed grievance and specific complaint, the Administrative Review Committee determined, in a report accepted in 1995 by the Annual Conference, that Fair Process was not followed in dealing with the request. In his decision of law, Bishop Morris acknowledged that one meeting "did not meet the letter of the law."

Despite all the confusion and uncertainty, it seems clear that the clergy member is entitled to compensation, at the equitable salary level prevailing in the Alabama-West Florida Conference at that time, for the period from the adjournment of the 1994 session of the Annual Conference until July 1, 1995, when his appointment became effective. The decision of the bishop is modified.

To Question 5, the bishop responded that, in view of the circumstances, the leave of absence category in which the clergy member was listed in the conference journal was appropriate.

As the Judicial Council has admitted, it is not possible to determine to what degree leave of absence was voluntary, though it is possible to determine that there was no valid basis for involuntary leave, lacking a proper grievance and complaint. We see no basis for ordering a change in the record in the conference journal. Any errors there, as at many other points in the case, are beyond correction at this late date. We lack sufficient evidence either to affirm or reverse the decision of the bishop.

On Question 6, the bishop ruled that the statute of limitations had not expired because the original complaint was filed within the two-year period of the statute.

The Judicial Council finds that, since there was no valid grievance and complaint, the statute of limitations has expired. The decision of the bishop is reversed.

To Question 7, the bishop responded that it was a rephrasing of Question 1, on which his decision was that the action taken did not constitute double jeopardy.

This question and the bishop's ruling are also moot because of the flawed origins of the case. The bishop's decision is not affirmed. However, it should be noted that, though a clergy member may be put on involuntary leave of absence through the administrative process (Par. 448, 1988), any matter referred to the Joint Review Committee through the filing of a complaint (Par.453, 1988) may, if not resolved, move through the judicial process. Reliance by successive bodies on records of preceding bodies does not constitute double jeopardy. (See Decisions 697 and 699.)

There are indications of other errors, omissions, and violations in the case that are either not within the scope of the decision of law or that the Judicial Council does not have the documents to pursue fully. It should be emphasized that both the administrative and the judicial processes in the Discipline are carefully and specifically designed to protect the rights of clergy and of the church. The steps set forth there must be followed carefully and explicitly or injustice results. Lack of diligence, integrity, care, or compassion in dealing with a case almost always results in irreparable harm to both individual and church. That has usually happened by the time a case of this nature gets to the Judicial Council.

## Decision

The decision of the bishop is reversed at some points and modified at others. The case on which it was based

lacked a timely, signed grievance and a complaint specifying the chargeable offense in Disciplinary terms, both of which are indispensable requirements for any such matter referred to the Joint Review Committee for possible punitive action.

April 22, 1996

**Concurring Opinion**

I agree fully with the Judicial Council Decision as written and I write only to clarify the Digest in order to prevent future misinterpretation. A timely signed grievance and a complaint specifying the chargeable offense in disciplinary terms are indispensable requirements for any and all matters referred to the Joint Review Committee regardless of whether the Committee's action is punitive, remedial or results in a dismissal.

Evelynn S. Caterson

**MEMORANDUM NO. 779**

IN RE: Review of Bishop's Decision of Law in the Tennessee Conference Concerning Legality of Appointment of a Clergy Member as a Staff Physician at a Hospital.

At the 1995 session of the Tennessee Annual Conference Bishop Kenneth Carder was asked to rule on the following matter:

Pursuant to Paragraph 2613 of the 1992 Book of Discipline, I request that you render an episcopal decision of law as to whether the appointment of the Rev. Amy Douglas McVey(sic) as a staff physician at Charity Hospital at the Conway Medical Center in Louisiana is in compliance with the provisions in Paragraph 443.1(D)(sic) of the Discipline, given the description of the duties as outlined in a letter submitted to the Conference Board of Ministry.

Bishop Carder made the following ruling:

The appointment of The Reverend Amy Douglas-McVay as a staff physician at the E.A. Conway Medical Center and as a member of faculty of Louisiana State University School of Medicine is not in compliance with Paragraph 443.1D(sic) of The Book of Discipline.

The Book of Discipline states: "Conference members may receive appointments beyond the ministry usually extended through the local church and other institutions listed above in (a) and (b) when considered by the bishop and the Annual Conference Board of Ordained Ministry to be true extensions of the Christian ministry of the Church. These ministries shall be initiated in missional response to the needs of persons in special circumstances and unique situations and shall reflect the commitment of the clergy to intentional fulfillment of their ordination vows to Word, Sacrament and Order."

The letter dated March 31, 1995 and submitted to the Board of Ordained Ministry by The Reverend Douglas-McVay does not reflect the commitment to intentional fulfillment of her ordination vows to Word, Sacrament and Order. Although Reverend Douglas-McVay serves Communion regularly in a local church and occasionally preaches in local congregations, there is no indication in the letter to the Cabinet and the Board of Ordained Ministry that the *position* to which she requested appointment includes opportunity to fulfill her ordination vows to Word, Sacrament and, Order.

In my opinion, it is possible that the position as a staff physician in a hospital which ministers predominantly to impoverished persons can comply with the provisions of Paragraph 443.1d, provided the request for such appointment specifically describes the clergy person's intent and commitment to fulfill his/her ordination vows in and through the position as a physician.

Bishop Carder's ruling is affirmed.

As constituted and described in a letter from Douglas-McVay requesting the appointment, the position did not require ordination for effective performance. Par. 443.1 states at the beginning "In order to establish clear distinction between the work to which all Christians are called and the tasks for which ordained ministers are appropriately prepared and authorized...." This wording clearly indicates that for a position to be considered an "appointment beyond the local church" in compliance with the 1992 Discipline the position itself must require tasks for which ordained ministers are appropriately prepared and authorized...." Douglas-McVay's position at E.A. Conway Medical Center as a staff radiologist did not comply with this requirement.

Subsequent to the 1995 Tennessee Annual Conference Session, the Board of Ordained Ministry received additional information and a rewritten job description for Douglas-McVay. The Board of Ordained Ministry approved the position as an appointment beyond the local church, and the bishop appointed Douglas-McVay to the position.[1]

[1]Matters susequent to the 1995 session of the Tennessee Annual Conference were not before the Judicial Council for action.

## DIGEST

The ruling of Bishop Kenneth Carder that the appointment of the Rev. Amy Douglas-McVay as a staff physician at Charity Hospital at the Conway Medical Center in Louisana was not in compliance with Par. 443.1(d) of the Discipline is affirmed.

**MEMORANDUM 780**

IN RE: Reconsideration of Decision 754.

The request for reconsideration of Decision 754 is granted in light of the new information included with that request from Bishop Sharon A. Brown Christopher of the Minnesota Area. The information not previously provided clarified that the clergy member had no written complaint filed against him at the time he made written request to withdraw by surrender of ministerial office. The Council now determines that the ruling did apply to the case in question, and anything to the contrary in Decision 754 is reversed. The bishop's ruling in its entirety is affirmed.

The letter signed by the clergy member clearly states his intention to surrender the ministerial office under Par. 452 of the 1988 Discipline. The ruling in this situation originated from a request for a decision of law during the June 1995 Annual Conference which stated:

May an Annual Conference be prevented from voting on a motion to grant voluntary leave of absence to a person who had surrendered credentials when the 1988 Discipline was in effect and in response to a grievance alleging an occurrence of misconduct more than two years prior to the filing of the grievance?

The bishop's ruling and the additional information clarified that the question of law related to a specific situation. The ruling properly focused on the conference membership status of the clergy person. The clergy member made a written request to surrender the ministerial office as a member in good standing. The bishop stated the following regarding the June 26, 1995 ruling:

...I ruled that a motion to grant voluntary leave of absence by the Executive Session was not in order. Par. 457 stating the procedure for readmission after surrender of the ministerial office is applicable in this situation and remedy is available to the pastor.

From the data it is concluded that the clergy person had previously surrendered the ministerial office. Therefore, the clergy person could not be considered at the June 1995 session for voluntary leave of absence without readmission to conference membership under Par. 457 dealing with readmission after surrender of the ministerial office.

DIGEST

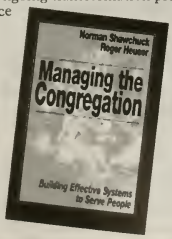
In regard to Par. 457, Bishop Sharon A. Brown Christopher ruled correctly. The Disciplinary process for readmission under Par. 457 cannot be waived. A motion or action in the clergy session which has the effect of circumventing this process in Par. 457 is improper and out of order. The bishop's decision of law is affirmed, and anything to the contrary in Decision 754 is reversed.


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DCA-358-6

# How Do They Do That?

How does the *DCA* land on delegates' desks? How are all those petitions, news, features, legislative committee reports, calendar items and proceedings processed?

### Advance Editions

The marathon began with petition secretary Odell Thompson of Beloit, Wis. She received more than 8,000 requests for General Conference action by agencies, local churches, groups and individuals. Because many proposals were similar in intent, she combined them into some 3,000 petitions, and assigned petition numbers to each. These numbers included assignments to legislative committees based on *Disciplinary* paragraphs or topics. Ms. Thompson then forwarded the petitions to Joan Shoup of The United Methodist Publishing House in Nashville, Tenn. She entered each petition into the Petition Electronic Tracking System (PETS) and also prepared them for the pages of the *DCA*.

A schedule was established wherein annual conferences sent in material by August 1995 and each general agency submitted legislation two weeks after its fall meeting. The reports and proposals of general agencies, annual conferences and study groups that met these early deadlines were printed in Volume I of the Advance Edition of the *DCA*. Those that came after that time were included in Advance Volume II along with proposals from local churches, groups and individuals. The second 300-page volume was placed on the delegates' desks on the opening day of conference.

### Daily Editions

Daily editions are the result of sweat and prayer. A staff of writers and editors, under the direction of Barbara Dunlap-Berg, writes or commissions all news and feature articles. Roger Burgess writes news on plenary sessions, and Brad Motta writes lively features and serves as the editor of the 16-page Round-up Edition.

Associate editor Sheila McGee and Keith Pohl coordinate a team of 20 legislative committee reporters who provide summaries of committee decisions. Most of these reporters are conference editors who volunteer their time during the busy first week.

Once the news, features and legislative committee reports are completed, Richard Street tackles page layout and design. He frequently is found staring into a computer well after midnight while the editorial team worries about making a 1 a.m. deadline.

### Proceedings

A three-person team, under the direction of George Dunn, breaks audio tapes of the proceedings into 15-minute segments. That staff is aided by two spotters on the floor who help identify speakers, provide spelling assistance and help transcribers with troubling theological terminology and acronyms.

Angela Butler and her team of six listen to the proceedings and input all plenary speeches, while Marvin Cropsey, aided by six copy editors, edits proceedings, news and features. This copy is finally given to Gayl Hinton to be formatted for the *DCA*.

### Calendar Items

Calendar items are entered into PETS by 20 recorders, under the direction of Mary Ann Haney. Training for these volunteers was provided by John Brawn, chief designer of PETS, and Glenn Hinton. The recorders and the elected secretaries are also blessed with 10 volunteer assistant secretaries. The petitions are then processed by Fitzgerald Reist and John Brawn and sent to Mike Cunningham who prepares them for the *DCA*.

### Printing, Delivery and Sales

Around 1 a.m. Billy Murphy rushes off to Publication Printers on Platte River Drive. That crew works all night and delivers some 3,000 copies to the conference center, where Cedric Foley distributes them to delegates. A sales staff, under the direction of Juanita Freudenthal, provides guests, press and others with daily editions along with answers to numerous questions. The sales staff also makes sure that subscribers receive editions by mail and that all delegates receive the final editions after departure.

While delegates are en route to the Denver airport, the *DCA* staff assembles once again on Saturday to input proceedings from Friday night and to produce the 16-page Round-up Edition. The last person to finish her work is index editor Thelma Boeder. The rest of the staff is frequently playing balloon volleyball over the curtains by the time she is finishing her work.

Take a look at the mast and offer all these folks a word of thanks. Most of them are volunteers who work 18-hour days—the two longest weeks of their lives.

*—J. Richard Peck*

# Keeping Up with General Conference

Ballroom One is a busy stop on the information highway during these two weeks in Denver.

From conventional print to home pages in cyberspace and the Episcopal Address on television satellite receivers, news of United Methodism is traveling across the nation and around the globe. And in Spanish, Korean, German and other languages in addition to English.

Early reports show that people in "pew land" are reading and listening. In one day on one service during the first week more than 4,000 "hits" were recorded, according to Susan Peek, director of on-line services. A "hit" is one access to the information.

Telephone calls to InfoServ had more than doubled, and by the beginning of the second week almost 2,000 had been logged on the voice mail service. Extra lines had been installed to handle the expected increase in traffic, says Woodley McEachern, director of operations in Denver.

General Conference personalities are placed on local and network radio and television programs under the direction of Shirley Whipple Struchen, Alan Griggs and Abby Brown. Feeds to radio stations are prepared regularly by Bill Richards and Bill Wolfe. Material can be tailored especially for a specific station on request.

At the heart of the information effort produced by United Methodist Communications is the United Methodist News Service team headed by Thomas McAnally. The team provides the basic news releases that are distributed in the many forms.

More than 150 journalists, church-related and secular, find the news releases and other information awaiting them in specially marked trays. Releases are issued throughout the day as breaking news requires.

Mike DuBose and John Goodwin roam the vast reaches of the convention center seeking out newsworthy photos. By the end of the first week they had a stock of 75 pictures ready for use by annual conference editors and other communicators, distilled from the eight to 10 rolls of film shot daily.

Through modern electronics both black and white and color photos can be supplied on discs or via electronic mail in the United States and abroad.

The 30 computers linked for use by the communications staff also are tied into another 200 computers in the convention center and at home base in Nashville, Tenn. Among other things, this network will give up-to-the minute status reports on any particular petition. A technical support team headed by Zion Huang keeps the equipment on line.

Most visible to the delegates is the work of a crew headed by Steve Downey that operates the cameras for the big-screen projections in the plenary hall and on monitors scattered around the convention center.

The television team will produce a live satellite feed of the visit by First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton. The Episcopal Address was carried on the Faith and Values Network, and an Ohio pastor reported he was rigging wires at 3 a.m. to a satellite receive to bring in the address.

Deborah Jarrett and Ruby Cloyd head a support services team that includes hard-working volunteers supplied by the Denver Area.

Other early comments show great appreciation for the UMCom effort under the general supervision of Wil Bane, head of the agency's public media division.

"I visited the (web) site yesterday and was quite impressed," one pastor said via electronic mail. "The links are easy to follow and the information is really quite extensive.

A Florida pastor called the communications effort "a great way to keep up with General Conference."

*—Robert Lear*

## Thanks to You!

Delegates and friends of this General Conference responded generously to two offerings received at earlier sessions. The offering received during the opening Holy Communion and memorial service totaled $9,384. Those gifts are designated to support the work of the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) in its worldwide efforts to respond to relief needs, disasters, hunger and refugee ministries.

A second offering received Saturday totaled $3,579 and is dedicated to the Native American Awareness Sunday. Half of the offering goes to annual conferences to develop and strengthen work among Native American people within their boundaries. The balance provides scholarship assistance for Native Americans attending United Methodist schools of theology and to expand the work of the Native American Urban Initiative.

GCFA General Secretary Sandra Kelley Lackore expressed gratitude and appreciation: "Your response is indicative of the response to God's call . . . deeply embedded in our life as Christ's people." You can still contribute to the Native American Awareness Sunday offering by handing your gift to any GCFA staff member.

*—Arvin R. Luchs*

# Legislative Committee Reports

**Church and Society** — (4/20/96, midnight)

*The committee recommended concurrence:*

- Eliminate the words "although we do not condone the practice of homosexuality and consider this practice incompatible with Christian teaching..." from Social Principles Para. 71F. The committee approved (46-45-1) a petition deleting the last two sentences of Para. 71F and replacing them with new text that acknowledges differences within the UMC. It indicates a continued search for understanding through "prayer, study and pastoral experience." (A minority report has been filed.);
- Affirm the right of persons with mental disabilities to freedom from abusive treatment;
- Urge congregations to designate on Sunday during the year for observance of a Health Care Sabbath;
- Call congregations, annual conferences, jurisdictions and boards to join the UM Mental Illness Network;
- Commend to churches and families the Household EcoTeam Program "to help save the earth";
- Support "all movement toward the provision of quality health care" and "progressive methods of providing health insurance";
- Revise and update the current resolution on "Drug and Alcohol Concerns," as well as four other resolutions dealing with the issues;
- Add under "Causes of Suicide" the alienation and rejection youth experience when dealing with sexual identity issues;
- Describe "God's Vision of Abundant Living" and call UMs to examine their current actions and lifestyles;
- Update the present resolution on "The Law of the Sea";
- Encourage the inclusion of Environmental Tobacco Smoke Prevention in the Clean Air Act and other legislation;
- Amend the second paragraph of Social Principles Para. 71F to highlight the destructive nature of exploitative abusive or promiscuous sexual relations;
- Affirm the right of persons with homosexual orientation to serve in the military;
- Move Social Principles Para. 71G on "Rights of Homosexual persons" to Para. 72 and to also assure rights for former homosexuals;

(4/22/96, 5:30 p.m.)

- Affirming overwhelmingly paragraph 71H on abortion with an amendment committing "our church to continue to provide nurturing ministries to those who terminate a pregnancy, to those in the midst of a crisis pregnancy, and to those who give birth";
- Amending the resolution on "Responsible Parenthood" by inserting a reference to *Discipline* Para. 71H.

*—Shanta M. Bryant and Lee Ranck*

**Conferences** — (4/20/96, 10:00 p.m.)

*The committee recommended concurrence:*

- Wording that ensures understanding that *Discipline* requirements supersede annual conference's requirements;
- Voting rights for deaconesses;
- Voting privileges of lay members on the board of ordained ministry;
- Concerning expired resolutions in the *Book of Resolutions*;
- Dealing with the Interjurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy, moving bishops from one jurisdiction to another;
- Clarifying sentence structure of a paragraph on the jurisdictional conference;
- Changing "persons with a handicapping condition" to "people with disabilities";
- Concerning establishment and administration of a mission;
- Concerning assignment of missionaries and mission traveling preachers in the Missionary Conference;
- Concerning organization of a Missionary Conference;
- Asking that publisher of each new *Book of Discipline* prepare a table to show how paragraphs/changes are different from the previous issue;
- Asking that conference boards and agencies be intentional in their nominations for committees;
- Dealing with conference power to locate a clergymember;
- Changing a word from "trial" to "probation";
- Recommending that UMC join in covenanting relations with the Evangelical Church of Spain and of West Africa/Sierra Leone;
- Supporting Missionary Conference district superintendents having the same limitations on years of service as other district superintendents;
- Resolution supporting the Rio Grande Conference;

- Switching the order of Parts III and IV in the *Book of Discipline* (20232, Petition, p. 203)
- Adding UM Communications to list for records and archives;
- Seeking to identify Black clergy and laity for leadership positions.

*The committee recommended concurrence with amendments.*

- Expanding non-ordained clergymembers' voting rights at annual conference;
- Defining the election and eligibility of clergy delegates to General and Jurisdictional conferences;
- Giving lay members of the board of ordained ministry vote at the clergy session;
- Making changes possible in the district council on ministries and providing for an alternate structure;
- Formulating the number of bishops assigned to each jurisdiction.

*The committee referred:*

General Conference structure petitions to the Connectional Issues Study of the General Conference on Ministries.

*The committee recommended nonconcurrence (on close votes):*

- Eliminating the Jurisdictional Council on Ministries using "may" have alternate administrative and programmatic structure;
- Asking to change the title of *Book of Discipline* to *Doctrines and Discipline of UMC.*

*—Carolyn Simms and Ken Horne*

**Financial Administration** — (4/22/96)

*The committee recommended concurrence:*

- Adopting a $503 Million dollar budget for the quadrennia, as amended. Adjusted upward from the figures on page 285 of the Advanced DCA were Ministerial Education Fund and Black College Fund. Adjusted downward were all the other apportioned funds except Africa University, which showed no increase or decrease over the previous quadrennium. The bottom line is a zero percent increase for 1997, 1998, and a two percent increase for 1999 and 2000;
- Authorized creation of a personal investment plan that works like mutual funds for personal contributions of clergy and staff;
- Authorizing annual conferences whereby they may establish policies and procedures whereby allocations may be adjusted between sessions of annual conference;
- Authorizing the annual conference council on finance and administration to review audited reports of all funds administered by districts and district agencies;

*The committee recommended nonconcurrence:*

- Separating world service from conference benevolences in conference budgeting;
- Allowing charge conferences to approve paying apportionments.

*—Joretta Purdue, Erik Alsgaard*

**General and Judicial Administration** — (4/20/96, 5:00 p.m.)

*The committee recommended concurrence:*

- Recommendation for a Focus on Young People — Walking in the Way That Leads to Life;
- Report on Strengthening the Black Church for the 21st Century;
- Report on the Connectional Issues Study;
- Definitions of a Missional Priority and a Special Program;
- Definition of the title of Deputy General Secretary.

- *The committee recommended concurrence with amendments:*
- Substitute for Recommendation I of the Connectional Issues Study, creating a Connectional Process Team with 38 members;
- Substitute for Recommendation II of the Connectional Issues Study, approving in principle "the interactive organizational process as a method of discerning and implementing God's will for mission and ministry in every aspect of the connection";
- Recommendation III of the Connectional Issues Study, setting the total membership size for 13 general agencies at no more than 640 members during the 1997-2000 quadrennium;
- Setting the memberships of general agencies and representation by conference and jurisdiction for the quadrennium.

*The committee recommended nonconcurrence:*

- A total of 26 petitions concerning the elimination or replacement of the General Council on Ministries;
- 26 additional petitions concerning language changes if the General Council on Ministries were eliminated or replaced;
- A new definition of the mission of the church;
- Elimination of the Committee to Nominate Additional Members;
- Limiting required UM membership to the presidents and vice presidents of program boards;

- Requiring that general secretaries be elected annually by their respective agencies.

*The committee referred:*
- A petition proposing new definitions, structures and titles for agencies to GCOM for consideration by the CPT;
- A petition proposing a General Administrative Council to GCOM for consideration by the CPT;
- A petition on the eligibility of staff member of program boards to serve as officers of corresponding General Conference Legislative Committees to the Judicial Council for a declaratory ruling.

*—Charlene Bailey and Tom Slack*

**General and Judicial Committee** (4/22/96, 5:00 p.m., completed business)

*The committee recommended concurrence:*
- No program or World Service dollars are to be used for the move of the General Board of Global Ministries;
- Churchwide Special Sundays with offerings;
- Concerning investigations, trials and appeals;
- Notification of omission of unconstitutional clauses;
- Explanation of rational of judicial decision;
- Notice of hearing;
- Membership of the General Board of Global Ministries from the Council of Bishops;
- Membership of the Women's Division;
- Establishing Annual Conference Committee on Native American Ministries;
- Deletion of paragraph 2623.1(j) concerning misrepresentation of credentials;

*The committee recommended concurrence with amendments:*
- Membership of general agencies to concur with recommendations of the Connectional Issues Study;
- Recommending Committee on Audit and Review for each General agency;
- Quadrennium of the worker petition substitued with resolution entitled "Emphasis on Concern for the Worker";
- Disability awareness Sunday to be observed annually.
-

*The committee referred:*
- U.S. Convocation on Heterosexism and the Mission of the Church referred to Church and
- Society

*The committee recommended nonconcurrence:*
- Reconsidering the move of the General Board of Global Ministries;
- Leaving the General Board of Global Ministries in New York;
- Moving the General Board of Global Ministries to Atlanta, Ga.;
- Defining status of person in the "Constitution";
- Flexibility in Annual Conference Structure;
- Earth Day to appear on Official Church Calendar;
- Ministry Sunday to be observed;
- Elimination of Annual Conference Council on Ministries;
- Establishment of Annual Conference Committee on Native American Ministries;
- Elimination of Annual Conference Committee on Native American Ministries;
- Judicial Administration of the Church;
- Judicial Council assure hearings;
- Statement of information on process and protocol by Judicial Council;
- Right of the accused to face the accuser;
- Regarding Fair Process;
- Description of the nature of an appeal;
- Reasonable time and place for fair process hearings and interviews;
- Protection for self-incrimination;
- Several concerning chargeable offenses;
- Regarding General Agency Membership;

*—Tom Slack and Charlene Bailey*

**Higher Education and Chaplaincy** — (4/22/96, 3:50 p.m., business completed)

*The committee recommended nonconcurrence:*
Acting on Pet. 20903 referred from the Ministry Committee mandating UM seminaries to include a course on Methodist Polity.

*—Terri Hiers and Dawn M. Hand*

**Committee on the Local Church** — (4/20/96, 9:35 p.m.)

The committee recommended concurrence:
- Adding the development of job descriptions and titles for associate pastors and other staff to the responsibilities of the pastor/parish relations committee;
- Encouraging staff to seek professional certification in their specialities;

- Clarifying committee members and chairs may be nominated from the floor as well as by the nominations committee;
- Listing lay preachers among those whom the charge conference is to enlist, interview, evaluate, review and recommend annually;
- Making lay leaders members of the pastor/parish relations committee if they are not lay members to annual conference or otherwise elected members of the committee;
- Concerning contracted employees;
- Emphasizing the enlistment responsibilities of a pastoral advisory committee;
- Adding interpretation of preparation for diaconal ministry to the responsibilities of the pastoral advisory committee;
- Allowing a special session of charge conference to remove officers or fill vacancies;
- Designating who calls to order and adjourns a constituting charge conference;
- Eliminating the family life council and local church work areas in favor of previous permissive action for ministry groups;
- Changing references to a parish-wide administrative council to parish council;
- Requiring the recommendation of the charge conference when a person seeks reinstatement as a local pastor;
- Enabling local churches to participate if the conference adopts a shared (basic) salary plan.

*The committee recommended concurrence with amendments:*

- For the pastor and a member elected from the committee co-chair the committee on nominations and personnel;
- Concerning membership of pastor/parish relations committees in churches open 26 or fewer weeks per year;
- Encouraging each church to be inclusive in the make-up of its council so all segments of the church are represented;
- Mandating the administrative board/council to provide guidance and leadership in the promotion of specific ministries adopted by the local church—including those which have been suggested by the general church and those proposed by the annual and district conferences;
- Saying the pastor or member is not to be present when the pastor/parish relations committee is considering a family member for candidacy or renewal of candidacy;
- Placing the chair or representative of the pastor/parish relations committee to serve on the Finance Committee;
- Assigning responsibility for stewardship to a sub-group of the finance committee when no stewardship ministry group exists;
- Saying a structure for local church classes and leaders may be provided;
- Requiring the charge conference to name a membership secretary;
- Providing a process for assessment of local church potential;
- Requiring church schools to teach skills and practice of non-violence;
- Affirming United Methodists' belief in prayer and directing the statement to be published in the *Book of Resolutions*;

*The committee recommended nonconcurrence:*

- Allowing local churches to choose which apportionments to accept;
- For the committee on nominations and personnel to elect its chairperson;
- For the lay leader to chair the committee on nominations and personnel in churches of over 500 members;
- For the nominations committee to nominate its own members; stating the pastor/parish relations committee has the same responsibilities toward all appointed staff as toward the pastor in charge;
- Excluding present and former counsellees of the pastor from serving on the pastor/parish relations committee;
- Having the alternate lay member of annual conference be a member of the finance and pastor/parish committees;
- Eliminating the pastor/parish relations committee;
- Detailing how the pastor/parish relations committee is to carry out its duties;
- Asking the charge conference to determine which moral and ethical issues in the community need special attention;
- Detailing how the Pastor/Parish Relations Committee prepares recommendations for a change of pastors;
- Concerning the procedure for evaluation of non-appointed staff;
- Establishing a work area on prayer;
- Allowing local pastors to appeal through the Board of Ordained Ministry to the executive session concerning their relationship with the Annual Conference;

*—Rayford Woodrick and Kathy Kruger Noble*

- Establishing a work area on prayer;
- Allowing local pastors to appeal through the Board of Ordained Ministry to the executive session concerning their relationship with the Annual Conference;

*—Rayford Woodrick and Kathy Kruger Noble*

**Ordained and Diaconal Ministry — (4/22/96)**

- Adopted in ¶304.3 the following language defining "self-avowed practicing homosexual:" "'Self-avowed practicing homosexual' is understood to mean that a person openly acknowledges to a bishop, district superintendent, district committee or ordained ministry, board of ordained ministry or clergy session that the person is a practicing homosexual." This definition resulted from consultations between General Counsel of GCFA, the Council of Bishops, and the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry and was presented in Petition #21158 amending paragraph 402.2. They also recommend non-concurrence with all petitions suggesting alterations in the language of paragraph 402 and 304 related to self-avowed practicing homosexuals and language specifying fidelity in marriage and celibacy in singleness. In all cases the current language in the *Discipline* was retained, with the exception of the addition of the above-mentioned definition.
- The committee approved legislation defining interim appointments and specifying a national registry of certified interim pastors.
- The committee approved a new grievance procedure to replace the current joint review process in the *Discipline* and concurred with the resolution titled "Sexual Abuse Within the Ministerial Relationship and Sexual Harassment Within the United Methodist Church" submitted by GCSRW.
- The committee referred the ordination services to the General Board of Discipleship and the Ordinal Committee in consultation with GBHEM and the Council of Bishops.
- The committee recommended non-concurrence with petitions requesting that only active bishops be members of the Council of Bishops.

*—Judy Smith and Linda Green*


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DCA-349-6

## Consent Calendar Explanation

There are three consent calendars: A) concurrence with proposed changes to the *Discipline*. B) concurrence with petitions on non-Disciplinary matters. C) non-concurrence on Disciplinary and non-Disciplinary items. The first day items will be listed as **01**. The second day will be listed **02**, and so forth. Items can be placed on the consent calendar if: 1) no more than five votes were cast against the prevailing position; 2) it has no financial implications; 3) the proposal does not require a constitutional amendment. Any five delegates may have a consent calendar item removed by signing the appropriate form found in Room 204. This form must be returned to the secretary by 3 p.m. on the day it appears in the *DCA*.

# Consent Calendar A04

**793**-705.3
**Subject: Business of the Conference**
Committee Item: CO33-705.3-C
Petition:
21616-CO-705.3-D, Pg. 189
Membership: 86; Present: 70;
For: 67; Against: 0; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**794**-611.2
**Subject: The Book of Resolution**
Committee Item: CO56-611.2-C
Petition:
20203-CO-611.2-D, Pg. 181
Membership: 86; Present: 66;
For: 63; Against: 1; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**795**-664.6
**Subject: Assignment of Missionaries and Mission Traveling Preachers in the Conference**
Committee Item: CO92-664.6-C
Petition:
21297-CO-664.6-D, Pg. 183
Membership: 86; Present: 66;
For: 63; Against: 0; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**796**-664.3
**Subject: Establishment and Administration of a Mission**
Committee Item: CO93-664.3-C
Petition:
21341-CO-664.3-D, Pg. 183
Membership: 86; Present: 66;
For: 63; Against: 0; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**797**-628
**Subject: Authority of the Jurisdictional Conference. Amend**
Committee Item: CO97-628-C
Petition:
20307-CO-628-D, Pg. 182
Membership: 86; Present: 67;
For: 64; Against: 0; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**798**-624
**Subject: The Jurisdictional Conference**
Committee Item: CO98-624-C
Petition:
21614-CO-624-D, Pg. 182
Membership: 86; Present: 67;
For: 64; Against: 0; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**799**-612
**Subject: Interjurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy**
Committee Item: CO100-612-C
Petition:
21613-CO-612-D, Pg. 182
Membership: 86; Present: 67;
For: 64; Against: 0; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**800**-702.1
**Subject: Voting Rights for Clergy Members**
Committee Item: CO138-702.1-A
Petition:
20065-CO-702.1-D, Pg. 187
Membership: 86; Present: 76;
For: 69; Against: 4; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows: Delete all of the text in Petition #20065-CO-702.1 and substitute as follows:

Amend ¶ 702:

~~1. ...and local pastors under full-time appointment to a pastoral charge (¶408.1).~~

~~*c)* Associate and affiliate clergy members shall have the right to vote in the Annual Conference on all matters except constitutional amendments, election of clergy lay delegates...~~

~~*d)* Affiliate clergy members shall have the right to vote in the Annual Conference on all matters except constitutional amendments, election of clergy delegates to the General and Jurisdictional or Central Conferences, and matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy.~~

~~*d)e)* Local pastors under full-time appointment to a pastoral charge shall have the right to vote in the Annual Conference on all matters except constitutional amendments, election of lay delegates...~~

~~*e)f)* Under special conditions, and for missional reasons, an Annual Conference may, by a two-thirds majority vote of its members present, allow local and student local part-time pastors under appointment to a pastoral charge the right to vote at Annual Conference on all matters except constitutional amendments, election of clergy delegates...~~

~~2. The following shall be seated in the Annual Conference and shall be given the privilege of the floor without vote: part-time and student local pastors;...~~

Para. 702 Composition and Character.—1. The clergy membership of an

Annual Conference(Para.412) shall consist of members in full connection, probationary members, associate members, affiliate members, and local pastors under ~~full time~~ appointment to a pastoral charge (See also Para. 35)

a)Clergy members in full connection shall have the right to vote on all matters in the Annual Conference except in the election of lay delegates to the General and Jurisdictional or Central Conferences and shall have ~~sole~~ responsibility for all matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy.

b)Probationary clergy members shall have the right to vote in the Annual Conference on all matters except ~~constitutional amendments~~, the election of ~~clergy~~ lay delegates to the General and Jurisdictional or Central Conferences, and matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy.

c)Associate ~~and affiliate~~clergy members shall have the right to vote in the Annual Conference on all matters except ~~constitutional amendments,~~ the election of ~~clergy~~ lay delegates to the General and Jurisdictional or Central Conferences, and matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy.

d)**Affiliate clergy members shall have the right to vote in the Annual Conference on all matters except constitutional amendments, election of delegates to the General and Jurisdictional or Central Conferences, and matters of ordination, character, and conference relation of clergy.**

dc)Local pastors under ~~full time~~ appointment to a pastoral charge shall have the right to vote in the Annual Conference on all matters except ~~constitutional amendments~~, election of delegates to the General and Jurisdictional or Central Conferences, and matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy.

~~ef) Under special conditions, and for missional reasons, an Annual Conference may, by a two thirds majority vote of its members present, allow local and~~ Students **local** ~~part time~~ pastors under appointment to a pastoral charge **shall** have the right to vote at Annual Conference on all matters except constitutional amendments, election of ~~clergy~~ delegates to General and Jurisdictional or Central Conferences and matters of ordination, character and conference relations of clergy.

Delete present 3.

Add new 2 as follows:

The Lay membership of the Annual Conference shall consist of a lay member elected by each charge, diaconal ministers, deaconesses, the conference president of United Methodist Women, the conference president of the United Methodist Men, the conference lay leader, district lay leaders, the president or equivalent officer of the conference young adult organization, the president of the conference youth organization, the chair of the Annual Conference College Student Organization, two young persons under twenty-five (25) years of age from each district to be selected in such a manner as may be determined bu the Annual Conference. If the lay membership should number less than the clergy members of the Annual Conference, the Annual Conference shall, by its own formula, provide for the election of additional lay members to equalize lay and clergy membership of the Annual Conference.

Each charge served by more than one clergy under appointment shall be entitled to as many lay members as there are clergy under appointment. The lay members shall have been members of The United Methodist Church for the two years preceding their election and shall have been active participants in The United Methodist Church for at least four years preceding their election. (Para. 35.252.2)

a) In the Annual Conference or the Central Conferences, the four year participation and the two year membership requirements may be waived for young persons under twenty-five (25) years of age. Such persons must be members of The United Methodist Church and active participants at the time of election.

b)By authorization of a Central Conference national Diaconal Ministers may be given the same privileges of a Diaconal Minister.

~~4~~ **3.** The lay member....

~~5~~ **4.** The lay members of Annual Conference shall participate in all deliberations and vote upon all measures except on the granting or validation of license, ordination, reception into full conference membership, or any questions concerning the character and official conduct of ordained ministers, **except those who are lay members of the Board of Ordained Ministry.** Lay members....

~~6~~ **5.** When at any time a lay member is excused by the Annual Conference from further attendance during the session, the alternate lay member ~~may~~ if present **shall** be seated ~~instead~~. The lay member....

~~7~~ **6.** It is the duty of every member and...

~~8~~ **7.** The following shall be seated in the Annual Conference and shall be given the privilege of the floor without vote: ~~part time and student local pastors~~; official representatives from other denominations,...

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 801-704.7

**Subject: Powers and Duties of the Annual Conference**
Committee Item: CO195-704.7-C
Petition:
21249-CO-704.7-D, Pg. 189
Membership: 86; Present: 64;
For: 62; Against: 0; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 802-704.4

**Subject: Powers and Duties of the Annual Conference**
Committee Item: CO198-704.4-C
Petition:
21248-CO-704.4-D, Pg. 189
Membership: 86; Present: 64;
For: 62; Against: 0; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 803-705.6

**Subject: Giving lay members of the Board of Ordained Ministry vote at the Clergy session**
Committee Item: CO206-705.6-A
Petition:
20190-CO-705.6-D, Pg. 189
Membership: 86; Present: 69;
For: 66; Against: 0; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows: By deletion

Amend ¶ 705.6:

6. ...All clergy members (¶ 701.1) of the Annual Conference and the ~~elected~~ lay members ~~or observers~~ of the Board of Ordained Ministry may attend and shall have voice in the clergy session. Only the ordained clergy in full connection **and the lay members of the Board of Ordained Ministry** may vote (¶ 701.1*a*).

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 804-706.2

**Subject: Records and Archives**
Committee Item: CO209-706.2-C
Petition:
21365-CO-706.2-D, Pg. 189

Membership: 86; Present: 64;
For: 62; Against: 0; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 805-660.1
**Subject: Organization of a Missionary Conference**
Committee Item: CO237-660.1-C
Petition:
21721-CO-660.1-D, Pg. 182
Membership: 86; Present: 66;
For: 63; Against: 0; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 806-660.7
**Subject: Organization of a Missionary Conference**
Committee Item: CO240-660.7-C
Petition:
20710-CO-660.7-D, Pg. 183
Membership: 86; Present: 66;
For: 63; Against: 0; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 807-71
**Subject: Sexual Harassment**
Committee Item: CS97-71-A
Petition:
20848-CS-71-D, Pg. 122
Membership: 102; Present: 93;
For: 91; Against: 1; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

(Additions by the Legislative Committee are underlined)

Add a new sub-paragraph to ¶71 and be renumbered 71. H and that all appropriate paragraphs be appropriately relettered:

**Sexual harassment.—We believe human sexuality is Gods good gift. One abuse of the good gift is sexual harassment. We define S sexual harassment is as any unwanted sexual advance or demand, either verbal or physical, which is reasonably perceived by the recipient as demeaning, intimidating or coercive. Sexual harassment must be understood as an exploitation of a power relationship rather than as an exclusively sexual issue. Sexual harassment also includes, but is not limited to, the creation of a hostile or abusive working environment resulting from discrimination on the basis of gender.**

**Contrary to the nurturing community, Ssexual harassment creates improper, coercive, and abusive conditions wherever it occurs in society. Sexual harassment undermines the social goal of equal opportunity and the climate of mutual respect between men and women. Unwanted sexual attention is wrong and discriminatory. Sexual harassment interferes with the moral mission of the church.**

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 808-71
**Subject: Human Sexuality**
Committee Item: CS168-71-C
Petition:
20262-CS-71-D, Pg. 119
Membership: 102; Present: 87;
For: 86; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 809-71
**Subject: Abortion**
Committee Item: CS170-71-A
Petition:
20749-CS-71-D, Pg. 122
Membership: 102; Present: 90;
For: 87; Against: 1; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Retain ¶71*H*. but replace

We call for the Church to provide nurturing ministries to those persons who terminate a pregnancy. We encourage the Church to provide nurturing ministries to those who give birth.

With

**We commit our Church to continue to provide nurturing ministries to those who terminate a pregnancy, to those in the midst of a crisis pregnancy, and to those who give birth.**

So that 71 H will read:

H)Abortion. — The beginning of life and the ending of life are the God-given boundaries of human existence. While individuals have always had some degree of control over when they would die, they now have the awesome power to determine when and even whether new individuals will be born. Our belief in the sanctity of unborn human life makes us reluctant to approve abortion. But we are equally bound to respect the sacredness of the life and well-being of the mother, for whom devastating damage may result from an unacceptable pregnancy. In continuity with past Christian teaching, we recognize tragic conflicts of life with life that may justify abortion, and in such cases support the legal option of abortion under proper medical procedures. We cannot affirm abortion as an acceptable means of birth control, and we unconditionally reject it as a means of gender selection. We call all Christians to a searching and prayerful inquiry into the sorts of conditions that may warrant abortion. ~~We call for the Church to provide nurturing ministries to those persons who terminate a pregnancy. We encourage the Church to provide nurturing ministries to those who give birth.~~ **We commit our Church to continue to provide nurturing ministries to those who terminate a pregnancy, to those in the midst of a crisis pregnancy, and to those who give birth.** Governmental laws and regulations do not provide all the guidance required by the informed Christian conscience. Therefore, a decision concerning abortion should be made only after thoughtful and prayerful consideration by the parties involved, with medical, pastoral, and other appropriate counsel.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 810-810.1
**Subject: Provisions Pertaining to General Agency Membership**
Committee Item: DI5-810.1-C
Petition:
21423-DI-810.1-D, Pg. 700
Membership: 112; Present: 90;
For: 90; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 811-1306
**Subject: Voting members of National Youth Ministry Organization Restrictions**
Committee Item: DI45-1306-C
Petition:
20108-DI-1306-D, Pg. 255
Membership: 112; Present: 103;
For: 103; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;

Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 812-282
**Subject: Lay Preacher**
Committee Item: DI59-282-C
Petition:
22403-DI-282-D, Pg. 1280
Membership: 112; Present: 102;
For: 101; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 813-282.2
**Subject: Sacraments to be Given by Assigned Lay Preachers**
Committee Item: DI61-282.2-A
Petition:
22227-DI-282.2-D, Pg. 1280
Membership: 112; Present: 102;
For: 100; Against: 1; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Amend ¶ 282.2*c*:

2. *c)* The lay preacher shall preach the Word, **and may be authorized by the district superintendent and the district Committee on Ordained Ministry to serve the sacraments within the congregation to which he/she is** ~~appointed~~**assigned,** provide a care ministry...

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 814-1308
**Subject: Staff of the National Youth Ministry Organization**
Committee Item: DI62-1308-C
Petition:
21421-DI-1308-D, Pg. 257
Membership: 112; Present: 103;
For: 103; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 815-1311
**Subject: Project Selection**
Committee Item: DI63-1311-C
Petition:
21477-DI-1311-D, Pg. 258
Membership: 112; Present: 103;
For: 102; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 816-1219
**Subject: Age-Level and Family Ministries**
Committee Item: DI75-1219-C
Petition:
21410-DI-1219-D, Pg. 252
Membership: 112; Present: 94;
For: 93; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 817-1219
**Subject: Ethnic Local Church Concerns**
Committee Item: DI76-1219-C
Petition:
21411-DI-1219-D, Pg. 253
Membership: 112; Present: 94;
For: 93; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 818-210
**Subject: Church Membership**
Committee Item: DI105-210-C
Petition:
21428-DI-210-D, Pg. 946
Membership: 112; Present: 86;
For: 86; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 819-223
**Subject: Care of Members**
Committee Item: DI114-223-C
Petition:
21435-DI-223-D, Pg. 948
Membership: 112; Present: 87;
For: 86; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 820-224
**Subject: Care of Members**
Committee Item: DI115-224-C
Petition:
21436-DI-224-D, Pg. 948
Membership: 112; Present: 87;
For: 86; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 821-225
**Subject: Care of Members**
Committee Item: DI116-225-C
Petition:
21437-DI-225-D, Pg. 948
Membership: 112; Present: 86;
For: 85; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 822-404.3
**Subject: Candidacy for Ordained Ministry**
Committee Item: DI122-404.3-C
Petition:
21456-DI-404.3-D, Pg. 1048
Membership: 112; Present: 86;
For: 85; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 823-2626.4
**Subject: Trial of Lay Member of a Local Church**
Committee Item: DI123-2626.4-C
Petition:
21424-DI-2626.4-D, Pg. 1097
Membership: 112; Present: 86;
For: 85; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 824-729
**Subject: Conference Board of Discipleship**
Committee Item: DI129-729-C
Petition:
21620-DI-729-D, Pg. 241
Membership: 112; Present: 93;

For: 93; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 825-729.1
**Subject: General responsibilities of the Conference Board of Discipleship**
Committee Item: DI139-729.1-A
Petition:
20312-DI-729.1-D, Pg. 241
Membership: 112; Present: 95;
For: 95; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Amend ¶ 729.1*c* and *d*:

*c)* To foster and promote camping experiences for ~~persons with handicapping conditions~~ **people with disabilities** including camps specifically designed for ~~persons with handicapping conditions~~ **people with disabilities**, and the participation of ~~persons with handicapping conditions~~ **people with disabilities**, when feasible,...

*d)* To provide training for clergy and laity in ministries with ~~a population with handicapping conditions~~ **people persons with disabilities**, including...

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 826-758.2
**Subject: District Committee on Lay Speaking**
Committee Item: DI158-758.2-C
Petition:
21622-DI-758.2-D, Pg. 245
Membership: 112; Present: 80;
For: 78; Against: 0; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 827-751.4
**Subject: Responsibility of the District Lay Leader**
Committee Item: DI159-751.4-C
Petition:
21621-DI-751.4-D, Pg. 245
Membership: 112; Present: 80;
For: 78; Against: 0; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 828-1209.5
**Subject: Standards Governing Camping**
Committee Item: DI202-1209.5-A
Petition:
20315-DI-1209.5-D, Pg. 249
Membership: 112; Present: 75;
For: 73; Against: 0; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Change the word people to persons

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 829-1210.2
**Subject: Ministry to Persons with Handicapping Conditions**
Committee Item: DI203-1210.2-A
Petition:
20316-DI-1210.2-D, Pg. 250
Membership: 112; Present: 75;
For: 73; Against: 0; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Change the word people to persons

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 830-709.2
**Subject: Membership on Annual Conference Council on Finance and Administration**
Committee Item: FA123-709.2-A
Petition:
20716-FA-709.2-D, Pg. 356
Membership: 113; Present: 81;
For: 78; Against: 2; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Amend the third sentence of ¶709.2*a*:

End sentence following Council on Finance and Administration.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 831-1702
**Subject: Organization of the General Board of Publication**
Committee Item: FA124-1702-A
Petition:
21630-FA-1702-D, Pg. 381
Membership: 113; Present: 78;
For: 77; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

1702.e to read: At least two young adults, at the time of election, shall be elected each quadrennium.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 832-2503
**Subject: Trust Clauses in Deeds**
Committee Item: FA125-2503-C
Petition:
21589-FA-2503-D, Pg. 383
Membership: 113; Present: 78;
For: 78; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 833-2503.5
**Subject: Trust Clauses in Deeds**
Committee Item: FA126-2503.5-C
Petition:
21590-FA-2503.5-D, Pg. 383
Membership: 113; Present: 78;
For: 78; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 834-1602
**Subject: Membership**
Committee Item: FA151-1602-C
Petition:
21482-FA-1602-D, Pg. 374
Membership: 113; Present: 83;
For: 80; Against: 2; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

1601.1 Membership. Line 2, ~~delete three members from each jurisdiction~~ and insert **sixteen members**

Line 3, following by the Delete ~~respective~~ Jurisdictional Conferences;

Line 3, following Jurisdictional Conferences; insert **from the Annual Conference nominations on a ratio providing for an equitable distribution among the various jurisdictions, based on the combined clergy and laity memberships thereof as determined by the secretary of the General Conference, provided that no jurisdiction shall be represented by fewer than two such members**

1601.b Line 2, following to equitable representation insert **on the basis of race, color, age, gender, and persons with disabilities**

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 835-711
**Subject: Budgets**
Committee Item: FA163-711-C
Petition:
21562-FA-711-D, Pg. 357
Membership: 113; Present: 90;
For: 86; Against: 0; Not Voting: 4;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 836-711.5
**Subject: Budget Revisions**
Committee Item: FA164-711.5-A
Petition:
21563-FA-711.5-D, Pg. 358
Membership: 113; Present: 91;
For: 87; Against: 0; Not Voting: 4;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

711.4.dline 6: following Council on Ministries add **or its equivalent body**.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 837-710.4
**Subject: Responsibility of Conference Finance and Administration**
Committee Item: FA170-710.4-A
Petition:
20193-FA-710.4-D, Pg. 357
Membership: 113; Present: 86;
For: 82; Against: 1; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

line 1, following Committee omit ~~Commission~~

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 838-710.1
**Subject: Responsibilities of the Annual Conference Council on Finance and Administration**
Committee Item: FA172-710.1-C
Petition:
21560-FA-710.1-D, Pg. 356
Membership: 113; Present: 85;
For: 81; Against: 0; Not Voting: 4;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 839-710.7
**Subject: Relationships**
Committee Item: FA173-710.7-C
Petition:
21561-FA-710.7-D, Pg. 357
Membership: 113; Present: 85;
For: 82; Against: 0; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 840-710
**Subject: Duties of the Annual Conference Council on Finance and Administration**
Committee Item: FA175-710-C
Petition:
22646-FA-710-D, Pg. 1308
Membership: 113; Present: 86;
For: 86; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 841-714.2
**Subject: Authority and Responsibility of the Annual Conference Council on Finance and Administration**
Committee Item: FA177-714.2-A
Petition:
21564-FA-714.2-D, Pg. 360
Membership: 113; Present: 85;
For: 81; Against: 1; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

LINE 1, following as it may direct, add **compiled or**

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 842-722
**Subject: Equitable Compensation**
Committee Item: FA194-722-C
Petition:
21626-FA-722-D, Pg. 362
Membership: 113; Present: 81;
For: 80; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 843-724
**Subject: Pastors' Expenses and Allowances**
Committee Item: FA200-724-C
Petition:
21568-FA-724-D, Pg. 364
Membership: 113; Present: 86;
For: 85; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 844-2618
**Subject: The Judicial Council**
Committee Item: GJ3-2618-C
Petition:
21263-GJ-2618-D, Pg. 1091
Membership: 98; Present: 69;
For: 69; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 845-815
**Subject: Policies Relative to Nondiscrimination**
Committee Item: GJ38-815-A
Petition:
21538-GJ-815-D, Pg. 1330
Membership: 98; Present: 84;
For: 84; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Amend ¶ 815:

*Policies Relative to Nondiscrimination.*——**1.** It shall be the policy of The United Methodist Church that all ~~administrative~~ agencies,...adequate representation by laity.

**2. All agencies and institutions shall, insofar as reasonably possible, schedule and hold all events, including designated places of lodging and of meals for the events, in locations which ~~conform in all respects to federal (U.S.) requirements for the accessibility of public accommodations to~~ provide adequately for the disabled. If for any reason whatsoever any event is scheduled or held in a facility which does not so conform, all notices of the meeting will include**

plainly stated advice to that effect, or alternatively may bear a logo consisting of the international symbol for access placed inside a slashed circle. The term event shall be given a broad interpretation and shall include, by way of example, scheduled conferences, seminars, and other meetings to which persons are invited or called to attend as representatives of the Church or its various institutions and agencies.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 846-801

**Subject: Agencies and General Agencies**
Committee Item: GJ76-801-A
Petition:
22765-GJ-801-D, Pg. 1327
Membership: 98; Present: 90;
For: 87; Against: 3; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Amend ¶ 801:

Agencies and General Agencies.1. **Connectionalism is an important part of our identity as United Methodists. It provides us with wonderful opportunities to carry out our mission in unity and strength. We experience this connection in many ways, including our systems of episcopacy, itinerancy, property, and mutual cooperation and support. Our connectional system** ~~must carry out~~**performs at least three essential tasks:** ~~as we move into the next century. First, we must~~ **embracinge Gods mission for the church as making disciples for Jesus Christ;** ~~, Second, we must~~ **organizinge our whole Church—**~~more effectively~~ **to enable local congregations, the primary arena for mission,** ~~more~~ **faithfully and fruitfully to make disciples for Jesus Christ,**~~ Third, we must redesign~~ **and ensuring all components in the connection** ~~to~~ **carry out their appropriate responsibilities in ways that enable the whole United Methodist Church to be faithful in its mission. General agencies, in particular, are important to our common vision, mission, and ministry. They provide essential services and ministries beyond the scope of individual local congregations and annual conferences.** ~~The nature and scope of the se~~**through services and ministries,** ~~however, must become~~**that are highly focused, flexible, and capable of rapid response.**

*a)* The term agency,...

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 847-748

**Subject: Annual Conference Committee on Native American Ministry**
Committee Item: GJ94-748-C
Petition:
21649-GJ-748-D, Pg. 694
Membership: 98; Present: 81;
For: 81; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 848-274

**Subject: Special Sundays**
Committee Item: GJ98-274-C
Petition:
21633-GJ-274-D, Pg. 691
Membership: 98; Present: 81;
For: 81; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 849-275.2

**Subject: One Great Hour of Sharing**
Committee Item: GJ99-275.2-C
Petition:
21302-GJ-275.2-D, Pg. 692
Membership: 98; Present: 81;
For: 81; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 850-277

**Subject: Three Special Sundays**
Committee Item: GJ111-277-C
Petition:
21635-GJ-277-D, Pg. 693
Membership: 98; Present: 81;
For: 81; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 851-275

**Subject: General Provisions Regarding Churchwide Special Sundays With Offerings**
Committee Item: GJ114-275-A
Petition:
21634-GJ-275-D, Pg. 691
Membership: 98; Present: 81;
For: 81; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Amend ¶ 275:

Six special churchwide Sundays **with** ~~provide for churchwide~~ offerings **shall be celebrated in each United Methodist Church** ~~to express our commitment~~.

*Purpose.*The purpose of the churchwide offerings...The purpose of these funds shall remain constant for the quadrennium., **and the net receipts shall be distributed on ratio to the administering agencies by the treasurer of the General Council on Finance and Administration (See ¶ 916.7 and ¶ 906.1*d*). The funds shall be promoted...**

Each offering shall be promptly remitted in full by the local church treasurer to the Annual Conference treasurer, who shall transmit the funds in full , **except where noted differently below,** to the General Council...

1. *Human Relations Day*Human Relations Day shall be observed **with an offering, preferably** ~~during the Season of Epiphany~~ on the Sunday before the observance of Martin Luther King, Jr.s birthday ~~with an offering recommended by the General Council on Finance and Administration and adopted by the General Conference.~~ **This Sunday occurs during** Epiphany, ~~is~~ the season of manifesting Gods light to the world...The purpose of the day is to further the development of better human relations ~~through funding programs determined by the General Conference upon recommendation of the General Council on Finance and Administration after consultation with the General Council on Ministries.~~

~~For the 1993-1996 quadrennium t~~The offering receipts will be allocated and administered as follows:

*a) Community Developers Program*: 57 percent (administered by the ~~National Division,~~ General Board of Global Ministries).

*b) United Methodist Voluntary Services Program*: 33 percent (administered by the ~~National Division,~~ General Board of Global Ministries).

2. *One Great Hour of Sharing*One Great Hour of Sharing shall be observed **with**

**an offering, preferably** on the fourth Sunday of Lent....~~All local churches shall be fully informed and encouraged to receive a freewill offering in behalf of the relief program.~~ The observance...through the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.~~, it being understood, however, that receipts shall be administered by The United Methodist Church. Net receipts from the offering, after payment of the expenses of promotion, shall be remitted by the treasurer of the General Council on Finance and Administration to~~ **The United Methodist receipts shall be administered by** the United Methodist Committee on Relief Department of the General Board of Global Ministries~~, to be administered by that department.~~

3. *World Communion Sunday*World Communion Sunday shall be observed **with an offering, preferably on** the first Sunday of October....

~~The net receipts, after payment of promotional costs,~~ **Over one-half of the offering receipts must go to ministries beyond the United States of America. The receipts** shall be divided as follows:

*a)* 50 percent for Crusade Scholarships, to be administered by the Crusade Scholarship Committee **of the General Board of Global Ministries;**

*b)* 35 percent for the Ethnic Scholarship Program; and

*c)* 15 percent for the Ethnic In-Service Training Program; the last two to be administered by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. ~~Over one-half must go to ministries beyond the United States of America.~~

4. *United Methodist Student Day*United Methodist Student Day shall be observed **with an offering, preferably** on the last Sunday in November**, or another Sunday appropriate to the local church.** United Methodist Student Day calls the Church to support students as they prepare for life in uniting faith with knowledge. ~~The United Methodist Student Day offering, taken annually on the last Sunday in November, shall be received for t~~The **offering receipts** support the United Methodist Scholarships and the United Methodist Student Loan Fund. ~~(The changes in ¶275.4 become effective upon the adjournment of the 1992 General Conference.) Net receipts from the offering, after payment of the expenses of promotion, shall be remitted by the treasurer of the General Council on Finance and Administration to~~ **The funds shall be administered by** the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry~~, to be administered by that board~~.

5. *Peace with Justice Sunday*Peace with Justice Sunday shall be observed **with an offering, preferably** on the Second Sunday of Pentecost. **Pentecost celebrates the outpouring of the holy spirit calling for Gods shalom.** Peace with Justice...~~Net receipts from the offering will be distributed as follows:~~

*a)* [Delete.]

*a b)* The Annual Conference treasurer shall retain 50 percent of the **receipts** ~~moneys~~ for Peace with Justice Ministries...

*b c)* The Annual Conference treasurer shall remit the remaining 50 percent of the **receipts** ~~moneys~~ to the General Council on Finance and Administration. ~~Net receipts from the offering after payment of the expenses of promotion shall be remitted by the treasurer of the General Council on Finance and Administration to the General Board of Church and Society~~ **The Funds shall be administered by the General Board of Church and Society** for Peace with Justice Ministries.

6. *Native American Awareness Sunday*-Native American Awareness Sunday shall be observed ~~annually~~ **with an offering, preferably** on the third Sunday of Easter....

*a)* [Delete.]

*a b)* The Annual Conference treasurer shall retain 50 percent of the **receipts** ~~moneys~~ for the developing...

*b c)* The Annual Conference treasurer shall **report gross receipts and** remit the remaining 50 **or 100** percent of the ~~moneys~~ **receipts as applicable** to the General Council on Finance and Administration.

*c d)* ~~After the payment of the expenses of promotion, the treasurer of the General Council on Finance and Administration shall remit 50 percent of the net receipts to the General Board of Higher Education~~ **The funds to be distributed include 50 percent to the General Board of Higher Education** and Ministry to provide **supplementary** scholarships for Native Americans attending United Methodist schools of theology **and schools of theology approved by the University Senate of the Unitd Methodist Church.** ~~and~~

*d)* ~~t~~The **remaining** ~~other~~ 50 percent of **the fund shall be distributed** to the General Board of Global Ministries to expand the number of target cities in their Native American Urban Initiative.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 852-277.3
**Subject: Setting the Annual Theme for Rural Life Sunday**
Committee Item: GJ115-277.3-C
Petition:
21519-GJ-277.3-D, Pg. 1326
Membership: 98; Present: 81;
For: 81; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 853-2622
**Subject: Investigations, Trials, and Appeals**
Committee Item: GJ161-2622-C
Petition:
21264-GJ-2622-D, Pg. 1091
Membership: 98; Present: 69;
For: 69; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 854-2623.1
**Subject: Chargeable Offenses**
Committee Item: GJ175-2623.1-C
Petition:
21732-GJ-2623.1-D, Pg. 1093
Membership: 98; Present: 69;
For: 69; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 855-1412.6
**Subject: Membership of the General Board of Global Ministries from the Council of Bishops**
Committee Item: GJ197-1412.6-C
Petition:
21329-GJ-1412.6-D, Pg. 755
Membership: 98; Present: 56;
For: 56; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 856-805
**Subject: General Agency Membership**
Committee Item: GJ222-805-A
Petition:

21654-GJ-805-D, Pg. 697
Membership: 98; Present: 88;
For: 87; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Amend ¶ 805:

Amend Paragraph 805 as follows:

¶ 805. General Agency Membership. ~~All provisions pertaining to the nomination and election of general agency members shall take effect immediately upon the adjournment of the General Conference which enacts them. The secretary of the General Conference shall coordinate the processes pertaining to nominations and elections of general agency members.~~

**The people of God are called to faithful discipleship in the name of Jesus Christ. "The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ..." (Ephesians 4.11-12 NRSV)**

**In response to God's call, some are called forth from local congregations to fulfill the common mission of The United Methodist Church as an expression of the Church made visible in the world. This call includes the invitation to some to be in ministry with others who together seek to fulfill the vision for the Church as members of general agencies. Such persons come to this ministry as servants of the whole church.**

The following provisions shall govern the nomination and election of the voting membership of those general agencies to which the Jurisdictional Conferences elect **and Central Conferences nominate members.**[6] **All provisions pertaining to the nomination and election of general agency members shall take effect immediately upon the adjournment of the General Conference which enacts them. The secretary of the General Conference shall coordinate the processes pertaining to nominations and elections of general agency members.**

1.Nominations by Conferences.a) Each Annual and Missionary Conference in the United States ~~and Puerto Rico~~, upon recommendation from a committee composed of the bishop and the General and Jurisdictional Conference delegation, and having allowed opportunity for nominations from the floor, shall elect persons to be submitted to a jurisdictional pool. ~~from which~~ **T** the Jurisdictional Nominating Committee shall select persons for election to the following general agencies: General Council on Ministries; General Board of Church and Society; General Board of Discipleship; General Board of Global Ministries; General Board of Higher Education and Ministry; General Board of Pension and Health Benefits; General Board of Publication; General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns; General Commission on Communication; General Commission on Religion and Race; and General Commission on the Status and Role of Women. Jurisdictional Conferences may decide that persons elected by the Annual and Missionary Conferences in the United States ~~and Puerto Rico~~ for inclusion in the jurisdictional pool shall not serve as members of the Jurisdictional Nominating Committee.

b) Each Annual and Missionary Conference in the United States ~~and Puerto Rico~~ shall nominate the persons most recently elected as delegates to the General Conference to the jurisdictional pool. In addition, it shall nominate at least fifteen and not more than ~~forty~~ forty-five (45) persons to the jurisdictional pool, including, where available, **at least two (2) racial and ethnic persons from each of the ethnic groups**Asian American, African American, Hispanic American, Native American, Pacific Islanders; and where available at least one and not more than five persons in each of the following ~~eight~~ seven categories: (1) clergy (including at least one woman), (2) laywomen, (3) laymen, ~~(4) racial and ethnic persons (at least one from each ethnic group)Asian American, Black American, Hispanic American, Native American, Pacific Islanders);~~ ~~(5)~~ (4) youth (¶ 264.2), ~~(6)~~ (5) young adults (¶ 264.3), ~~(7)~~ (6) older adults (¶ 264.5), and ~~(8)~~ (7) persons with ~~a handicapping condition~~ disabilities . Eligibility to be nominated in one category does not preclude being nominated in another category as long as the nominee is nominated only once.

c) Each Central Conference, or a body authorized by it, shall nominate to each general **program** board **membership** at least one person from each of the following three categories: (1) clergy, (2) laymen, and (3) laywomen, to form a pool from which each board is to elect the additional members that are to come from the Central Conferences pursuant to ¶ ~~805.2c(1)~~ 805.3c. **These lists shall be sent to the General Council on Ministries for use by the general agencies in electing additional members.**

d) All nominees shall list one to three preferences for agency membership. In addition all nominees shall prepare an up-to-100-word biographical statement listing experience, gifts, ~~and~~ training, **and other qualifications ~~which qualify him/her~~** for general agency membership. Biographical statements for all persons in the **central and** jurisdictional **conference** pools shall be given to each member of the nominating committee. Names and biographical data of all persons nominated by the Annual and Missionary Conferences in the United States, ~~Puerto Rico~~ **or the central conferences** but not elected ~~by the jurisdiction~~ shall be forwarded by the Jurisdictional **or Central** Conference secretary to the **G g**eneral **Council on Ministries** ~~agencies~~ to be **used by the general agencies as** ~~in~~ a pool from which additional members may be elected (¶¶ **805.3e, 4b** ~~805.2c, 3b~~).[7]

**2.Members of the General Agencies shall be elected using the following**

**formula:**

**a) Five persons from each annual and missionary conference**

**in the United States. At least thirty (30) of these persons will be women elected by the Womens Division process as members on the General Board of Global Ministries.**

**b) Five persons from each Central Conference.**

**c) Supplemental membersEach annual and missionary conference whose membership exceeds 75,000 (as determined by the official records of the denomination on December 31 of the year immediately preceding the General Conference), shall have the following supplemental members of General Agencies:**

**75,001-150,000one supplemental member**

**150,001 - 225,000 a total of two supplemental members**

**225,001 or morea total of three supplemental members**

**d) Seven persons from the Iglesia Metodista Autónoma Afiliada de Puerto Rico.**

**e) A total of 119 additional at-large members for inclusiveness and expertise.**

**f)51 effective episcopal leaders.**

**g)The total membership of all general agencies shall not exceed 640.**

**h)It is recommended that the membership of general agencies include both youth (¶ 264.2) and young adults (¶ 264.3). It is recommended that,**

wherever possible, at least 10 percent of the membership of each general agency be equally divided between youth and young adults.

I) It is recommended that the membership of each of the general agencies seeks to be inclusive based on gender, race/ethnic, age, ability and size of church. In order to ensure adequate representation of racial/ethnic persons (Asian American, African Americans, Hispanic Americans, Native Americans, Pacific Islanders), it is recommended that a jurisdictions membership on each general agency be at least 30 percent racial/ethnic persons, and incorporate one-third clergy, one-third laymen, and one-third laywomen (except as provided in ¶1204, ¶1412). The episcopal members shall not be counted in the computation of the clergy membership.

j) It is recommended that each general agency elect at least one member without vote from among the member churches of the Consultation on Church Union in addition to members otherwise specified in ¶ 805.2 (a-h) above.

3. Members identified in 805.2a-f will be elected as follows:

a) categories a and c (as applicable) shall be elected by the jurisdictional and central conferences, except for the members elected by the Womens

Division process.

b) category b and c (as applicable) shall be elected by the central conferences;

c) category d shall be elected by the Iglesia Metodista Autónoma Afiliada de Puerto Rico and

d) category e shall be elected by the general agencies for inclusiveness and expertise.

e) The secretary of the General Conference shall assign the number of members to be elected to each general agency by each Jurisdictional Conference and the Central Conferences. The number of members will be determined on an equitable basis taking into consideration the total number to be elected by each jurisdiction and Central Conference.

~~2~~ 4. General Program Board Membership.a) Each general program board shall have the number of members specified in ¶¶ 1106, 1204, 1412 and 1507.

b) Basic Jurisdictional Membership.Each jurisdiction shall elect the number of persons listed in the specific legislation for membership on each of the four General Program Boards. ~~one person from each of its Annual and Missionary Conferences to each program board.~~

In the jurisdictional nominating process for membership on those boards, special attention shall be given to the inclusion of clergywomen, youth, (¶ 264.2), young adults (¶ 264.3), older adults (¶ 264.5), persons with disabilities ~~handicapping conditions~~, and persons from small membership churches.

In order to ensure adequate representation of racial and ethnic persons (Asian Americans, African Americans, Hispanic Americans, Native Americans, Pacific Islanders), it is recommended that at least 30 percent of a jurisdiction's membership on each general program board be racial and ethnic persons.

It is further recommended that the jurisdiction membership on each program board incorporate one-third clergy, one-third laymen, and one-third laywomen (except as

provided in ¶¶ 1204.1, 1412.2. See also ¶¶ 1412.6, 1507.). The episcopal members

shall not be counted in the computation of the clergy membership. [8]

~~Provided, however, that effective immediately when a new Annual Conference of~~

~~conferences are created by a Jurisdictional Conference and come into being following the Jurisdictional Conference, each such new Annual Conference or conferences shall~~

~~be authorized to elect one person directly to General Council on Ministries and each general program board on which no person from the new Annual Conference already has been elected by the Jurisdictional Conference under the provisions of this paragraph.~~ [9]

c) Central Conference Membership ~~In addition,~~ E each general program board shall elect at least four (4) ~~six~~ persons from the Central Conferences, and one alternate for each who may attend if the elected member cannot attend. In the election of the Central Conference members, it is recommended that at least one ~~two be~~ clergy, ~~two be~~ one layman, ~~laymen~~, and one laywoman be elected, ~~two be laywomen~~

as specified in general agency paragraphs.

~~This action shall take effect immediately after the conclusion of General Conference.~~

~~b~~ d) Episcopal Membership.The episcopal membership of the general program boards shall be ~~of~~ not less than ~~five~~ six (6) nor more than ~~ten~~ eight (8) members ~~shall be~~ nominated by the Council of Bishops and elected by the General Conference (see exception, ¶ 1412.6). At least one of the episcopal members of each general program board shall be a Central Conference bishop.

c e) Additional Membership.~~(1) United Methodist~~.Additional members shall be elected by each general program board in order to bring into the board persons with special knowledge or background which will aid in the work of the agency, to consider differing theological perspectives, and to perfect the representation of racial and ethnic persons, youth (¶ 264.2), young adults (¶ 264.3), older adults (¶ 264.5), women and men, persons with a disabilities ~~handicapping condition~~, and persons from small-membership churches, and distribution by geographic area.

~~There shall be not less than five nor more than nine~~ Each general program board shall elect additional members as specified in general program board membership paragraphs ~~of each general program board~~. In so far as possible no more than one person shall be elected from each episcopal area. It is recommended that such additional membership shall maintain the one-third laymen, one-third laywomen, and one-third clergy balance. [10]

~~3~~. 5. Other General Agencies.a) Each Jurisdictional Conference shall elect

members from the jurisdictional pool nominated by the Annual and Missionary Conferences in the United States ~~and Puerto Rico~~ (¶ 805.1) in accordance with the specific membership provisions of those agencies as set forth in the Book of Discipline:

General Council on Ministries (¶ 1007), General Board of Pension and Health Benefits (¶ 1602.1a), General Board of Publication (¶ 1702), General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns (¶ 2006), General Commission on Communication (¶ 1907), General Commission on the Status and Role of Women (¶ 2204), and the General Commission on Religion and Race (¶ 2103)

b) Episcopal and additional members, if any, of the general agencies listed in ¶ 805.~~3~~ 4a shall be nominated and elected by the procedures specified in the paragraphs listed in ¶ 805.~~3~~a 1b, 805.1d. The

agencies shall consider names forwarded to them by the ~~jurisdictions~~ **General Council on Ministries** as having been nominated by the Annual and Missionary Conferences in the United States ~~and Puerto Rico~~ **or the Central Conferences** but not elected by ~~the Jurisdictional~~ **these** Conferences to general agency membership. Additional names may be considered in order to perfect the representation as provided in ¶ 805.~~2e~~ 3b.

~~4. The membership of all agencies of The United Methodist Church, at the level of General and Jurisdictional Conferences shall ensure adequate representation of racial and ethnic groups Asian American, Black American, Hispanic American, Native American, and Pacific Islanders; all such boards, committees, and agencies whose membership is set forth in the Discipline shall be authorized to elect as many additional members as necessary to meet this requirement.~~

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 857-2622.7

**Subject: Diversity of the United Methodist Church on Boards, Committees and Courts of the UMC**
Committee Item: GJ233-2622.7-C
Petition:
20266-GJ-2622.7-D, Pg. 1092
Membership: 98; Present: 69;
For: 69; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 858-2622.2

**Subject: Notice of Hearing**
Committee Item: GJ240-2622.2-C
Petition:
20212-GJ-2622.2-D, Pg. 1092
Membership: 98; Present: 69;
For: 69; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 859-2624

**Subject: Charges**
Committee Item: GJ252-2624-C
Petition:
21268-GJ-2624-D, Pg. 1093
Membership: 98; Present: 62;
For: 62; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 860-2108.21

**Subject: Responsibility of the General Commission on Religion and Race**
Committee Item: IC63-2108.21-C
Petition:
20967-IC-2108.21-D, Pg. 912
Membership: 71; Present: 58;
For: 58; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 861-2108.2

**Subject: Responsibility of the General Commission on Religion and Race**
Committee Item: IC64-2108.2-A
Petition:
20966-IC-2108.2-D, Pg. 912
Membership: 71; Present: 58;
For: 49; Against: 5; Not Voting: 4;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended by addition:

The revised Para. will read as follows:

Amend ¶2108.2:

2. ...policies to implement ~~and~~ the mandate for racial inclusiveness, **including equity of compensation for racial/ethnic clergy and lay staff at all levels of the church.**

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 862-262

**Subject: Eliminate Local Church Work Area Chairpersons**
Committee Item: LC22-262-C
Petition:
20353-LC-262-D, Pg. 960
Membership: 89; Present: 70;
For: 70; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 863-263

**Subject: Eliminate Local Church Program Support Personnel**
Committee Item: LC35-263-A
Petition:
20354-LC-263-D, Pg. 961
Membership: 89; Present: 72;
For: 67; Against: 4; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows: Reword as follows:

The Charge Conference may elect

(1) a superintendent of the church school or Sunday school, who shall be responsible for helping to organize and supervise the total program of education in the church;

(2) a Health and Welfare Ministries coordinator, who shall assist the local church and its people to be involved in direct service to persons in need; and

(3) a communications coordinator, who shall assist the local church and its members with communication tasks, by making available ideas, resources, and skills.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 864-2534

**Subject: Permanent Endowment Fund Committee**
Committee Item: LC66-2534-A
Petition:
22145-LC-2534-D, Pg. 1422
Membership: 89; Present: 78;
For: 77; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows: P.1 Delete last sentence that reads: Grants wil be. . .

Add new Para. 2

The Charge Conference shall adopt guidelines for action by the Committee on Planned Giving and/or Permanent Endowment Fund. Subject to the direction and supervision of the Charge Conference, the Committee shall fulfill its responsibilities in administering the Planned Giving and/or Permanent Endowment Fund.

Following each General Conference, the Charge Conference shall update any required changes in the Planned Giving and/or Permanent Endowment Fund documents.

Para. 2 becomes Para. 3

Para. 3 becomes Para. 4

Para. 4 becomes Para. 5

Para. 5 becomes Para. 6

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 865-2535

**Subject: Local Church Foundations**
Committee Item: LC73-2535-A

Petition:
20425-LC-2535-D, Pg. 966
Membership: 89; Present: 74;
For: 74; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

2533.3" should read 2533.5".

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 866-2551
**Subject: Local Church Potential**
Committee Item: LC84-2551-C
Petition:
21094-LC-2551-D, Pg. 967
Membership: 89; Present: 69;
For: 69; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 867-2544
**Subject: Planning and Financing Requirements for Local Church Buildings**
Committee Item: LC92-2544-C
Petition:
21022-LC-2544-D, Pg. 1424
Membership: 89; Present: 66;
For: 64; Against: 1; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 868-252.1
**Subject: Local Church Lay Leader, Lay Member of Conference, and Church Council Chairperson**
Committee Item: LC135-252.1-A
Petition:
20663-LC-252.1-D, Pg. 956
Membership: 89; Present: 76;
For: 75; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows: In 252.2, restore the proposed deleted language that reads except in a newly...Conference session.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 869-244
**Subject: Numerical Requirements in the Organization of a Local United Methodist Church**
Committee Item: LC143-244-A
Petition:
23028-LC-244-D, Pg. 1410
Membership: 89; Present: 68;
For: 61; Against: 7; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Insert a new paragraph (Paragraph 271.5) to read: Each Annual/Central Conference may determine the minimum number of full members required for the organization of a local United Methodist Church.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 870-252.2
**Subject: Lay Members of the Annual Conference**
Committee Item: LC148-252.2-C
Petition:
21088-LC-252.2-D, Pg. 957
Membership: 89; Present: 74;
For: 74; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 871-410.4
**Subject: Reinstatement of Local Pastor Status**
Committee Item: LC159-410.4-C
Petition:
20539-LC-410.4-D, Pg. 1050
Membership: 89; Present: 62;
For: 62; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 872-206.3
**Subject: Church, Charge and Parish Councils**
Committee Item: LC160-206.3-C
Petition:
20649-LC-206.3-D, Pg. 944
Membership: 89; Present: 62;
For: 62; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 873-270.2
**Subject: Pastor-Parish Relations Committee**
Committee Item: LC166-270.2-C
Petition:
20103-LC-270.2-D, Pg. 963
Membership: 89; Present: 47;
For: 47; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 874-270.2
**Subject: Duties of the Committee on Pastor-Parish Relations**
Committee Item: LC169-270.2-C
Petition:
22139-LC-270.2-D, Pg. 1419
Membership: 89; Present: 46;
For: 46; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 875-270.2
**Subject: Seasonal Local United Methodist Churches Pastor/ Staff Parish Relations Committee**
Committee Item: LC173-270.2-A
Petition:
22679-LC-270.2-D, Pg. 1420
Membership: 89; Present: 49;
For: 48; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows: delete the word seasonal

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 876-270.2
**Subject: The Election of Committee Members and Chairpersons**
Committee Item: LC174-270.2-C
Petition:
22680-LC-270.2-D, Pg. 1420
Membership: 89; Present: 50;
For: 49; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 877-270.2
**Subject: Responsibilities of Pastor-Parish (Staff-Parish) Relations Committees Regarding Lay Preachers**
Committee Item: LC176-270.2-C
Petition:
22138-LC-270.2-D, Pg. 1419

Membership: 89; Present: 50;
For: 50; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 878-270.2
**Subject: Committee on Pastor-Parish Relations**
Committee Item: LC178-270.2-C
Petition:
22443-LC-270.2-D, Pg. 1420
Membership: 89; Present: 50;
For: 50; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 879-270.2
**Subject: Committee on Pastor-Parish Relations**
Committee Item: LC180-270.2-C
Petition:
22141-LC-270.2-D, Pg. 1419
Membership: 89; Present: 50;
For: 50; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 880-270.2
**Subject: Duties of the Pastoral Advisory Committee**
Committee Item: LC184-270.2-C
Petition:
21131-LC-270.2-D, Pg. 964
Membership: 89; Present: 51;
For: 50; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 881-270.2
**Subject: Pastoral Advisory Committee**
Committee Item: LC185-270.2-C
Petition:
21132-LC-270.2-D, Pg. 964
Membership: 89; Present: 51;
For: 51; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 882-252
**Subject: Removing Officers-Filling Vacancies**
Committee Item: LC190-252-C
Petition:
20537-LC-252-D, Pg. 956
Membership: 89; Present: 59;
For: 56; Against: 2; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 883-248
**Subject: The Charge Conference and the Church Council**
Committee Item: LC192-248-A
Petition:
20658-LC-248-D, Pg. 954
Membership: 89; Present: 61;
For: 61; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows: Substitute the following for Number 6: Each charge is encouraged to be inclusive in the make-up of the Council so that all segments of the congregation are represented.

Re-number 15 as 16.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 884-270.2
**Subject: Responsibilities of the Committee on Pastor-Parish Relations**
Committee Item: LC198-270.2-A
Petition:
22369-LC-270.2-D, Pg. 1419
Membership: 89; Present: 62;
For: 62; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows: insert after renewal the words for a member

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 885-270.4
**Subject: Membership of the Local Church Finance Committee**
Committee Item: LC202-270.4-A
Petition:
22143-LC-270.4-D, Pg. 1421
Membership: 89; Present: 62;
For: 62; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows: After chairperson, add or representative

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 886-270.4
**Subject: The Election of Committee Members and Chairpersons**
Committee Item: LC203-270.4-C
Petition:
22681-LC-270.4-D, Pg. 1421
Membership: 89; Present: 61;
For: 61; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 887-271.6
**Subject: The Constituting Church Conference**
Committee Item: LC205-271.6-C
Petition:
20762-LC-271.6-D, Pg. 964
Membership: 89; Present: 62;
For: 62; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 888-271.7
**Subject: The Charge Conference**
Committee Item: LC206-271.7-C
Petition:
20763-LC-271.7-D, Pg. 965
Membership: 89; Present: 62;
For: 62; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 889-271.6
**Subject: Constituting Church Conference**
Committee Item: LC207-271.6-A
Petition:
20675-LC-271.6-D, Pg. 964
Membership: 89; Present: 61;
For: 61; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows: In the last line of petition, replace pastor with elder.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 890-267
**Subject: Eliminate Local Church Work Area Commission**
Committee Item: LC208-267-C
Petition:
20357-LC-267-D, Pg. 962
Membership: 89; Present: 61;
For: 61; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 891-268
**Subject: Eliminate Local Church Task Groups**
Committee Item: LC209-268-C
Petition:
20358-LC-268-D, Pg. 962
Membership: 89; Present: 62;
For: 62; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 892-269
**Subject: Eliminate Local Church Classes and Leaders**
Committee Item: LC210-269-A
Petition:
20673-LC-269-D, Pg. 962
Membership: 89; Present: 62;
For: 62; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows: At beginning of petition, restore:

#269. A structure for classes, class leaders, and class meetings may be organized within the local congregation.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 893-235
**Subject: Church Council and Membership Secretary**
Committee Item: LC211-235-A
Petition:
20655-LC-235-D, Pg. 952
Membership: 89; Present: 62;
For: 60; Against: 2; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows: In first line of petition, substitute the word name for the word elect.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 894-254
**Subject: Eliminate Administrative Board**
Committee Item: LC214-254-C
Petitions:
20345-LC-254-D, Pg. 958;
20346-LC-255-D, Pg. 958;
20347-LC-256-D, Pg. 958;
20348-LC-257-D, Pg. 958;
20665-LC-256-D, Pg. 958;
20666-LC-257-D, Pg. 958
Membership: 89; Present: 74;
For: 73; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 895-226
**Subject: Rights and Responsibilities of Youth Members of the Church**
Committee Item: LC217-226-A
Petition:
22110-LC-226-D, Pg. 1408
Membership: 89; Present: 75;
For: 75; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows: Delete word professional.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 896-248.11
**Subject: Powers and Duties of the Charge Conference**
Committee Item: LC222-248.11-C
Petition:
22115-LC-248.11-D, Pg. 1411
Membership: 89; Present: 69;
For: 69; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 897-247.2
**Subject: The Membership of Charge Conference**
Committee Item: LC223-247.2-C
Petition:
20902-LC-247.2-D, Pg. 954
Membership: 89; Present: 69;
For: 69; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 898-341
**Subject: Interim License as Local Pastor**
Committee Item: MN2-341-A
Petition:
21862-MN-341-D, Pg. 1008
Membership: 113; Present: 60;
For: 60; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

committee amendment in plain text

Add a new ¶ 341:

**Between sessions of the annual conference, persons who have completed the conditions for licensing listed above may be granted interim license as a local pastor upon recommendation of the cabinet, the district committee** on ordained ministry **and conference board of ordained ministry, and may be appointed by the bishop.**

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 899-406
**Subject: Authority and Duties**
Committee Item: MN3-406-C
Petition:
21860-MN-406-D, Pg. 1007
Membership: 113; Present: 58;
For: 56; Against: 0; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 900-514
**Subject: Specific Responsibilities of Bishops**
Committee Item: MN4-514-A
Petition:
22080-MN-514-D, Pg. 1475
Membership: 113; Present: 99;
For: 96; Against: 0; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

plain text indicates insertion by committee

Add a new sub-paragraph after ¶ 514.1:

~~To lead and oversee the spiritual and temporal affairs of the area to which he or she is assigned, with particular attention to:~~ To strengthen ~~ing~~ the local church; giving spiritual leadership to both laity and clergy; and building relationships with people of local congregations of the area. ~~the area~~

~~through participation of the life of local congregations.~~

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 901-514

**Subject: Spiritual and Temporal Leadership**
Committee Item: MN5-514-C
Petition:
21983-MN-514-D, Pg. 1020
Membership: 113; Present: 98;
For: 94; Against: 4; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 902-516

**Subject: Working with Ordained, Licensed, Consecrated and Commissioned Personnel**
Committee Item: MN10-516-C
Petition:
21984-MN-516-D, Pg. 1020
Membership: 113; Present: 98;
For: 97; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 903-516.7

**Subject: Working with Ordained and Diaconal Ministers and Commissioned Persons**
Committee Item: MN11-516.7-A
Petition:
21281-MN-516.7-D, Pg. 1079
Membership: 113; Present: 98;
For: 98; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Add a new sub-paragraph after ¶ 516.6:

**To keep and maintain appropriate supervisory records on all district superintendents and other records on ministerial personnel as determined by the bishop or required by the *Discipline* or action of the annual conference. When a district superintendent is no longer appointed to the cabinet, the bishop shall give that persons supervisory file to the superintendent of record. Supervisory records shall be kept under guidelines approved by the General Council of Finance and Administration. The supervisory records ~~of the~~ maintained by the bishop are not the personnel records of the annual conference.**

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 904-504

**Subject: Offices of Bishops and Superintendents**
Committee Item: MN13-504-A
Petition:
21982-MN-504-D, Pg. 1020
Membership: 113; Present: 91;
For: 91; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Change the last sentence in sub-paragraph 1. to read:

Bishops are also authorized to appoint ordained clergy to their responsibilities, consecrate, ordain and commission persons in ministry to the Church and world.

In sub-paragraph 2: between the words Elders and appointed, insert the words in full connection

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 905-501

**Subject: The Task of the Superintendent**
Committee Item: MN14-501-C
Petition:
21981-MN-501-D, Pg. 1020
Membership: 113; Present: 98;
For: 98; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 906-310

**Subject: Clergy Orders**
Committee Item: MN17-310-A
Petition:
21825-MN-310-D, Pg. 995
Membership: 113; Present: 100;
For: 100; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Add before the new section title Section III.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 907-315

**Subject: Relationship to Employing Agency**
Committee Item: MN18-315-C
Petition:
21783-MN-315-D, Pg. 989
Membership: 113; Present: 97;
For: 96; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 908-310

**Subject: Service Appointment of Diaconal Ministers**
Committee Item: MN19-310-C
Petition:
21778-MN-310-D, Pg. 988
Membership: 113; Present: 97;
For: 96; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 909-310

**Subject: Order of Deacons and Order of Elders**
Committee Item: MN20-310-A
Petition:
21826-MN-310-D, Pg. 995
Membership: 113; Present: 100;
For: 100; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

In the last sentence, after These orders, insert , separately or together,.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 910-313

**Subject: Change in Charge Conference Relationship**
Committee Item: MN23-313-C
Petition:
21781-MN-313-D, Pg. 988
Membership: 113; Present: 97;
For: 96; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 911-314

**Subject: Relationship to the Charge Conference**
Committee Item: MN24-314-C
Petition:
21782-MN-314-D, Pg. 988
Membership: 113; Present: 97;
For: 96; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;

Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 912-306
**Subject: Completion of Candidacy**
Committee Item: MN26-306-C
Petition:
21774-MN-306-D, Pg. 988
Membership: 113; Present: 97;
For: 96; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 913-310
**Subject: Clergy Orders**
Committee Item: MN28-310-C
Petition:
22927-MN-310-D, Pg. 1503
Membership: 113; Present: 97;
For: 97; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 914-508
**Subject: Vacancy in the Office of Bishop**
Committee Item: MN38-508-C
Petition:
21254-MN-508-D, Pg. 1076
Membership: 113; Present: 101;
For: 99; Against: 1; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 915-420
**Subject: Requirements for Election as Associate Members**
Committee Item: MN44-420-C
Petition:
21868-MN-420-D, Pg. 1009
Membership: 113; Present: 99;
For: 98; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 916-419
**Subject: Eligibility and Rights of Associate Members**
Committee Item: MN45-419-C
Petition:
21867-MN-419-D, Pg. 1009
Membership: 113; Present: 99;
For: 98; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 917-407
**Subject: License As a Local Pastor**
Committee Item: MN52-407-A
Petition:
21861-MN-407-D, Pg. 1008
Membership: 113; Present: 59;
For: 57; Against: 0; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Amend proposed Par. 340.1 to read:

1. Been commissioned as a probationary member, or

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 918-110
**Subject: Ordained Ministry**
Committee Item: MN55-110-A
Petition:
21752-MN-110-D, Pg. 984
Membership: 113; Present: 89;
For: 87; Against: 0; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

committee changes are in italics

Renumber ¶ 110 as ¶ 117 and amend:

*Ordained Ministry.* ~~The o~~Ordained ministers are called ~~to~~ **by God to a lifetime of servant leadership in** specialized ministries **among the People of God.** ~~Deacons~~ *Ordained Ministers* **are called to interpret to the church the needs, concerns, and hopes of the world; and** *the promise of God for creation. Within these specialized* ~~through~~ **ministries**, *deacons are called to ministries of word and service,* **and elders** ~~— and the marketplace (¶414). Elders~~ **are called to ministries** of *service,* Word, Sacraments, and order (¶ 318) **as well as to the office and responsibilities of a Deacon.** Through these distinctive functions ordained ministers devote themselves wholly to the work of the Church and to the upbuilding of the ~~general~~ ministry **of all Christians.** They do this through careful study of the Scripture and its faithful interpretation, through effective proclamation of the gospel and responsible administration of the Sacraments, through diligent pastoral leadership of their congregations for fruitful discipleship, and by following the guidance of the Holy Spirit in witnessing beyond the congregation in the local community and to the ends of the earth. The ordained ministry is defined by its ~~intentionally representative character~~ **faithful commitment to servant leadership following the example of Jesus Christ,** by its passion for the hallowing of life, and by its concern to link all local ministries with the widest boundaries of the Christian community.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 919-311
**Subject: Credentials and Records**
Committee Item: MN56-311-C
Petition:
21779-MN-311-D, Pg. 988
Membership: 113; Present: 97;
For: 96; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 920-309
**Subject: Appointment of Certified Candidates**
Committee Item: MN57-309-A
Petition:
21824-MN-309-D, Pg. 995
Membership: 113; Present: 99;
For: 99; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Editorial Change: Text should read...

A certified candidate is eligible for appointment as a Local Pastor upon completion of License to Preach (Paragraph 340).

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 921-309
**Subject: Rights of Diaconal Ministers**
Committee Item: MN58-309-C
Petition:
21777-MN-309-D, Pg. 988
Membership: 113; Present: 97;
For: 96; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 922-308
**Subject: Discontinuance and Reinstatement of Certified Candidacy**
Committee Item: MN59-308-C
Petition:
21823-MN-308-D, Pg. 994
Membership: 113; Present: 99;
For: 99; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 923-308
**Subject: General Provisions**
Committee Item: MN60-308-C
Petition:
21776-MN-308-D, Pg. 988
Membership: 113; Present: 97;
For: 96; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 924-307
**Subject: Consecration**
Committee Item: MN63-307-C
Petition:
21775-MN-307-D, Pg. 988
Membership: 113; Present: 97;
For: 96; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 925-106
**Subject: The General Ministry of All Christians**
Committee Item: MN70-106-C
Petition:
21738-MN-106-D, Pg. 982
Membership: 113; Present: 91;
For: 91; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 926-109
**Subject: Connectionalism in United Methodist Tradition**
Committee Item: MN71-109-A
Petition:
21741-MN-109-D, Pg. 982
Membership: 113; Present: 89;
For: 89; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

text in plain type added by committee

Delete ¶ 109 and replace with new text:

**¶ 109 ~~1.~~ Connectionalism in the United Methodist tradition is multilevelled, global in spread, and local in thrust.**

**~~2.~~ For us connectionalism is not merely a linking of one connectional charge conference to another horizontally across the globe. It is rather a vital wed of interactive and intertwining relationships that enable us to express freely, justly, and in dignity at both global and local levels our essential identity, inclusive fellowship, common mission, distinctive ethos, and visible unity.**

**~~3.~~ We are connected by sharing a common tradition of faith, including our Doctrinal Standards and General Rules (¶ 67); by sharing together a constitutional polity, including a leadership of general superintendency; by sharing a common mission which we seek to carry out together both globally and locally; by working together organizationally in and through conferences that reflect the inclusive and missional character of our fellowship; by sharing a common ethos which characterizes our distinctive way of doing things.**

Connectionalism in the United Methodist tradition is multi-leveled, global in scope, and local in thrust. Our connectionalism is not merely a linking of one charge conference to another. It is rather a vital web of interactive relationships. We are connected by sharing a comon tradition of faith...which we seek to carry out by working together in and through conferences...

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 927-206
**Subject: Cooperative Parish**
Committee Item: MN77-206-C
Petition:
21899-MN-206-D, Pg. 1014
Membership: 113; Present: 103;
For: 96; Against: 3; Not Voting: 4;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 928-108
**Subject: Servant Leadership**
Committee Item: MN96-108-C
Petition:
21749-MN-108-D, Pg. 984
Membership: 113; Present: 102;
For: 102; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 929-108
**Subject: Servant Ministry and Servant Leadership**
Committee Item: MN97-108-C
Petition:
21742-MN-108-D, Pg. 983
Membership: 113; Present: 103;
For: 102; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 930-108
**Subject: Servant Leadership**
Committee Item: MN100-108-A
Petition:
21750-MN-108-D, Pg. 984
Membership: 113; Present: 104;
For: 103; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Renumber existing ¶ 108 as ¶ 115 and amend:

Within the people of God, there are those called to ~~the representative ministryordained and diaconal~~ **servant leadership, lay and ordained**. Such callings are evidenced by special gifts, evidence of Gods grace, and promise of usefulness. Gods call to ~~representative ministry~~ **servant leadership** is inward as it comes to the individual and outward through the ~~judgment~~ **discernment** and validation of the Church. ~~When inner and outer call agree and are affirmed by the local congregation, persons may be commissioned as Lay Ministry Stewards. The call of candidates for ordination shall be further affirmed through recommendation by the District Committee on Ordained Ministry and election by~~

~~an the Annual Conference, the candidate may then be ordained or consecrated, according to such election through symbolic acts which confer special roles of responsibility.~~

**The privilege of servant leadership in the Church is the call to share in the preparation of congregations and the whole church for the mission of God in the world. The obligation of servant leadership is the forming of Christian disciples in the covenant community of the congregation. This involves discerning and nurturing the spiritual relationship with God that is the privilege of all servant ministers. It also involves instructing and guiding Christian disciples in their witness to Jesus Christ in the world through acts of worship, devotion, compassion, and justice, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. John Wesley described this as watching over one another in love.**

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 931-108
**Subject: Representative Ministry**
Committee Item: MN101-108-C
Petition:
21097-MN-108-D, Pg. 1039
Membership: 113; Present: 102;
For: 94; Against: 8; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 932-439.1
**Subject: Responsibilities and Duty of a Pastor**
Committee Item: MN106-439.1-C
Petition:
20338-MN-439.1-D, Pg. 1058
Membership: 113; Present: 101;
For: 101; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 933-439
**Subject: Responsibilities and Duties of a Pastor**
Committee Item: MN118-439-A
Petition:
21874-MN-439-D, Pg. 1010
Membership: 113; Present: 74;
For: 74; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

In (3) delete the word accurate and insert the word faithful

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 934-113
**Subject: Our Relationship With God**
Committee Item: MN129-113-A
Petition:
21747-MN-113-D, Pg. 983
Membership: 113; Present: 103;
For: 102; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

committee additions appear in plain text

Change title of petition to— **Our Relationship with God**: Privilege

Add a new ¶ 113:

**Our relationship with God. Christians experience growth and transition in their spiritual life just as in their physical and emotional lives. While this growth is always a work of grace, it does not occur uniformly.** Spiritual growth in Christ is a dynamic process marked by awakeining, birth, growth,, and maturation. This process requires careful and intentional nurture for the disciple to reach perfection in the Christian Life. **There are stages of spiritual growth and transition: Christian beginnings; Christian birth; Christian growth; and Christian maturity. These require careful and intentional nurture for the disciple to come to maturity in the Christian life and to engage fully in the ministry of all Christians.**

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 935-112
**Subject: Christian Discipleship**
Committee Item: MN133-112-C
Petition:
21746-MN-112-D, Pg. 983
Membership: 113; Present: 91;
For: 91; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 936-111
**Subject: Offices of Elder and Deacon**
Committee Item: MN135-111-A
Petition:
21744-MN-111-D, Pg. 983
Membership: 113; Present: 89;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Sentence in plain text was added by committee

Add a new ¶ 111:

**The United Methodist Church has traditionally recognized these gifts and callings in the ordained offices of elder and deacon. The United Methodist tradition has recognized that lay persons as well as ordained persons are gifted and called by God to lead the church.** ~~The servant leadership of these lay persons is essential to the mission and ministry of congregations.~~ The servant leadership of these persons is essential to the mission and ministry of congregations. **They help to form Christian disciples in covenant community within the local congregation through spiritual formation and guidance for Christian living in the world.**

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 937-111
**Subject: One Ministry in Christ**
Committee Item: MN137-111-C
Petition:
21739-MN-111-D, Pg. 982
Membership: 113; Present: 91;
For: 91; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 938-113
**Subject: Called to Inclusiveness**
Committee Item: MN138-113-C
Petition:
21754-MN-113-D, Pg. 985
Membership: 113; Present: 91;
For: 90; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 939-324
**Subject: The Ordained Elder in Full Connection**
Committee Item: MN140-324-C
Petition:
21842-MN-324-D, Pg. 1002

Membership: 113; Present: 103;
For: 103; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 940-323

**Subject: Appointment of Deacons in Full Connection to Various Ministries**
Committee Item: MN141-323-A
Petition:
21841-MN-323-D, Pg. 1001
Membership: 113; Present: 102;
For: 102; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

editorial note: 10c should refer to 323.109

committee changes in plain type.

Add a new ¶ 323:

**Appointment of Deacons in Full Connection to Various Ministries.1. Deacons in full connection may be appointed to serve as their primary field of service:**

**a) Through agencies and settings beyond the local church which extends the witness and service of Christs love and justice in the world through equipping the ministry of all Christians to fulfill their own calls to Christian service; or**

**b) Through United Methodist Church-related agencies, schools, colleges, theological schools, ecumenical agencies; or**

**c) Within a local congregation, charge, or cooperative parish.**

**2. When deacons in full connection serve in an agency or setting beyond the local church, the bishop, after consultation with the deacon and the pastor in charge, shall appoint the deacon to a local congregation where they will take missional responsibility for leading other Christians into ministries of service. In this ministry the deacons shall be accountable to the pastor in charge, the charge conference, and other bodies that coordinate the ministry of the local church. In those instances where the appointment is in another Episcopal Area, the appointment to a local church shall be made in consultation with the Bishop of that Area..**

**3. This appointment shall be in a setting which allows one to fulfill the call to specialized ministry and where supervision is provided with goals, evaluation, and accountability acceptable to the bishop, cabinet, and the Board of Ordained Ministry.**

**4. The appointment of deacons in full connection shall be made by the bishop.**

**a) It may be initiated by the individual deacon in full connection, the agency seeking their service, bishop, or district superintendent.**

**b) Clarified by a written statement of intentionality of servant leadership in order to establish a clear distinction between the work to which all Christians are called and the work for which deacons in full connection are appropriately prepared and authorized.**

**c) If the bishop and cabinet consider an appointment not to be in the best interest of the church, the bishop may choose not to make the appointment. In such event, the bishop shall be in consultation with the deacon and the Board of Ordained Ministry. The deacon in full connection shall then seek another appointment, request a leave of absence, relinquish their credentials, or be terminated by disciplinary procedures.**

**d) Deacons in full connection at their request or with their consent may be appointed to a non-salaried position. Such missional appointments will serve to express the churchs concern for social holiness, ministry among the poor, and for advancing emerging needs of the future. In such cases, the bishop will carefully review plans for expressing this appointed ministry and will consult with the deacon about the well being and financial security of family.**

**5. At the request of the deacon in full connection and with the consent of the bishop and cabinet, the deacon may receive a less than full-time appointment under the following conditions:**

**a) The deacon in full connection shall present a written request to the bishop and the conference Board of Ordained Ministry giving rationale for the request at least ninety (90) days prior to the Annual Conference at which the appointment is to be made.**

**b) Reappointment to less than full-time service shall be requested of the bishop by the deacon in full connection annually.**

**c) The bishop may make an interim appointment of less than full-time service upon request of a deacon in full connection with the recommendation of the executive committee of the conference Board of Ordained Ministry.**

**6. Deacons from other Annual Conferences and Christian denominations may receive an appointment in the Annual Conference in the following manner:**

**a) Deacons in full connection from other Annual Conferences and other Methodist churches: With approval and consent of the bishops or other judicatory authorities involved, deacons in full connection from other Annual Conferences or other Methodist churches may receive appointments in the Annual Conference while retaining their home conference membership or denominational affiliation. Appointments are to be made by the bishop of the conference in which the deacon in full connection is to serve. Upon the recommendation of the Board of Ordained Ministry, clergy in such appointments may be granted voice but not vote in the Annual Conference to which they are appointed. Their membership on conference boards and agencies is restricted to the conference of which they are a member. Such appointments are renewable annually.**

**7. Deacons may receive an appointment to another denomination in the following manner:**

**a) Deacons in full connection with the approval of their bishop and the judicatory authorities of the other denomination may receive an appointment to another denomination while retaining their home conference membership. The appointment may be made in response to exceptional missional needs.**

**8. Deacons in full connection who are deacons in full connection serving outside the bounds of their annual conference will receive an appointment to a local congregation in the area in which their primary appointment is located. This arrangement will be made in consultation between the two bishops. The deacons will be under the supervision of an appropriate district superintendent who will provide a written report to the deacons bishop.**

**9. Special provisions will be made for deacons whose primary appointment does not have accountability**

structures but whose charge conference will supply this need.

10. Support for Deacons under appointment of a bishop.

a) Deacons shall receive their support under the policies and agreements of the setting of their primary field of service.

b) When the deacons primary field of service is within a local congregation, charge, or cooperative parish, the deacon shall receive a salary from the local church, charge, or cooperative parish (¶ 722.2) not less than the minimum established by the equitable compensation policy of the annual conference for full time and part time pastors, ~~with the right to participate in the United Methodist pension and benefit funds, health care insurance under the programs and standards established by the Annual Conference~~ and shall have the right to participate in the denominational pension and benefit plans, programs, and funds subject to the limitations imposed by local law and the right to participate in the health benefit and supplemental programs of his/her Annual Conference subject to the provisions and standards of those programs as established by the Annual Conference.

c. The above (¶ 323.8*a*, *b*) does not apply to a deacon appointed by a bishop to a non-salaried position (¶ 323.4*d*)

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 941-114

**Subject: Fulfillment of Ministry**
Committee Item: MN148-114-C
Petition:
21756-MN-114-D, Pg. 985
Membership: 113; Present: 90;
For: 90; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 942-114

**Subject: Our Relationship with Christ in the World**
Committee Item: MN149-114-A
Petition:
21748-MN-114-D, Pg. 984
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 85; Against: 1; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:\

words in plain text were inserted by committee.

Add a new ¶ 114:

**Our relationship with Christ in the World:** Obligation. The ministry of all Christians in the United Methodist tradition has always been energized by deep religious experience, with emphasis on how ministry relates to our ~~obligations~~ obligation to Jesus Christ. The early Methodists developed a way of life that fostered ~~consistency~~ and reliability, and their methodical discipleship is best expressed in the General Rules that John Wesley first published in 1743, and remain in the United Methodist *Book of Discipline*, pages 71-73. (See ¶ 205.) ~~These Rules, referred to by Wesley as Works of Mercy and Works of Piety, may be summarized as follows: Avoiding Evil; Doing Good; and Attending upon the Ordinances of God. They may be expressed through: Acts of Devotion and Worship; Witness to Christ in the World; Acts of Compassion and Justice; Attentiveness to the Guidance of the Holy Spirit.~~

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 943-422

**Subject: Elders in Full Connection**
Committee Item: MN184-422-A
Petition:
21844-MN-422-D, Pg. 1003
Membership: 113; Present: 101;
For: 98; Against: 3; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Amend Par. 3 to read:

A probationary member of the Annual Conference who has completed the requirements for Elders Orders and admission into full membership shall be eligible for election to full membership and ordination as elder by a bishop. The ordaining bishop may invite other elders and laity to be a part of the laying on of hands.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 944-449

**Subject: Family Leave**
Committee Item: MN188-449-A
Petition:
21878-MN-449-D, Pg. 1011
Membership: 113; Present: 93;
For: 89; Against: 1; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

In the first sentence, after to, insert diaconal ministers,

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 945-530

**Subject: Appointment-Making**
Committee Item: MN214-530-A
Petition:
22088-MN-530-D, Pg. 1480
Membership: 113; Present: 76;
For: 76; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Delete disabilities

Add physical challenges

Delete ministers

Add clergy

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 946-527.1

**Subject: The Council of Bishops**
Committee Item: MN269-527.1-C
Petition:
21986-MN-527.1-D, Pg. 1021
Membership: 113; Present: 93;
For: 93; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 947-705

**Subject: Business of the Conference**
Committee Item: MN270-705-C
Petition:
21989-MN-705-D, Pg. 1021
Membership: 113; Present: 93;
For: 93; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 948-702

**Subject: Composition and Character of The Annual Conference**
Committee Item: MN271-702-C
Petition:
21988-MN-702-D, Pg. 1021
Membership: 113; Present: 93;
For: 92; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 949-529.1
**Subject: The Cabinet**
Committee Item: MN281-529.1-C
Petition:
21987-MN-529.1-D, Pg. 1021
Membership: 113; Present: 93;
For: 93; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 950-301
**Subject: Ministry in the Christian Church**
Committee Item: MN283-301-C
Petition:
21815-MN-301-D, Pg. 991
Membership: 113; Present: 103;
For: 103; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 951-424
**Subject: Requirements for Admission to Full Connection and Ordination as Elder**
Committee Item: MN285-424-A
Petition:
21854-MN-424-D, Pg. 1006
Membership: 113; Present: 99;
For: 98; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Renumber Par. 424 as Par. 334 and amend to read:

Requirement for Admission to Full Connection and Ordination as Elder.—Probationary members who are candidates for Full Connection and ordination as elders and have been probationary members for at least three years may be admitted into membership into full connection in an Annual Conference and approval for elders ordination by a 2/3 vote of the clergy members in full connection of the Annual Conference. Upon recommendation by 2/3 vote of the Board of Ordained Ministry after they have qualified as follows:.....

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 952-423
**Subject: Authority and Responsibilities of an Elderr in Full Connection**
Committee Item: MN287-423-A
Petition:
21845-MN-423-D, Pg. 1003
Membership: 113; Present: 100;
For: 100; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Change title to read: Ministry, Authority, and Responsibilities....

In Par. 2.d): delete the s in district superintendents

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 953-734
**Subject: Board of Diaconal Ministry**
Committee Item: MN288-734-C
Petition:
21992-MN-734-D, Pg. 1023
Membership: 113; Present: 93;
For: 93; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 954-426
**Subject: Clergy from Other Annual Conferences and Denominations**
Committee Item: MN301-426-C
Petition:
21856-MN-426-D, Pg. 1006
Membership: 113; Present: 99;
For: 99; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 955-450
**Subject: Maternity/Paternity Leave**
Committee Item: MN302-450-A
Petition:
21879-MN-450-D, Pg. 1011
Membership: 113; Present: 71;
For: 71; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

In 2. Amend by replacing ordained ministers with clergy members

In Par. 4: delete The ordained ministers... so that 4. becomes Compensation will be maintained...

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 956-425
**Subject: Historic Examination for Admission into Full Connection and Ordination as Elder**
Committee Item: MN304-425-C
Petition:
21855-MN-425-D, Pg. 1006
Membership: 113; Present: 99;
For: 99; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 957-435
**Subject: The Order of Elder**
Committee Item: MN305-435-C
Petition:
21792-MN-435-D, Pg. 989
Membership: 113; Present: 99;
For: 99; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 958-434
**Subject: The Order of Deacon**
Committee Item: MN306-434-C
Petition:
21791-MN-434-D, Pg. 989
Membership: 113; Present: 99;
For: 99; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 959-432
**Subject: The Act of Ordination**
Committee Item: MN308-432-C
Petition:
21789-MN-432-D, Pg. 989
Membership: 113; Present: 99;
For: 99; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 960-431
**Subject: Qualifications for Ordination**
Committee Item: MN309-431-C
Petition:
21788-MN-431-D, Pg. 989
Membership: 113; Present: 99;
For: 99; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 961-430
**Subject: The Purpose of Ordination**
Committee Item: MN310-430-C
Petition:
21787-MN-430-D, Pg. 989
Membership: 113; Present: 99;
For: 99; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 962-429
**Subject: Ordination and Apostolic Ministry**
Committee Item: MN311-429-C
Petition:
21786-MN-429-D, Pg. 989
Membership: 113; Present: 99;
For: 99; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 963-446
**Subject: Members of the Chrge Conference and Administrative Council**
Committee Item: MN319-446-C
Petition:
21943-MN-446-D, Pg. 1017
Membership: 113; Present: 73;
For: 73; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 964-438
**Subject: Definition of a Pastor**
Committee Item: MN340-438-C
Petition:
21849-MN-438-D, Pg. 1004
Membership: 113; Present: 100;
For: 100; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 965-436
**Subject: General Provisions**
Committee Item: MN342-436-A
Petition:
21847-MN-436-D, Pg. 1004
Membership: 113; Present: 100;
For: 100; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

committee additions in italic type

Renumber ¶ 436 as ¶ 327 and amend:

*General Provisions.*All ~~clergy members~~ **Elders in full connection** who are in good standing in an Annual Conference shall ~~receive annually an~~ **be continued under** appointment by the bishop unless they are granted a sabbatical leave, a disability leave, *family leave* ~~, or are on~~ a leave of absence ~~or retired~~ **retirement, or have failed to meet the requirements for continued eligibility (¶ 326.2).**[27]

In addition to the ordained ministers,...pastors in charge under certain conditions which are specified in ~~¶¶ 406-408~~ **339-342.** All clergy members...

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 966-436
**Subject: Appointments to Various Ministries**
Committee Item: MN343-436-C
Petition:
21846-MN-436-D, Pg. 1004
Membership: 113; Present: 100;
For: 100; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 967-428
**Subject: Recognition of Orders**
Committee Item: MN344-428-C
Petition:
21859-MN-428-D, Pg. 1007
Membership: 113; Present: 99;
For: 99; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 968-427
**Subject: Transfers**
Committee Item: MN345-427-C
Petition:
21858-MN-427-D, Pg. 1007
Membership: 113; Present: 99;
For: 99; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 969-426
**Subject: Appointments**
Committee Item: MN346-426-C
Petition:
21857-MN-426-D, Pg. 1006
Membership: 113; Present: 99;
For: 99; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 970-447
**Subject: Changes of Conference Relationship**
Committee Item: MN347-447-C
Petition:
21875-MN-447-D, Pg. 1011
Membership: 113; Present: 94;
For: 94; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 971-444
**Subject: The Process of Evaluation**
Committee Item: MN350-444-A
Petition:
21205-MN-444-D, Pg. 1063
Membership: 113; Present: 93;
For: 93; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

committee changes in italic type

Amend ¶ 444:

*Evaluation.*——Evaluation is a continuous process *for formation in Servant Ministry and Servant Leadership* which must take place in a spirit of under-

standing and acceptance. **Evaluation serves as a process for pastors to assess their effectiveness in ministry and to discern Gods call to continue in ordained ministry.**

1. **The district superintendent, in consultation with the Pastor-Parish Relations Committee, will evaluate annually the pastors effectiveness for ministry (¶¶ 423-2*c*, 520, 733.2*n*, *o*), using criteria, processes, and training developed by the Cabinet and the Board of Ordained Ministry.** The pastors in local churches shall *participate annually in an* evaluation *with.* the committee on Pastor -Parish Relations for use in an .... ~~The district superintendent will evaluate annually the pastors effectiveness for ministry (¶¶ 423-2*c*, 520, 733.2*n*, *o*), using criteria, processes, and training developed by the Cabinet and the Board of Ordained Ministry.~~

3. Annual report submitted *their* Bishop...Board of ordained Ministry (para) 331.2a. *When possible, they shall have a conversation with their District Superintendent about their ministry.*

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 972-441
**Subject: Elders in Full Connection Appointed to Pastoral Charges**
Committee Item: MN384-441-C
Petition:
21853-MN-441-D, Pg. 1005
Membership: 113; Present: 99;
For: 99; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 973-443
**Subject: Elders in Appointment Beyond the Local Church**
Committee Item: MN388-443-A
Petition:
21851-MN-443-D, Pg. 1004
Membership: 113; Present: 99;
For: 99; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

In title, strike the word beyond and insert other than

In the last paragraph of 1., after the words Cabinet, the insert Board of Ordained Ministry, the

Change 2. to read:

Relation to the Annual Conference.—a)Accountability to the Annual Conference.—Elders under appointment other than the local church...

In paragraph 3., delete the word beyond and insert the words other than

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 974-1532
**Subject: Responsibility for Education and Formation**
Committee Item: MN395-1532-C
Petition:
22008-MN-1532-D, Pg. 1025
Membership: 113; Present: 93;
For: 93; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 975-1505
**Subject: Objectives of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry**
Committee Item: MN396-1505-C
Petition:
21995-MN-1505-D, Pg. 1023
Membership: 113; Present: 93;
For: 92; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 976-1531
**Subject: Education and Preparation of Students**
Committee Item: MN397-1531-C
Petition:
22007-MN-1531-D, Pg. 1025
Membership: 113; Present: 93;
For: 93; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 977-1509.1
**Subject: Eliminate Divisions of Ordained and Diaconal Ministry**
Committee Item: MN402-1509.1-C
Petition:
21997-MN-1509.1-D, Pg. 1024
Membership: 113; Present: 93;
For: 93; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 978-1527
**Subject: Work and Care of Elders and Local Pastors**
Committee Item: MN403-1527-C
Petition:
22002-MN-1527-D, Pg. 1024
Membership: 113; Present: 93;
For: 93; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 979-756.1
**Subject: District Committee on Ordained Ministry**
Committee Item: MN404-756.1-C
Petition:
21993-MN-756.1-D, Pg. 1023
Membership: 113; Present: 93;
For: 93; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 980-1524
**Subject: Deacons**
Committee Item: MN409-1524-A
Petition:
21998-MN-1524-D, Pg. 1024
Membership: 113; Present: 92;
For: 92; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Amend the section title to read:

Work and Care of Probationary Members and Deacons

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 981-1526
**Subject: Responsibilities of Division of Diaconal Ministry**
Committee Item: MN410-1526-C
Petition:
22001-MN-1526-D, Pg. 1024
Membership: 113; Present: 93;
For: 93; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 982-1525
**Subject: Purpose of Division of Diaconal Ministry**
Committee Item: MN412-1525-C
Petition:
22000-MN-1525-D, Pg. 1024
Membership: 113; Present: 93;
For: 93; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 983-1530
**Subject: Schools of Theology**
Committee Item: MN413-1530-C
Petition:
22006-MN-1530-D, Pg. 1025
Membership: 113; Present: 93;
For: 93; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 984-1524
**Subject: Division of Diaconal Ministry**
Committee Item: MN414-1524-A
Petition:
21999-MN-1524-D, Pg. 1024
Membership: 113; Present: 93;
For: 93; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Delete (1) and (2) and insert in lieu thereof:

(1) persons preparing for probationary membership (2) persons serving as probationary membership and preparing for ordination as deacons...

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 985-1528
**Subject: The Nominating Committee**
Committee Item: MN415-1528-C
Petition:
22004-MN-1528-D, Pg. 1024
Membership: 113; Present: 93;
For: 93; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 986-1527
**Subject: Work and Care of Elders and Local Pastors**
Committee Item: MN416-1527-C
Petition:
22003-MN-1527-D, Pg. 1024
Membership: 113; Present: 93;
For: 93; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 987-1529
**Subject: Specific Responsibilities of Board of Higher Education and Ministry**
Committee Item: MN417-1529-C
Petition:
22005-MN-1529-D, Pg. 1024
Membership: 113; Present: 93;
For: 93; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 988-1508.1
**Subject: Divisions of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry**
Committee Item: MN495-1508.1-C
Petition:
21996-MN-1508.1-D, Pg. 1023
Membership: 113; Present: 92;
For: 87; Against: 4; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 989-413
**Subject: Eligibility and Rights of Probationary Membership**
Committee Item: MN542-413-C
Petition:
21805-MN-413-D, Pg. 990
Membership: 113; Present: 97;
For: 96; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 990-405
**Subject: Continuation of Candidacy**
Committee Item: MN543-405-C
Petition:
21797-MN-405-D, Pg. 989
Membership: 113; Present: 97;
For: 96; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 991-414
**Subject: Qualifications for Election to Probationary Membership**
Committee Item: MN546-414-C
Petition:
21806-MN-414-D, Pg. 990
Membership: 113; Present: 97;
For: 96; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 992-404
**Subject: Candidacy for Ordained Ministry**
Committee Item: MN547-404-C
Petition:
21796-MN-404-D, Pg. 989
Membership: 113; Present: 97;
For: 96; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 993-318
**Subject: The Ordained Deacon as Probationary Member**
Committee Item: MN555-318-A
Petition:
21834-MN-318-D, Pg. 998
Membership: 113; Present: 83;
For: 81; Against: 0; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

plain text inserted by committee

Add a new Section IV:

**Section IV. The ~~Ordained Deacon~~ Commissioned Minister as Probationary Member.**

The committee approved language identical to 22929-mn-318-d for this petition, 21834

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 994-304
**Subject: Candidacy for Diaconal Ministry**
Committee Item: MN557-304-C
Petition:
21772-MN-304-D, Pg. 988
Membership: 113; Present: 103;
For: 103; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 995-305
**Subject: Continuation of Candidacy**
Committee Item: MN558-305-C
Petition:
21773-MN-305-D, Pg. 988
Membership: 113; Present: 103;
For: 103; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 996-302
**Subject: Ordination and Apostolic Ministry**
Committee Item: MN559-302-C
Petition:
21816-MN-302-D, Pg. 991
Membership: 113; Present: 103;
For: 103; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 997-303
**Subject: Purpose of Ordination**
Committee Item: MN560-303-A
Petition:
21817-MN-303-D, Pg. 991
Membership: 113; Present: 103;
For: 103; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Paragraph 2, ... Those whose leadership in service includes preaching and teaching...

*Discipline* of the Church are ordained as Elders.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 998-305
**Subject: Candidacy for Licensed and Ordained Ministry**
Committee Item: MN561-305-C
Petition:
21819-MN-305-D, Pg. 992
Membership: 113; Present: 103;
For: 103; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 999-303
**Subject: Entrance into Diaconal Ministry**
Committee Item: MN562-303-C
Petition:
21771-MN-303-D, Pg. 988
Membership: 113; Present: 103;
For: 103; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1000-302
**Subject: The Nature of Diaconal Ministry**
Committee Item: MN563-302-C
Petition:
21770-MN-302-D, Pg. 988
Membership: 113; Present: 103;
For: 103; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1001-454.3
**Subject: The Administrative Review Committee**
Committee Item: MN628-454.3-C
Petition:
21240-MN-454.3-D, Pg. 1075
Membership: 113; Present: 98;
For: 98; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1002-513
**Subject: Complaints Against Bishops**
Committee Item: MN629-513-A
Petition:
21258-MN-513-D, Pg. 1077
Membership: 113; Present: 96;
For: 96; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Amend 2 by changing the word may to shall in the third line

Amend 3 by changing the word grievance in the third line to complaint. In line 15 insert the words the complainant, after the words to protect the well-being of. In line 22, change the word proceeding to process.

Editorial changes in 3.a) and 3.b) - / should be inserted between Jurisdictional and Central Conferences. It should, therefore, appear Jurisdictional/Central Conferences.

Amend the proposed sentence at the end of 4. To read:

This paragraph shall become effective at the conclusion of the 1996 General Conference, except as to matters that have already proceeded to the Jurisdictional Review Committee.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1003-511
**Subject: Leaves**
Committee Item: MN630-511-A
Petition:
21257-MN-511-D, Pg. 1077
Membership: 113; Present: 97;
For: 97; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Amend 1. *Leave of absence*...as follows:

In the third line between the words months and with the approval of insert the words in consultation with the Area Committee on Episcopacy and

Amend 3. *Sabbatical Leave*...The second line: change the word quadrenniums to the word quadrennia. In the fourth line between the words renewal and with the approval of insert the words in consultation with the Area Committee on Episcopacy and.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1004-454.4
**Subject: Grievance Procedures**
Committee Item: MN641-454.4-A
Petition:
21242-MN-454.4-D, Pg. 1075
Membership: 113; Present: 98;
For: 98; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Amend by deleting in 4 By trial-If a clergy person chooses trial, the procedures are provided for in Par. 2626.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1005-454.3
**Subject: Recommendation to Terminate Membership**
Committee Item: MN642-454.3-A
Petition:
21241-MN-454.3-D, Pg. 1075
Membership: 113; Present: 98;
For: 97; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Amend 3.d) by deleting the entire paragraph.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1006-454.3
**Subject: Recommendation to Administrative Location**
Committee Item: MN643-454.3-A
Petition:
21239-MN-454.3-D, Pg. 1074
Membership: 113; Present: 98;
For: 98; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Amend 3.b)(2) by deleting the word and before district superintendent and by adding a comma and the words and the complainant after district superintendent.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1007-454.3
**Subject: Administrative Complaints**
Committee Item: MN644-454.3-A
Petition:
21238-MN-454.3-D, Pg. 1074
Membership: 113; Present: 98;
For: 98; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Amend 3.a)(2) by adding after the words Leave of Absence a comma and the words Voluntary or Involuntary (Par. 448)

Amend 3 by deleting the word termination in the second sentence and in line three of 3.a)(10) substitute the words clergy person for minister

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1008-454.2
**Subject: Fair Process in Administrative Hearings**
Committee Item: MN645-454.2-A
Petition:
21237-MN-454.2-D, Pg. 1074
Membership: 113; Present: 97;
For: 97; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Amend by deleting the wording within the parenthesis in the first sentence.

In the final sentence of the first paragraph to read as follows:

Special attention should be given to the timely disposition of all matters and to ensuring racial, ethnic and gender diversity in the committee hearing the complaint

Amend a) by deleting the word involuntary in the first line

Amend c) by deleting the wording within the parenthesis in the first sentence. Substitute the words to voice for the words of advocacy in the final sentence.

Amend d) by deleting the words involuntary and or counsel in the two places the latter appears in the first sentence. Also in the first sentence by inserting the word pending before the words hearing body and deleting everything after body and inserting a period after body followed by the sentence Questions of procedure may be raised with the presiding officer of the hearing body..

Amend e) by changing as follows:

The respondent shall have access to all records relied upon in the determination of the outcome of the administrative process.

Amend f) by deleting the words or judicial in the sixth line.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1009-454.1
**Subject: Complaints and Suspension**
Committee Item: MN646-454.1-A
Petition:
21233-MN-454.1-D, Pg. 1073
Membership: 113; Present: 98;
For: 98; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Amend by renumbering 454.1b as 454.1c

Amend the first sentence by inserting the words the complaintant followed by a comma after the words well-being of and substitute the words with the for the word upon in the third line.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1010-454.1
**Subject: Supervision of Clergy**
Committee Item: MN648-454.1-C
Petition:
21232-MN-454.1-D, Pg. 1072
Membership: 113; Present: 98;
For: 98; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1011-454
**Subject: Grievance Procedures**
Committee Item: MN649-454-C
Petition:
21231-MN-454-D, Pg. 1070
Membership: 113; Present: 98;
For: 98; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1012-454
**Subject: Changes of Conference Relationship**
Committee Item: MN650-454-C
Petition:
21252-MN-454-D, Pg. 1070
Membership: 113; Present: 98;
For: 98; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1013-304
**Subject: Qualifications for Ordination**
Committee Item: MN656-304-A
Petition:

21818-MN-304-D, Pg. 992
Membership: 113; Present: 95;
For: 86; Against: 9; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Add last sentence to 1. In order that The United Methodist Church may be assured that those persons who present themselves as candidates for ordained ministry are truly called of God, the Church expects persons seeking ordination to:

Add word ordained in c. Acknowledge a call...completely to **ordained** ministry..

In 3. add footnote number (1) ...self-avowed practicing homosexuals (1) are not to be...

Add footnote:

**(1) Footnote: self-avowed practicing homosexual is understood to mean that a person openly acknowledges to a bishop, district superintendent, district committee of ordained ministry, board of ordained ministry or clergy session that the person is a practicing homosexual.**

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1014-733

**Subject: Administrative Review Committee**
Committee Item: MN713-733-A
Petition:
21259-MN-733-D, Pg. 1085
Membership: 113; Present: 96;
For: 96; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Amend the last sentence by substituting the word remedy for cure.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1015-415

**Subject: Educational Requirements**
Committee Item: MN717-415-C
Petition:
21807-MN-415-D, Pg. 990
Membership: 113; Present: 97;
For: 96; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

# Consent Calendar B04

**Corrections:**

## 639-NonDis

This calendar item was incorrectly recorded. The actual vote was a recommendation of concurrence with a vote of For: 102; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0. It has been added to consent calendar B04.

## 640-NonDis

This calendar item was incorrectly recorded. The actual vote was a recommendation of concurrence with a vote of For: 101; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1. It has been added to consent calendar B04.

## 1016-NonDis

**Subject: Change in Content of The Book of Discipline**
Committee Item: CO179-NonDis-C
Petition:
20232-CO-NonDis-O$, Pg. 203
Membership: 86; Present: 60;
For: 58; Against: 0; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1017-NonDis

**Subject: Paragraph Changes in The Book of Discipline**
Committee Item: CO184-NonDis-C
Petition:
22258-CO-NonDis-O, Pg. 1274
Membership: 86; Present: 60;
For: 57; Against: 0; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1018-NonDis

**Subject: Establishment of Parish Health Nurse Program**
Committee Item: CO212-NonDis-A
Petition:
22627-CO-NonDis-O, Pg. 1275
Membership: 86; Present: 63;
For: 60; Against: 1; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Be it resolved, that annual conferences be directed to ~~promote~~ **encourage** the establishment of Parish Health Nurse Programs in each local congregation or charge.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1019-NonDis

**Subject: Black Leadership in Annual, Jurisdictional and General Conference Levels**
Committee Item: CO225-NonDis-C
Petition:
22193-CO-NonDis-O, Pg. 1272
Membership: 86; Present: 64;
For: 62; Against: 0; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1020-NonDis

**Subject: Resolution in Support of the Rio Grande Conference**
Committee Item: CO236-NonDis-C
Petition:
22706-CO-NonDis-O, Pg. 1275
Membership: 86; Present: 66;
For: 64; Against: 0; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1021-NonDis

**Subject: A Day at General Conference to Address Central Conference Issues**
Committee Item: CO239-NonDis-C
Petition:
20870-CO-NonDis-O, Pg. 206
Membership: 86; Present: 65;
For: 60; Against: 1; Not Voting: 4;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1022-NonDis
**Subject: Covenanting Relationships with Spain and West Africa**
Committee Item: CO242-NonDis-C
Petition:
21725-CO-NonDis-O, Pg. 1105
Membership: 86; Present: 59;
For: 58; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1023-NonDis
**Subject: Closing of Military Installation**
Committee Item: CS53-NonDis-A
Petition:
20360-CS-NonDis-O, Pg. 149
Membership: 102; Present: 92;
For: 87; Against: 3; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Resolved, that the 1996 General Conference work for economic and environmental justice ~~by~~ **throughout the Global Community by encouraging all nations to work for the:**

1. ~~encouraging a~~ reduction in military spending;

2. ~~encouraging~~ **development of** detailed and broad-based community planning for the downsizing or closing of military installations; and

3. **In the U.S.,** supporting Restoration Advisory Boards, technical Review Committees, BRAC Re-Use Committees, and other official bodies overseeing environmental cleanup and conversion planning at Department of Defense or Department of Energy sites, **and through parallel instruments in other nations.**

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1024-R87
**Subject: U.S. Agriculture and Rural Communities in Crisis**
Committee Item: CS105-R87-A
Petition:
21046-CS-R87-U, Pg. 130
Membership: 102; Present: 87;
For: 81; Against: 3; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

(Additions which were added by the Committee are underlined)

In section III, Letter A. The Farm Crisis, fourth paragraph: delete most and replace it with many so that it will read:

**Farm workers have difficult and dangerous work. Inadequate wages, benefits and living facilities keep ~~most~~ many farm workers in poverty.**

In section III, Letter A. The Farm Crisis, fifth paragraph: delete at times and substitute on rare occasions so that it will read:

**Many farmers have internalized the external cause of their losses which has led to deep depression, spouse and family abuse, alcoholism, mental breakdown, divorce, suicide, participation in extremist groups, and ~~at times~~, on rare occasions murder.**

In section III, Letter C. The Ecological Crisis in Rural Areas, second paragraph: insert between are affected the words sometimes negatively so that it will read:

**Soil conservation practices such as contour plowing, crop rotation, windbreaks, and covering-cropping are sometimes negatively affected as farmers are pushed to farm more and more acres with bigger and bigger equipment.**

In section III, Letter C. The Ecological Crisis in Rural Areas, sixth paragraph: insert between major concerns the words theological and ethical so that it will read:

**The genetic engineering of plants and animals and the patenting of genes, plants and animals raise major theological and ethical concerns.**

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1025-R79
**Subject: The Law of the Sea**
Committee Item: CS114-R79-C
Petition:
21045-CS-R79-U, Pg. 130
Membership: 102; Present: 82;
For: 81; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1026-NonDis
**Subject: Affirming the Household EcoTeam Program**
Committee Item: CS115-NonDis-C
Petition:
22462-CS-NonDis-O, Pg. 1234
Membership: 102; Present: 83;
For: 78; Against: 1; Not Voting: 4;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1027-NonDis
**Subject: God's Vision of Abundant Living**
Committee Item: CS118-NonDis-C
Petition:
21038-CS-NonDis-O, Pg. 139
Membership: 102; Present: 82;
For: 81; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1028-NonDis
**Subject: Tobacco Marketing by Philip Morris and RJR Nabisco**
Committee Item: CS119-NonDis-A
Petition:
21042-CS-NonDis-O, Pg. 166
Membership: 102; Present: 88;
For: 81; Against: 3; Not Voting: 4;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Amend item A by replacing the words call on with Direct so it will read:

A. ~~Call on~~ **Direct** the General Board of Church and Society to maintain and publish a current list of consumer products produced by Philip Morris and RJR Nabisco so United Methodists are made aware of their indirect support of the tobacco industry;

Amend item F by adding the words and if necessary organize a boycott so it will read:

F. Request the General Board of Church and Society to explore productive measures aimed at stopping tobacco companies from marketing cigarettes and other tobacco products to children **and if necessary organize a boycott**.

Amend with a new item G (which came from item E of Petition #20861) so it will read:

**G. Directs the General Board of Church and Society to communicate this resolution to the tobacco companies, serve as continuing advocate of the United Methodist position within The United Methodist Church and with the companies, and monitor the implementation of this resolution for report at the next General Conference.~~;~~ ~~and~~**

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1029-R377

**Subject: Suicide: A Challenge to Ministry**
Committee Item: CS122-R377-A
Petition:
21468-CS-R377-U, Pg. 146
Membership: 102; Present: 83;
For: 82; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

(Committee addition is underlined)

In the last sentence add the word perceived between only and way so that the resolution reads.:

The General Board of Discipleship supports the retention of the resolution, Suicide: A Challenge to Ministry, page 377 of *The Book of Resolutions*, with the following addition under *Causes of Suicide*:

**Youth experience alienation and rejection by society, family and the church when dealing with sexual identity issues, including homosexuality. For many youth, the only perceived way out is suicide.**

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1030-R229

**Subject: Drug and Alcohol Concerns**
Committee Item: CS123-R229-A
Petition:
21047-CS-R229-U, Pg. 143
Membership: 102; Present: 83;
For: 83; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Under number 6 in the section labeled Alcohol, insert including the material on prevention, intervention, treatment, and the value of abstinence between problems and throughout so that it will read:

6. We direct the General Board of Discipleship and The United Methodist Publishing House to incorporate educational material on alcohol and other drug problems **including the material on prevention, intervention, treatment, and the value of abstinence** throughout its graded literature.

Under the section labeled Drugs, subsection Psychedelics or Hallucinogens, delete the word long-term so that it will read:

—Psychedelics or Hallucinogens

Psychedelics or hallucinogens, which include LSD, psilocybin, mescaline, PCP, and DMT produce changes in perception and altered states of consciousness. Not only is there limited medical use, the ~~long-term~~ use of these drugs may result in permanent psychiatric problems.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1031-NonDis

**Subject: Observance of Health Care Sabbaths**
Committee Item: CS125-NonDis-C
Petition:
21041-CS-NonDis-O, Pg. 166
Membership: 102; Present: 85;
For: 82; Against: 2; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1032-NonDis

**Subject: Caring Communities - The United Methodist Mental Illness Network**
Committee Item: CS126-NonDis-C
Petition:
21039-CS-NonDis-O, Pg. 164
Membership: 102; Present: 85;
For: 85; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1033-R517

**Subject: Human Rights**
Committee Item: CS158-R517-A
Petition:
21044-CS-R517-U, Pg. 155
Membership: 102; Present: 93;
For: 93; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Under the section numbered 7" :

Add the words and racial hate groups, after supremacist,

Delete movements such as,

Delete and from in front of neo-Nazi groups and substitute a comma

Add and extreme ultra-nationalistic groups after paramilitary units and so that it reads as follows:

.(Committee additions are underlined)

7) The increase of terrorism and the growth of ~~less publicized racist~~ **white supremacist and racial hate groups, ~~movements such as the~~** neo-Nazi groups **~~and~~ ,** paramilitary units **and extreme ultra-nationalistic groups**. ~~of the Ku Klux Klan, the Posse Comitatus, etc. and so-called National Fronts in Britain and France.~~

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1034-NonDis

**Subject: Immigrants in the United States: Ministries of Hospitality, Advocacy and Justice**
Committee Item: CS160-NonDis-A
Petition:
21040-CS-NonDis-O, Pg. 141
Membership: 102; Present: 92;
For: 91; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Under Law Enforcement, add two starred para. between the first and third starred paragraphs so that the text reads:

* Actively oppose anti-immigrant legislative action and support legislative action that protects the poor and oppressed in their quest for survival and peace;

***Urge stringent policing and penalties for coyotes (illegal transporters) and those individuals, businesses or groups that fuel them and other exploiters of undocumented immigrants since their activities may cause immigrants to suffer serious injury or death;**

***Urge that humane and fair treatment be extended to all immigrants by business and agricultural groups.**

* Advocate human rights (political, economic and civil) for all people, including the strangers who sojourn in our land;

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1035-NonDis

**Subject: Duties of Chaplains in Receiving Persons as Members of the United Methodist Church**
Committee Item: DI24-NonDis-C
Petition:
21431-DI-217-D, Pg. 947
Membership: 112; Present: 87;

For: 87; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1036-NonDis
**Subject: Admission into the Church**
Committee Item: DI55-NonDis-C
Petition:
21432-DI-220-D, Pg. 947
Membership: 112; Present: 87;
For: 86; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1037-R249
**Subject: Enlist and Involve the Youth in the Life of the Church**
Committee Item: DI64-R249-C
Petition:
21469-DI-R249-U, Pg. 266
Membership: 112; Present: 103;
For: 103; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1038-NonDis
**Subject: UM Emphasis on Youth and Young Adults**
Committee Item: DI69-NonDis-C
Petition:
23075-DI-NonDis-O
Membership: 112; Present: 103;
For: 103; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1039-R246
**Subject: Education on Alcohol and Substance Abuse**
Committee Item: DI167-R246-C
Petition:
21471-DI-R246-U, Pg. 266
Membership: 112; Present: 75;
For: 73; Against: 0; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1040-NonDis
**Subject: Curriculum on Nonviolent Action and Peaceful Conflict Resolution**
Committee Item: DI168-NonDis-C
Petition:
22220-DI-NonDis-O, Pg. 1295
Membership: 112; Present: 75;
For: 73; Against: 0; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1041-NonDis
**Subject: Personal Investment Plan**
Committee Item: FA152-NonDis-A
Petition:
21503-FA-NonDis-O, Pg. 480
Membership: 113; Present: 79;
For: 77; Against: 1; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

2.31.a(2) Line 1, following or a clergy member add **who is a full participant in the itinerant system,**

2.31.a(4) Add: **However, a Salary-Paying Unit that is an entity which is subject to the provisions of Code section 403(b)(12) or is an entity other than an exempt organization described in Code section 501 (c)(3) may not be a Plan Sponsor for clergy who are not full participants in the itinerant system.**

5.18.a Line 4: following shall send a certified letter add **with return receipt requested**

b.Line 10: following shall send a certified letter Add **with return receipt requested**

7.04 Line 2: following held by the Trustee, add **in order to comply with federal and state regulations,**

Line 3: following agreement (or agreements) add **with due notice to the participants involved**

12.06Delete.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1042-NonDis
**Subject: Staff Retirement Benefits Program, Supplement One**
Committee Item: FA153-NonDis-C
Petition:
21505-FA-NonDis-O, Pg. 525
Membership: 113; Present: 80;
For: 80; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1043-NonDis
**Subject: Staff Retirement Benefits Program-Ñ 6.04**
Committee Item: FA154-NonDis-C
Petition:
21511-FA-NonDis-O, Pg. 532
Membership: 113; Present: 82;
For: 82; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1044-NonDis
**Subject: Staff Retirement Benefits Program-Ñ 5.13**
Committee Item: FA155-NonDis-C
Petition:
21510-FA-NonDis-O, Pg. 532
Membership: 113; Present: 82;
For: 82; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1045-NonDis
**Subject: Staff Retirement Benefits Program-Ñ 5.05**
Committee Item: FA156-NonDis-C
Petition:
21509-FA-NonDis-O, Pg. 531
Membership: 113; Present: 81;
For: 81; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1046-NonDis
**Subject: Staff Retirement Benefits Program-Ñ 5.04**
Committee Item: FA157-NonDis-C
Petition:
21508-FA-NonDis-O, Pg. 531
Membership: 113; Present: 82;
For: 82; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1047-NonDis
**Subject: Staff Retirement Benefits Program-Ñ 2.07**
Committee Item: FA158-NonDis-C
Petition:
21507-FA-NonDis-O, Pg. 531
Membership: 113; Present: 82;
For: 82; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1048-NonDis
**Subject: Staff Retirement Benefits Program**
Committee Item: FA201-NonDis-A
Petition:
21504-FA-NonDis-O, Pg. 505
Membership: 113; Present: 81;
For: 81; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

5.15.a Line 4: following shall send a certified letter add **with return receipt requested**

b. Line 10: following shall send a certified letter add **with return receipt requested**

6.05Line 2: following held by the Trustee, add **in order to comply with federal and state regulations,**

Line 3: following agreement (or agreements) add **with due notice to the participants involved**

9.06Delete

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1049-NonDis
**Subject: Staff Retirement Benefits Program-Supplement One**
Committee Item: FA202-NonDis-C
Petition:
21506-FA-NonDis-O, Pg. 530
Membership: 113; Present: 80;
For: 80; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1050-NonDis
**Subject: Ministerial Education Fund**
Committee Item: FA208-NonDis-A
Petition:
21112-FA-NonDis-O, Pg. 291
Membership: 113; Present: 81;
For: 81; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee proposes an amendment by substituting the following amounts of the annual apportionments found on page 291:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 27,036,000 | 0.0% |
| 1998 | 27,036,000 | 0.0% |
| 1999 | 27,476,720 | 1.6% |
| 2000 | 28,001,280 | 1.9% |
| Total | 109,550,000 | |

**GCFA is authorized to round to the nearest thousand and to make such editorial changes in text of report that may be required by the changes in these budgeted amounts.**

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1051-NonDis
**Subject: Black College Fund**
Committee Item: FA209-NonDis-A
Petition:
21113-FA-NonDis-O, Pg. 293
Membership: 113; Present: 81;
For: 81; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

The Committee proposes an amendment by substituting the following annual apportionment amounts as found on page 293:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 17,800,000 | 0.0% |
| 1998 | 10,780,000 | 0.0% |
| 1999 | 10,952,488 | 1.6% |
| 2000 | 11,169,512 | 2.0% |
| Total | 43,682,000 | |

**GCFA is authorized to round to the nearest thousand and to make such edirtorial changes in text of report that may be required by the changes in these budgeted amounts.**

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1052-NonDis
**Subject: Africa University Fund**
Committee Item: FA210-NonDis-C
Petition:
21114-FA-NonDis-O, Pg. 294
Membership: 113; Present: 81;
For: 81; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1053-NonDis
**Subject: Episcopal Fund**
Committee Item: FA211-NonDis-A
Petition:
21115-FA-NonDis-O, Pg. 297
Membership: 113; Present: 81;
For: 81; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended by substituting the following annual apportionment amounts for those found on page 285:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1997 | $15,059,000 | 1.15% |
| 1998 | 14,945,000 | -0.8% |
| 1999 | 15,698,680 | 5.0% |
| 2000 | 16,003,234 | 1.9% |
| Total | 61,705,914 | |

GCFA is authorized to round to the nearest thousand and to make such editorial changes in text of report that may be required in the changes in these budgeted amounts.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1054-NonDis
**Subject: General Administration Fund**
Committee Item: FA212-NonDis-C
Petition:
21116-FA-NonDis-O, Pg. 304
Membership: 113; Present: 81;
For: 81; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1055-NonDis
**Subject: Interdenominational Cooperation Fund**
Committee Item: FA213-NonDis-C
Petition:
21117-FA-NonDis-O, Pg. 305
Membership: 113; Present: 81;
For: 81; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1056-NonDis
**Subject: Budget of the General Council on Finance and Administration**
Committee Item: FA214-NonDis-C
Petition:
21122-FA-NonDis-O, Pg. 320
Membership: 113; Present: 81;

For: 81; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1057**-NonDis
**Subject: Apportionment Formulas**
Committee Item: FA215-NonDis-C
Petition:
21118-FA-NonDis-O, Pg. 307
Membership: 113; Present: 78;
For: 75; Against: 3; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1058**-NonDis
**Subject: Special Sundays With Offerings**
Committee Item: FA216-NonDis-C
Petition:
21119-FA-NonDis-O, Pg. 309
Membership: 113; Present: 78;
For: 78; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1059**-NonDis
**Subject: Directives for the Administration of the General Funds**
Committee Item: FA217-NonDis-C
Petition:
21120-FA-NonDis-O, Pg. 311
Membership: 113; Present: 78;
For: 77; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1060**-NonDis
**Subject: References from Previous General Conferences**
Committee Item: FA218-NonDis-C
Petition:
21121-FA-NonDis-O, Pg. 313
Membership: 113; Present: 78;
For: 78; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1061**-NonDis
**Subject: Reports and Recommendations presented With Other General Agencies**
Committee Item: FA220-NonDis-C
Petition:
21124-FA-NonDis-O, Pg. 323
Membership: 113; Present: 93;
For: 93; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1062**-NonDis
**Subject: Resolutions on Special Sundays**
Committee Item: GJ113-NonDis-C
Petition:
21679-GJ-NonDis-O, Pg. 604
Membership: 98; Present: 81;
For: 81; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1063**-NonDis
**Subject: Black Church Growth**
Committee Item: GJ123-NonDis-C
Petition:
22355-GJ-NonDis-O, Pg. 1334
Membership: 98; Present: 79;
For: 79; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/21

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1064**-NonDis
**Subject: Programmatic Responsibilities for Strengthening the Black Church (Pan-Methodist)**
Committee Item: GJ124-NonDis-C
Petition:
21723-GJ-NonDis-O, Pg. 718
Membership: 98; Present: 79;
For: 79; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/21

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1065**-NonDis
**Subject: Churches' Center for Theology and Public Policy**
Committee Item: GJ129-NonDis-C
Petition:
21684-GJ-NonDis-O, Pg. 632
Membership: 98; Present: 79;
For: 78; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1066**-NonDis
**Subject: National Plan for Hispanic Ministries**
Committee Item: GJ130-NonDis-C
Petition:
21688-GJ-NonDis-O, Pg. 643
Membership: 98; Present: 79;
For: 79; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1067**-NonDis
**Subject: Reclaiming the Cities**
Committee Item: GJ131-NonDis-C
Petition:
21697-GJ-NonDis-O, Pg. 665
Membership: 98; Present: 79;
For: 79; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1068**-NonDis
**Subject: Priority on Crisis in the Cities**
Committee Item: GJ132-NonDis-C
Petition:
21696-GJ-NonDis-O, Pg. 663
Membership: 98; Present: 79;
For: 79; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1069**-NonDis
**Subject: Peace With Justice Special Program**
Committee Item: GJ133-NonDis-C
Petition:
21686-GJ-NonDis-O, Pg. 634
Membership: 98; Present: 79;
For: 79; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1070-NonDis
**Subject: Implementation of Theme**
Committee Item: GJ134-NonDis-C
Petition:
21693-GJ-NonDis-O, Pg. 659
Membership: 98; Present: 80;
For: 80; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1071-NonDis
**Subject: Implementation of Special Programs**
Committee Item: GJ135-NonDis-C
Petition:
21694-GJ-NonDis-O, Pg. 660
Membership: 98; Present: 80;
For: 80; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1072-NonDis
**Subject: Process for Developing Theme, Missional Priorities & Special Programs**
Committee Item: GJ136-NonDis-C
Petition:
21695-GJ-NonDis-O, Pg. 662
Membership: 98; Present: 80;
For: 79; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1073-NonDis
**Subject: Mission and Ministry in Alaska**
Committee Item: GJ137-NonDis-C
Petition:
21680-GJ-NonDis-O, Pg. 605
Membership: 98; Present: 80;
For: 80; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1074-NonDis
**Subject: Ethnic Local Church Concerns**
Committee Item: GJ139-NonDis-C
Petition:
22266-GJ-NonDis-O, Pg. 1334
Membership: 98; Present: 81;
For: 81; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1075-NonDis
**Subject: Report: The Global Nature of The Church**
Committee Item: GJ148-NonDis-C
Petition:
21718-GJ-NonDis-O, Pg. 168
Membership: 98; Present: 86;
For: 86; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1076-NonDis
**Subject: Program Funds of the General Board of Global Ministries**
Committee Item: GJ156-NonDis-C
Petition:
22483-GJ-NonDis-O, Pg. 1336
Membership: 98; Present: 83;
For: 83; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/21

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1077-NonDis
**Subject: Relocation of the General Board of Global Ministries**
Committee Item: GJ169-NonDis-C
Petition:
20719-GJ-NonDis-O, Pg. 716
Membership: 98; Present: 83;
For: 83; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/21

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1078-NonDis
**Subject: Evaluation of the General Program-Related Agencies, Etc.**
Committee Item: GJ255-NonDis-C
Petition:
21687-GJ-NonDis-O, Pg. 637
Membership: 98; Present: 69;
For: 69; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1079-NonDis
**Subject: Evaluation of GCOM**
Committee Item: GJ256-NonDis-C
Petition:
21691-GJ-NonDis-O, Pg. 654
Membership: 98; Present: 69;
For: 69; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1080-NonDis
**Subject: Interagency Task Force on Legislation**
Committee Item: GJ257-NonDis-C
Petition:
21692-GJ-NonDis-O, Pg. 659
Membership: 98; Present: 69;
For: 69; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1081-NonDis
**Subject: Response to Refugee Crisis**
Committee Item: GJ258-NonDis-C
Petition:
21698-GJ-NonDis-O, Pg. 665
Membership: 98; Present: 69;
For: 69; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1082-NonDis
**Subject: Grants from the World Service Contingency Fund**
Committee Item: GJ259-NonDis-C
Petition:
21699-GJ-NonDis-O, Pg. 666
Membership: 98; Present: 69;
For: 69; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1083**-NonDis
**Subject: Environmental Racism**
Committee Item: GJ260-NonDis-C
Petition:
21700-GJ-NonDis-O, Pg. 667
Membership: 98; Present: 69;
For: 69; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1084**-NonDis
**Subject: Training Events for New District Superintendents and Conference Council Directors**
Committee Item: GJ261-NonDis-C
Petition:
21706-GJ-NonDis-O, Pg. 670
Membership: 98; Present: 69;
For: 69; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1085**-NonDis
**Subject: Joint Training Events**
Committee Item: GJ262-NonDis-C
Petition:
21707-GJ-NonDis-O, Pg. 670
Membership: 98; Present: 69;
For: 69; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1086**-NonDis
**Subject: Telecommunications and Central Ordering**
Committee Item: GJ263-NonDis-C
Petition:
21708-GJ-NonDis-O, Pg. 671
Membership: 98; Present: 69;
For: 69; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1087**-NonDis
**Subject: Racial Harassment Policy**
Committee Item: GJ264-NonDis-C
Petition:
21710-GJ-NonDis-O, Pg. 672
Membership: 98; Present: 69;
For: 69; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1088**-NonDis
**Subject: Use of Name and Insignia**
Committee Item: GJ265-NonDis-C
Petition:
21712-GJ-NonDis-O, Pg. 674
Membership: 98; Present: 69;
For: 69; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1089**-NonDis
**Subject: Healing the Wounds of Genocidal Acts toward Native American and African American People**
Committee Item: IC62-NonDis-A
Petition:
20028-IC-NonDis-O, Pg. 915
Membership: 71; Present: 58;
For: 58; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

The General Conference shall direct the General Board of Church and Society and the General Commission on Religion and Race to work with governmental and other secular and religious agencies to enhance or develop museums that acknowledge acts of genocide toward ~~American Indians~~ **Native Americans** and African Americans and **other racial/ethnic groups** to commemorate the work by people of all colors to redress these wrongs.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1090**-NonDis
**Subject: Sexism**
Committee Item: IC98-NonDis-A
Petition:
22030-IC-NonDis-O, Pg. 1393
Membership: 71; Present: 55;
For: 55; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

~~SEXISM~~ **ERADICATION OF SEXISM IN THE CHURCH**

Whereas, sexism continues to be a pervasive and systematic force within our Church and our society; and

Whereas, sexism deprives the Church and society of the opportunity to use the skills and talents which women have; and

Whereas, the study showing the pervasiveness of sexual harassment throughout The United Methodist Church raised many concerns about changing this trend; and

Whereas, the recent Judicial Council decision ruling against the mandatory inclusion of women at all levels of the Church seems to be a sign that women are losing ground; and

Whereas, sexism, when not monitored, ~~continues to rear~~ **rears** its ugly head and ~~deny~~ **denies** the majority of women in The United Methodist Church the opportunity to participate fully and equally in all areas of the Church;

Therefore, be it resolved, that the General Conference affirm the work and the necessity for the continuance of the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women and of the annual conference Commissions on the Status and Role of Women; and

Be it further resolved, that each annual conference commission be given the financial backing to pursue projects which are aimed at educating the members of the local churches about the issues of sexism and at sponsoring the leadership events which enable the annual conference commission members to be better advocates for all who seek equity and inclusiveness; and

Be it further resolved, that the General Conference make it mandatory for each annual conference, United Methodist seminary, and all United Methodist-related institutions to have policies on sexual harassment in force by ~~January 1997~~ **General Conference 2000**; and

Be it further resolved, that ~~Black Methodist For Church Renewal~~ **the General Conference** supports the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women as the advocacy and monitoring agency of womens issues ~~in~~ **for increasing opportunities for females in leadership, promoting equality in filling decision-making posts, and fostering inclusiveness in all facets of** The United Methodist Church.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1091-NonDis
**Subject: Racism**
Committee Item: IC106-NonDis-C
Petition:
20726-IC-NonDis-O, Pg. 918
Membership: 71; Present: 58;
For: 58; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1092-NonDis
**Subject: Institutional Racism in General Church Processes**
Committee Item: IC109-NonDis-C
Petition:
22810-IC-NonDis-O, Pg. 1403
Membership: 71; Present: 58;
For: 55; Against: 0; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1093-R346
**Subject: A Program to Emphasize Inclusiveness in All Dimensions of the Church**
Committee Item: IC110-R346-C
Petition:
21606-IC-R346-U, Pg. 939
Membership: 71; Present: 58;
For: 55; Against: 3; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1094-NonDis
**Subject: Racism**
Committee Item: IC111-NonDis-C
Petition:
22031-IC-NonDis-O, Pg. 1393
Membership: 71; Present: 58;
For: 58; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1095-NonDis
**Subject: Racism Today**
Committee Item: IC112-NonDis-A
Petition:
20897-IC-NonDis-O, Pg. 921
Membership: 71; Present: 67;
For: 59; Against: 4; Not Voting: 4;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

The United Methodist Church made a prophetic witness against racism during the Civil Rights revolution, and we are committed to becoming a truly inclusive church. However, the face of racism in America has changed from the crudeness of segregation to more sophisticated but equally oppressive forms. If our church is to maintain a strong witness against racism and for an inclusive church, we need an analysis in keeping with the times.

Because of past inequality of opportunity and because of continuing discrimination against racial ethnic minorities, it is Pan-Africans, Latinos, and Native Americans which are hardest hit by rising unemployment. Because they have been kept at the bottom of the economic ladder in numbers disproportionate to their percentage of the general population, they are the first and the hardest hit by cuts in welfare, health care, education, and by harsher prison conditions and parole policies. These policies, seemingly racially neutral on their face, are harshly racist in their effect and implementation. One of the most blatant forms of this new sanitized racism is the rising clamor for imposition of the death penalty. Over 85% of the men on death row in United States prisons are Pan-African and Latino. This is due in large measure to their economic inability to afford high-priced legal representation, but it is never mentioned openly by those who cry the modern equivalent of Crucify him!

The new face of racism requires new remedies. To this end we call for:

1) the General Commission on Religion and Race to develop new programs to unmask and eliminate racism in its new guises.

2) every annual conference to conduct anti-racism training programs, with a list of organizations and groups who provide such training to be provided by GCORR;

~~3) increased salary and benefits to racial ethnic pastors who serve minimum salary churches in economically depressed and dangerous inner city communities; and~~

~~4~~3) continued United Methodist opposition to the death penalty, emphasizing its disproportionate impact upon racial ethnic persons;

~~5~~4) local churches to become intentionally multi-cultural and to share power with those they seek to include.

It is a simple issue of justice that we must ensure that racial/ethnic and women clergy who serve churches in economically depressed and/or blighted communities receive fair and equitable compensation. We strongly recommend that all annual and missionary conferences take appropriate steps to meet minimum salary and housing standards for pastors who serve in these circumstances.

In addition, we call for ~~the United States government to enact legislation:~~

~~1) creating public sector jobs for the chronically unemployed;~~

~~2) for continued funding for America Corp;~~

~~3) placing a~~ local, state and national governments to place greater emphasis on education, job creation, drug rehabilitation, and community development than on building prisons, hiring police, and the imposition of ~~imposing~~ the death penalty.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1096-NonDis
**Subject: 1992 General Conference Referral-Membership in Supremacist Groups**
Committee Item: IC114-NonDis-C
Petition:
20968-IC-NonDis-O, Pg. 849
Membership: 71; Present: 61;
For: 53; Against: 5; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1097-NonDis
**Subject: In Support of Reparations for African Americans**
Committee Item: IC115-NonDis-A
Petition:
20728-IC-NonDis-O, Pg. 919
Membership: 71; Present: 58;
For: 48; Against: 7; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Whereas, at the conclusion

....from 1619 to the present day, for the purpose of submitting a report to Congress for further action and consideration with respect to slaverys effects on African American lives, economics, and politics, and

~~Whereas, the Northern Illinois Annual Conference voted June 8, 1991, to refer to the General Conference Delegation a petition similar to this one; and~~

~~Whereas, no report of any action or attempt to consider and present this petition to the General Conference was ever made to the Northern Illinois Annual Conference or to Chicago BMCR (the then sponsor of this petition);~~

Therefore, be it resolved:

1) that we support the discussion and study of reparation for African Americans;

2) that we petition President Bill Clinton, Vice President Al Gore, and the United States House of Representatives to support the passage and signing of H.R. 40;

3) that the General commission on Religion and Race, and the General Board of Church and Society develop a strategy for interpreting and promoting the issue of economic reparations for African Americans ~~in The United Methodist Church~~;

4) and that a written copy of this petition be delivered to ~~Congressman John Conyers, Jr., House Speaker Newt Gingrich, the President, Vice President, and Congressional Representatives within the bounds of the Northern Illinois Conference~~ **the President and Vice President of the United States; United States Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole , House Speaker Newt Gingrich and Member John Conyers, Jr.**

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1098-R159

**Subject: Affirmative Action**
Committee Item: IC116-R159-A
Petition:
20969-IC-R159-U, Pg. 931
Membership: 71; Present: 55;
For: 52; Against: 2; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Delete the current resolution on p. 159 of *The Book of Resolutions* and replace with the following:

The United Methodist Church has long been...

...in which the lives of each and all will flourish.

For this fundamental reason, we reconfirm our commitment to the concept of affirmative action. **The use of numerical goals and timetables are a legitimate and necessary tool of effective affirmative action programs.** This concept retains its pertinence as a means of attaining a more inclusive society in our educational systems, in our businesses and industries, and in religious and other institutions. No persons—whatever their gender, their ethnic or racial heritage, their physical condition—should be deprived of pursuing their educational or employment aspirations to the full extent of their talents and abilities.

**Fairness is the rule for affirmative action guaranteeing more opportunities for all to compete for jobs. Indeed, the purpose of affirmative action has always been to create an environment where merit can prevail.**

Rather than curtail or abolish programs in affirmative action, we should instead move toward the reallocation of the resources of our society to assure such opportunities for all.

At the same time, given the tenacity of many forms of racism, sexism, and ableism—both blatant and subtle—the concept of affirmative action retains its relevance as part of an overall effort to create a more just and equitable social system.

Therefore, be it resolved, that the 1996 General Conference of The United Methodist Church ~~call~~ **calls** upon all its members to:

1. affirm ~~the~~ **our** Judeo-Christian heritage of justice and inclusiveness as a foundation for the concept of affirmative action;

2. constitute a model for others in society by practicing and strengthening ~~their~~ **our** own affirmative action policies whatever ~~their~~ **our** station in life;

3. declare ~~their~~ **our** support of efforts throughout the society to sustain, ~~if not~~ **and where needed,** strengthen, affirmative action legislation and programs;

4. collaborate with movements **and initiatives** seeking to insure effective participation of ethnic/racial minorities, women, and persons with disabilities in all sectors of our society;

5. interpret the genuine meaning of affirmative action **dispelling the myths and** ~~in response~~ **responding to** the specious appeals that would undercut **and vilify** affirmative action policies **and programs.**

Be it further resolved, that the 1996 General Conference reaffirm its mandate to implement affirmative action programs in all general church boards and agencies, annual conferences, church-related institutions, districts, and local churches.

Be it further resolved, that the General Commissions on Religion and Race and Status and Role of Women continue to monitor The United Methodist Church and related institutions and to provide assistance in helping them move toward greater conformity with the principle of inclusiveness.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1099-NonDis

**Subject: Racism in Rural Areas Task Force Report**
Committee Item: IC119-NonDis-A
Petition:
20971-IC-NonDis-O, Pg. 849
Membership: 71; Present: 65;
For: 64; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends that the report be accepted with the following amendments:

On page 850, left column, first para., delete 4th sentence which reads: ~~One day in April 1995 changed all that: the bombing in Oklahoma City.~~ Replace with: **However, the prevalence of several acts of domestic terrorism in the 1990's redirected our perspectives.**

On page 850, right column, first full para., delete 4th sentence which reads: ~~In the 1990's, an Oklahoma City bombing emerges from a climate of hate and violence espoused by various hate groups, many based in rural areas.~~ Replace with: **Furthermore, in the 1990's, the fear and paranoia in many isolated and rural areas provide a seed bed that extremist groups exploit to serve their own bigoted agenda.**

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1100-NonDis

**Subject: Affirmation of Support for the Ecumenical Decade of the Churches in Solidarity with Women**
Committee Item: IC122-NonDis-A
Petition:
21079-IC-NonDis-O, Pg. 922
Membership: 71; Present: 54;
For: 51; Against: 1; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Whereas, The United Methodist Church at many levels....

....poverty, powerlessness and violence;

Continue in study, spiritual reflection and advocacy related to full voice and participation of women at every level of church and society **in accordance with United Methodist doctrinal standards.**

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1101-NonDis
**Subject: Support "Racism in Rural Areas" Task Force Report**
Committee Item: IC130-NonDis-A
Petition:
22429-IC-NonDis-O, Pg. 1396
Membership: 71; Present: 67;
For: 67; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Whereas, the Racism in Rural Areas Task Force, created by the 1992 General Conference, through comprehensive study, has indeed determined that racism is alive and active in our society and in the church in rural areas; and

Whereas, racism is sin, separating us from God and one another; and

Whereas, a manifestation of sin is injustice, abuse, and violence; and

Whereas, the task force found personal and institutional racism and inter-ethnic conflict in rural areas throughout the United States;

Therefore, be it resolved, that the 1996 General Conference of The United Methodist Church ~~affirm~~ **affirms** the work of the Racism in Rural Areas Task Force, ~~accept~~ **accepts** the report, and ~~approve~~ **approves** the adoption and implementation of the recommendations contained in the report.

**Be it also resolved that the 1996 General Conference of the United Methodist Church designates The Elimination of Racism in its Many Forms as a special emphasis of the church, to be addressed by every level of the church, and to be included by every general board and agency as one of the continuing priorities for the quadrennium 1997-2000.**

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1102-NonDis
**Subject: Racism in Rural Areas of the United States and the Church's Response**
Committee Item: IC131-NonDis-A
Petition:
22670-IC-NonDis-O, Pg. 1398
Membership: 71; Present: 67;
For: 65; Against: 1; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Approve the resolution as is to the section that follows the Whereas para. Place numbers on the first two para. and renumber those following:

....Therefore, be it resolved, that the 1996 General Conference accept and move to implement the following recommendations of the Racism in Rural Areas Task Force:

General Church: It is recommended that

**1.** The Rural Chaplains Association, a network of clergy and lay persons, be affirmed in its work with individuals, rural churches, and communities in *shalom* ministries, and that the General Board of Global Ministries continue to resource the rural chaplains.

**2.** Training be made available by the General Commission on Religion and Race to enable each annual conference Commission on Religion and Race to serve as a resource and support group for promoting cross-cultural understanding in rural areas.

~~3.~~**3.** New rural-oriented resources on racism and inter-ethnic conflict be developed by the General Board of Discipleship, in consultation with the General Commission on Religion and Race. These resources should be developed for all age-level educational work of the church.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1103-NonDis
**Subject: Eradication of Racism in the United Methodist Church**
Committee Item: IC132-NonDis-C
Petition:
22032-IC-NonDis-O, Pg. 1393
Membership: 71; Present: 58;
For: 58; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1104-NonDis
**Subject: Work Area on Prayer in the Local Church**
Committee Item: LC212-NonDis-A
Petition:
20725-LC-NonDis-O, Pg. 968
Membership: 89; Present: 62;
For: 62; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows: 1. In title of petition delete the words, Work Area On.

2. Delete the last paragraph and substitute the following: Therefore, be it resolved that the 1996 General Conference affirm its belief in prayer ministries and that this resolution be published in the Book of Resolutions.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1105-NonDis
**Subject: Sexual Abuse Within the Ministerial Relationship and Sexual Harassment Within the UM Church**
Committee Item: MN655-NonDis-A
Petition:
20851-MN-NonDis-O, Pg. 1102
Membership: 113; Present: 96;
For: 96; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Item 1, points d, e, h

Change grievance to complaint

Page 1103, line 3

Change in to within

Page 1104 (g)

Insert after fair process: concern for safeguarding the confidential nature of the process,

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

# Consent Calendar C04

## 1106-705
**Subject: Definition of "Clergy Session"**
Committee Item: CO30-705-N
Petition:
22179-CO-705-D, Pg. 1268
Membership: 86; Present: 69;
For: 66; Against: 0; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1107**-611.2
**Subject: Regarding the Book of Resolution**
Committee Item: CO52-611.2-N
Petition:
22623-CO-611.2-D, Pg. 1265
Membership: 86; Present: 67;
For: 64; Against: 0; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1108**-611.2
**Subject: Regarding the Book of Resolutions**
Committee Item: CO53-611.2-N
Petition:
22173-CO-611.2-D, Pg. 1264
Membership: 86; Present: 67;
For: 63; Against: 0; Not Voting: 4;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1109**-611.2
**Subject: Review of Resolutions**
Committee Item: CO54-611.2-N
Petition:
20559-CO-611.2-D, Pg. 182
Membership: 86; Present: 67;
For: 62; Against: 2; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1110**-611.2
**Subject: General Council on Ministry**
Committee Item: CO55-611.2-N
Petition:
20987-CO-611.2-D, Pg. 1264
Membership: 86; Present: 66;
For: 63; Against: 0; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1111**-602
**Subject: Composition of The General Conference**
Committee Item: CO63-602-R
Petition:
22164-CO-602-D, Pg. 1262
Membership: 86; Present: 69;
For: 55; Against: 7; Not Voting: 7;
Date: 4/21

The Committee recommends referral to GCOM — Connectional Issues Study

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1112**-602
**Subject: Composition of The General Conference**
Committee Item: CO64-602-R
Petition:
22163-CO-602-D, Pg. 1262
Membership: 86; Present: 69;
For: 55; Against: 7; Not Voting: 7;
Date: 4/21

The Committee recommends referral to GCOM Connectional Issues Study

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1113**-602
**Subject: Composition of General Conference**
Committee Item: CO65-602-R
Petition:
20874-CO-602-D, Pg. 179
Membership: 86; Present: 69;
For: 55; Against: 7; Not Voting: 7;
Date: 4/21

The Committee recommends referral to GCOM—Connectional Issues Study

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1114**-602
**Subject: Composition of General Conference**
Committee Item: CO66-602-R
Petition:
20873-CO-602-D, Pg. 1261
Membership: 86; Present: 69;
For: 55; Against: 7; Not Voting: 7;
Date: 4/21

The Committee recommends referral to the GCOM Connectional Issues Study

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1115**-602
**Subject: Composition of General Conference**
Committee Item: CO67-602-R
Petition:
20199-CO-602-D, Pg. 179
Membership: 86; Present: 69;
For: 55; Against: 7; Not Voting: 7;
Date: 4/21

The Committee recommends referral to GCOM — Connectional Issues Study

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1116**-602
**Subject: Composition of The General Conference**
Committee Item: CO68-602-R
Petition:
21609-CO-602-D, Pg. 180
Membership: 86; Present: 69;
For: 55; Against: 7; Not Voting: 7;
Date: 4/21

The Committee recommends referral to GCOM —Connectional Issue Study

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1117**-602.2
**Subject: Definition of membership in the Annual Conference**
Committee Item: CO69-602.2-R
Petition:
20290-CO-602.2-D, Pg. 180
Membership: 86; Present: 69;
For: 55; Against: 7; Not Voting: 7;
Date: 4/21

The Committee recommends referral to GCOM — Connectional Issue Study

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1118**-602.2
**Subject: Composition of the General Conference**
Committee Item: CO70-602.2-R
Petition:
20962-CO-602.2-D, Pg. 180
Membership: 86; Present: 69;
For: 55; Against: 7; Not Voting: 7;
Date: 4/21

The Committee recommends referral to GCOM Connectional Issue Study

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1119**-602.3
**Subject: Delegates to General Conference by Annual Conferences**
Committee Item: CO71-602.3-R
Petition:
20963-CO-602.3-D, Pg. 180
Membership: 86; Present: 69;
For: 55; Against: 7; Not Voting: 7;
Date: 4/21

The Committee recommends referral to GCOM — Connectional Issue Study

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1120**-602.3
**Subject: Membership of General Conference**
Committee Item: CO72-602.3-R
Petition:

22165-CO-602.3-D, Pg. 1262
Membership: 86; Present: 69;
For: 55; Against: 7; Not Voting: 7;
Date: 4/21

The Committee recommends referral to GCOM Connectional Issue Study

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1121-747
**Subject: Committee on Ministry**
Committee Item: CO84-747-N
Petition:
20068-CO-747-D, Pg. 200
Membership: 86; Present: 61;
For: 59; Against: 0; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1122-638.32
**Subject: Status of Retired Bishops**
Committee Item: CO94-638.32-N
Petition:
20562-CO-638.32-D, Pg. 182
Membership: 86; Present: 67;
For: 64; Against: 0; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1123-630
**Subject: Eliminate Jurisdictional Agencies**
Committee Item: CO95-630-N
Petition:
20561-CO-630-D, Pg. 182
Membership: 86; Present: 67;
For: 55; Against: 9; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1124-612.1
**Subject: Interjurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy and Number of Bishops in Jurisdictions**
Committee Item: CO99-612.1-N
Petition:
22174-CO-612.1-D, Pg. 1265
Membership: 86; Present: 67;
For: 64; Against: 0; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1125-38
**Subject: Ministerial Delegates to Conferences**
Committee Item: CO102-38-N
Petition:
20064-CO-38-C, Pg. 177
Membership: 86; Present: 53;
For: 51; Against: 0; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1126-38
**Subject: Election of Clergy Delegates to General and Jurisdictional or Central Conferences**
Committee Item: CO103-38-N
Petition:
20872-CO-38-C, Pg. 1260
Membership: 86; Present: 53;
For: 51; Against: 0; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1127-38
**Subject: Ministerial Delegates to General, Jurisdictional or Central Conferences**
Committee Item: CO104-38-N
Petition:
22156-CO-38-C, Pg. 1260
Membership: 86; Present: 53;
For: 51; Against: 0; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1128-38
**Subject: Election & Eligibility of Clergy Delegates to General, Jurisdictional or Central Conference**
Committee Item: CO105-38-N
Petition:
22157-CO-38-C, Pg. 1260
Membership: 86; Present: 53;
For: 51; Against: 0; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1129-NonDis
**Subject: Allow Part-Time and Student Pastors to Vote at Annual Conference**
Committee Item: CO106-NonDis-N
Petition:
22194-CO-NonDis-O, Pg. 1273
Membership: 86; Present: 53;
For: 51; Against: 0; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1130-702.2
**Subject: Consistency in Responsibilities & Privileges of Ordained and Local Pastors**
Committee Item: CO107-702.2-N
Petition:
23025-CO-702.2-D, Pg. 1267
Membership: 86; Present: 69;
For: 66; Against: 0; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1131-702.1
**Subject: Local Pastors Voting Rights**
Committee Item: CO108-702.1-N
Petition:
22911-CO-702.1-D, Pg. 1267
Membership: 86; Present: 69;
For: 66; Against: 0; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1132-702.3
**Subject: Voting Rights for Deaconesses**
Committee Item: CO109-702.3-N
Petition:
22624-CO-702.3-D, Pg. 1267
Membership: 86; Present: 69;
For: 66; Against: 0; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1133**-702.1
**Subject: Consistency in Responsibilities of Ordained and Local Pastors**
Committee Item: CO111-702.1-N
Petition:
22350-CO-702.1-D, Pg. 1267
Membership: 86; Present: 69;
For: 66; Against: 0; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1134**-702.1
**Subject: Composition and Character**
Committee Item: CO112-702.1-N
Petition:
22185-CO-702.1-D, Pg. 1267
Membership: 86; Present: 69;
For: 66; Against: 0; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1135**-702.2
**Subject: Voting Members of The Annual Conference**
Committee Item: CO113-702.2-N
Petition:
22177-CO-702.2-D, Pg. 1267
Membership: 86; Present: 69;
For: 66; Against: 0; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1136**-702
**Subject: Voting Rights for Clergy Members**
Committee Item: CO114-702-N
Petition:
22176-CO-702-D, Pg. 1266
Membership: 86; Present: 69;
For: 66; Against: 0; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1137**-702
**Subject: Voting Rights of Pastors**
Committee Item: CO115-702-N
Petition:
22175-CO-702-D, Pg. 1266
Membership: 86; Present: 69;
For: 66; Against: 0; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1138**-702
**Subject: Composition and Character**
Committee Item: CO116-702-N
Petition:
21615-CO-702-D, Pg. 186
Membership: 86; Present: 69;
For: 66; Against: 0; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1139**-702.2
**Subject: Composition and Character**
Committee Item: CO117-702.2-N
Petition:
21608-CO-702.2-D, Pg. 187
Membership: 86; Present: 69;
For: 66; Against: 0; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1140**-702.1
**Subject: Composition and Character**
Committee Item: CO118-702.1-N
Petition:
21607-CO-702.1-D, Pg. 187
Membership: 86; Present: 69;
For: 66; Against: 0; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1141**-702
**Subject: Voting Rights for Clergy Members**
Committee Item: CO120-702-N
Petition:
20875-CO-702-D, Pg. 186
Membership: 86; Present: 69;
For: 66; Against: 0; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1142**-507.3
**Subject: Assignment of a Bishop to Oversee The Native American Comprehensive Plan With the Church**
Committee Item: CO121-507.3-R
Petition:
22162-CO-507.3-D, Pg. 1261
Membership: 86; Present: 77;
For: 75; Against: 0; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/21

The Committee recommends referral to the Council of Bishops

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1143**-507.1
**Subject: Assignment of Bishops**
Committee Item: CO122-507.1-N
Petition:
20535-CO-507.1-D, Pg. 178
Membership: 86; Present: 70;
For: 61; Against: 6; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1144**-506.2
**Subject: Process of Election at Jurisdictional and Central Conferences**
Committee Item: CO123-506.2-N
Petition:
22734-CO-506.2-D, Pg. 1261
Membership: 86; Present: 69;
For: 66; Against: 0; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1145**-506.2
**Subject: Election of Bishops and Limited Tenure**
Committee Item: CO125-506.2-N
Petition:
20854-CO-506.2-D, Pg. 178
Membership: 86; Present: 69;
For: 55; Against: 10; Not Voting: 4;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1146-506.2
**Subject: Election of Bishops and Limited Tenure**
Committee Item: CO126-506.2-N
Petition:
22161-CO-506.2-D, Pg. 1261
Membership: 86; Present: 69;
For: 55; Against: 10; Not Voting: 4;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1147-NonDis
**Subject: Jurisdictional Accessibility Advocates Association**
Committee Item: CO127-NonDis-N
Petition:
21673-CO-NonDis-O, Pg. 205
Membership: 86; Present: 69;
For: 64; Against: 1; Not Voting: 4;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1148-NonDis
**Subject: General Language Change**
Committee Item: CO128-NonDis-N
Petition:
22197-CO-NonDis-O, Pg. 1274
Membership: 86; Present: 66;
For: 62; Against: 1; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1149-726
**Subject: Annual Conference Council on Ministries**
Committee Item: CO129-726-N
Petition:
20367-CO-726-D, Pg. 194
Membership: 86; Present: 76;
For: 71; Against: 1; Not Voting: 4;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1150-726
**Subject: Conference Council on Ministries**
Committee Item: CO130-726-N
Petition:
20430-CO-726-D, Pg. 194
Membership: 86; Present: 76;
For: 71; Against: 1; Not Voting: 4;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1151-726
**Subject: Annual Conference Council on Ministries**
Committee Item: CO131-726-N
Petition:
21618-CO-726-D, Pg. 196
Membership: 86; Present: 76;
For: 71; Against: 1; Not Voting: 4;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1152-726
**Subject: Flexibility in Conference Council on Ministries**
Committee Item: CO132-726-N
Petition:
22181-CO-726-D, Pg. 1268
Membership: 86; Present: 76;
For: 71; Against: 1; Not Voting: 4;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1153-726
**Subject: Annual Conference Council on Ministries**
Committee Item: CO133-726-N
Petition:
20475-CO-726-D, Pg. 194
Membership: 86; Present: 76;
For: 71; Against: 1; Not Voting: 4;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1154-726
**Subject: Conference Council on Ministries**
Committee Item: CO134-726-N
Petition:
20544-CO-726-D, Pg. 194
Membership: 86; Present: 76;
For: 71; Against: 1; Not Voting: 4;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1155-726
**Subject: Eliminate Conference Council on Ministries**
Committee Item: CO135-726-N
Petition:
20566-CO-726-D, Pg. 195
Membership: 86; Present: 76;
For: 71; Against: 1; Not Voting: 4;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1156-726
**Subject: Conference Council on Ministries**
Committee Item: CO136-726-N
Petition:
20490-CO-726-D, Pg. 194
Membership: 86; Present: 76;
For: 71; Against: 1; Not Voting: 4;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1157-702
**Subject: Part-Time and Student Local Pastors**
Committee Item: CO139-702-N
Petition:
20066-CO-702-D, Pg. 185
Membership: 86; Present: 69;
For: 66; Against: 0; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1158-702
**Subject: Composition and character of the Annual Conference**
Committee Item: CO140-702-N
Petition:
20188-CO-702-D, Pg. 185
Membership: 86; Present: 69;
For: 66; Against: 0; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1159**-702
**Subject: Definition of membership in the Annual Conference**
Committee Item: CO141-702-N
Petition:
20291-CO-702-D, Pg. 185
Membership: 86; Present: 69;
For: 66; Against: 0; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1160**-702
**Subject: Annual Conference membership of Local pastors**
Committee Item: CO142-702-N
Petition:
20308-CO-702-D, Pg. 185
Membership: 86; Present: 69;
For: 66; Against: 0; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1161**-702
**Subject: Clergy Membership of Annual Conference**
Committee Item: CO143-702-N
Petition:
20543-CO-702-D, Pg. 186
Membership: 86; Present: 69;
For: 66; Against: 0; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1162**-702
**Subject: Part-Time Local Pastors**
Committee Item: CO144-702-N
Petition:
20711-CO-702-D, Pg. 186
Membership: 86; Present: 69;
For: 66; Against: 0; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1163**-702
**Subject: Clergy Conference Membership**
Committee Item: CO145-702-N
Petition:
20784-CO-702-D, Pg. 1266
Membership: 86; Present: 69;
For: 66; Against: 0; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1164**-702.1
**Subject: Local Pastors Voting Rights**
Committee Item: CO146-702.1-N
Petition:
20785-CO-702.1-D, Pg. 1266
Membership: 86; Present: 69;
For: 66; Against: 0; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1165**-726.5
**Subject: Committee on Communications**
Committee Item: CO147-726.5-N
Petition:
20436-CO-726.5-D, Pg. 198
Membership: 86; Present: 75;
For: 72; Against: 0; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1166**-726.2
**Subject: Annual Conference Council on Ministries Membership**
Committee Item: CO148-726.2-N
Petition:
22182-CO-726.2-D, Pg. 1269
Membership: 86; Present: 72;
For: 69; Against: 0; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1167**-726.10
**Subject: Responsibilities of the Annual Conference Council on Ministries**
Committee Item: CO149-726.10-N
Petition:
22183-CO-726.10-D, Pg. 1269
Membership: 86; Present: 74;
For: 68; Against: 2; Not Voting: 4;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1168**-726.10
**Subject: Responsibilities of Annual Conference Council on Ministries**
Committee Item: CO150-726.10-N
Petition:
22184-CO-726.10-D, Pg. 1269
Membership: 86; Present: 74;
For: 68; Against: 2; Not Voting: 4;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1169**-704.13
**Subject: Power and Authority of Annual Conference**
Committee Item: CO151-704.13-N
Petition:
20427-CO-704.13-D, Pg. 189
Membership: 86; Present: 64;
For: 62; Against: 0; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1170**-726.5
**Subject: Committee on Ethnic Local Church Concerns**
Committee Item: CO152-726.5-N
Petition:
20435-CO-726.5-D, Pg. 197
Membership: 86; Present: 71;
For: 61; Against: 7; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1171**-726.5
**Subject: Committee on Publishing House Liaison**
Committee Item: CO153-726.5-N
Petition:
21368-CO-726.5-D, Pg. 199
Membership: 86; Present: 75;
For: 72; Against: 0; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1172**-726.10
**Subject: Responsibilities**
Committee Item: CO154-726.10-N
Petition:
21369-CO-726.10-D, Pg. 199
Membership: 86; Present: 75;
For: 72; Against: 0; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1173**-726.10
**Subject: Responsibilities**
Committee Item: CO155-726.10-N
Petition:
21370-CO-726.10-D, Pg. 200
Membership: 86; Present: 75;
For: 72; Against: 0; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1174**-726.10
**Subject: Responsibilities**
Committee Item: CO156-726.10-N
Petition:
21371-CO-726.10-D, Pg. 200
Membership: 86; Present: 75;
For: 72; Against: 0; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1175**-726.5
**Subject: Committees, Task Forces, and Consultations**
Committee Item: CO157-726.5-N
Petition:
21299-CO-726.5-D, Pg. 199
Membership: 86; Present: 71;
For: 61; Against: 7; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1176**-726
**Subject: Committee on Hispanic Ministry**
Committee Item: CO158-726-N
Petition:
21300-CO-726-D, Pg. 195
Membership: 86; Present: 71;
For: 61; Against: 7; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1177**-726.5
**Subject: Committees, Task Forces, and Consultations**
Committee Item: CO159-726.5-N
Petition:
21366-CO-726.5-D, Pg. 199
Membership: 86; Present: 73;
For: 69; Against: 0; Not Voting: 4;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1178**-726.5
**Subject: Committee on Communication**
Committee Item: CO160-726.5-N
Petition:
21367-CO-726.5-D, Pg. 199
Membership: 86; Present: 75;
For: 72; Against: 0; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1179**-726.5
**Subject: Other Committees and Responsibilities**
Committee Item: CO161-726.5-N
Petition:
20492-CO-726.5-D, Pg. 199
Membership: 86; Present: 74;
For: 68; Against: 2; Not Voting: 4;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1180**-726
**Subject: Program Coordinator**
Committee Item: CO162-726-N
Petition:
20545-CO-726-D, Pg. 195
Membership: 86; Present: 73;
For: 69; Against: 0; Not Voting: 4;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1181**-726.7
**Subject: Director**
Committee Item: CO163-726.7-N
Petition:
20440-CO-726.7-D, Pg. 199
Membership: 86; Present: 73;
For: 69; Against: 0; Not Voting: 4;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1182**-726.7
**Subject: Responsibilities**
Committee Item: CO164-726.7-N
Petition:
20441-CO-726.-D, Pg. 199
Membership: 86; Present: 73;
For: 69; Against: 0; Not Voting: 4;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1183**-726.5
**Subject: Committee on Evaluation**
Committee Item: CO165-726.5-N
Petition:
20438-CO-726.5-D, Pg. 198
Membership: 86; Present: 73;
For: 69; Against: 0; Not Voting: 4;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1184**-726.5
**Subject: Committee on Planning and Research**
Committee Item: CO166-726.5-N
Petition:
20437-CO-726.5-D, Pg. 198
Membership: 86; Present: 73;
For: 69; Against: 0; Not Voting: 4;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1185**-726.5
**Subject: Committee on Publishing House Liaison**
Committee Item: CO167-726.5-N
Petition:
20442-CO-726.5-D, Pg. 198
Membership: 86; Present: 75;
For: 72; Against: 0; Not Voting: 3;

Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1186**-726.5
**Subject: Committee Task Forces and Consultation**
Committee Item: CO168-726.5-N
Petition:
20365-CO-726.5-D, Pg. 197
Membership: 86; Present: 71;
For: 61; Against: 7; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1187**-726.5
**Subject: Committee on Ethnic Local Church Concerns**
Committee Item: CO169-726.5-N
Petition:
20366-CO-726.5-D, Pg. 197
Membership: 86; Present: 71;
For: 61; Against: 7; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1188**-726.2
**Subject: Membership**
Committee Item: CO170-726.2-N
Petition:
20431-CO-726.2-D, Pg. 197
Membership: 86; Present: 72;
For: 69; Against: 0; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1189**-726.3
**Subject: Officers of Conference Council on Ministries**
Committee Item: CO171-726.3-N
Petition:
20432-CO-726.3-D, Pg. 197
Membership: 86; Present: 71;
For: 69; Against: 0; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1190**-726.4
**Subject: Executive Committee of the Conference Council on Ministries**
Committee Item: CO172-726.4-N
Petition:
20433-CO-726.4-D, Pg. 197
Membership: 86; Present: 71;
For: 69; Against: 0; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1191**-726.5
**Subject: Committees,Task Forces, and Consultations**
Committee Item: CO173-726.5-N
Petition:
20434-CO-726.5-D, Pg. 197
Membership: 86; Present: 71;
For: 61; Against: 7; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1192**-726.2
**Subject: Membership of the Council on Ministries**
Committee Item: CO174-726.2-N
Petition:
20364-CO-726.2-D, Pg. 196
Membership: 86; Present: 72;
For: 69; Against: 0; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1193**-NonDis-$
**Subject: Metropolitan-Based Episcopal Areas**
Committee Item: CO175-NonDis-N$
Petition:
20542-CO-NonDis-O$, Pg. 204
Membership: 86; Present: 77;
For: 74; Against: 0; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1194**-NonDis
**Subject: Appoint a Task Force to rewrite sections of the Book of Discipline**
Committee Item: CO178-NonDis-N
Petition:
21125-CO-NonDis-O$, Pg. 203
Membership: 86; Present: 59;
For: 56; Against: 1; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1195**-NonDis
**Subject: Revise The Book of Discipline**
Committee Item: CO180-NonDis-N
Petition:
20233-CO-NonDis-O$, Pg. 203
Membership: 86; Present: 58;
For: 54; Against: 1; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1196**-NonDis
**Subject: Index to The Book of Discipline to show the membership/lay participation**
Committee Item: CO181-NonDis-N
Petition:
20249-CO-NonDis-O, Pg. 204
Membership: 86; Present: 59;
For: 57; Against: 0; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1197**-NonDis
**Subject: Approach legislation on paragraph 71.F and all matters at Gen. Conf. with prayer and openess**
Committee Item: CO182-NonDis-N
Petition:
20264-CO-NonDis-O, Pg. 204
Membership: 86; Present: 60;
For: 55; Against: 1; Not Voting: 4;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1198**-NonDis
**Subject: Use Standard English in The Book of Discipline**
Committee Item: CO183-NonDis-N
Petition:
22198-CO-NonDis-O, Pg. 1274
Membership: 86; Present: 61;

For: 59; Against: 0; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1199-NonDis
**Subject: Regarding Longstanding Inequities Toward Men in the Book of Resolutions**
Committee Item: CO186-NonDis-N
Petition:
22650-CO-NonDis-O, Pg. 1275
Membership: 86; Present: 61;
For: 59; Against: 0; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1200-700
**Subject: Conference Commission on Communication**
Committee Item: CO187-700-N
Petition:
21624-CO-700-D, Pg. 184
Membership: 86; Present: 59;
For: 57; Against: 1; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1201-700
**Subject: Establish a Conference Nominating Committee**
Committee Item: CO188-700-N
Petition:
22352-CO-700-D, Pg. 1265
Membership: 86; Present: 60;
For: 58; Against: 0; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1202-700
**Subject: Formation of an Annual Conference Committee on Petitions**
Committee Item: CO189-700-N
Petition:
22353-CO-700-D, Pg. 1265
Membership: 86; Present: 60;
For: 58; Against: 0; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1203-NonDis
**Subject: Annual Conference Membership**
Committee Item: CO190-NonDis-N
Petition:
23016-CO-NonDis-O, Pg. 1276
Membership: 86; Present: 60;
For: 57; Against: 0; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1204-38
**Subject: Clergy Conference Membership**
Committee Item: CO192-38-N
Petition:
20782-CO-38-C, Pg. 1259
Membership: 86; Present: 53;
For: 51; Against: 0; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1205-703.8
**Subject: Conference Lay Leader**
Committee Item: CO193-703.8-N
Petition:
20563-CO-703.8-D, Pg. 188
Membership: 86; Present: 61;
For: 58; Against: 0; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1206-706.9
**Subject: Records and Archives**
Committee Item: CO194-706.9-N
Petition:
20363-CO-706.9-D, Pg. 189
Membership: 86; Present: 59;
For: 58; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1207-752
**Subject: The District Council**
Committee Item: CO197-752-N
Petition:
20194-CO-752-D, Pg. 201
Membership: 86; Present: 67;
For: 63; Against: 0; Not Voting: 4;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1208-702
**Subject: Composition and Character of Annual Conference**
Committee Item: CO199-702-N
Petition:
20754-CO-702-D, Pg. 186
Membership: 86; Present: 59;
For: 57; Against: 0; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1209-703.2
**Subject: Timing of Conferences**
Committee Item: CO200-703.2-N
Petition:
20205-CO-703.2-D, Pg. 188
Membership: 86; Present: 64;
For: 59; Against: 1; Not Voting: 4;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1210-36
**Subject: Annual Conferences**
Committee Item: CO203-36-N
Petition:
22622-CO-36-C, Pg. 1259
Membership: 86; Present: 69;
For: 66; Against: 0; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1211-702.1
**Subject: Enabling Laity as Voting Members of the Clergy Session**
Committee Item: CO204-702.1-N
Petition:
20189-CO-702.1-D, Pg. 187
Membership: 86; Present: 69;
For: 66; Against: 0; Not Voting: 3;

Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1212-36
**Subject: Remove Prohibition of Laity voting on Ordination, Character, and Conference Relations of Ministers**
Committee Item: CO205-36-N
Petition:
20186-CO-36-C, Pg. 177
Membership: 86; Present: 69;
For: 66; Against: 0; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1213-37
**Subject: Delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conferences**
Committee Item: CO208-37-N
Petition:
22733-CO-37-C, Pg. 1259
Membership: 86; Present: 59;
For: 58; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1214-NonDis
**Subject: Responsibility of Annual Conference staff persons**
Committee Item: CO210-NonDis-N
Petition:
20231-CO-NonDis-O, Pg. 203
Membership: 86; Present: 64;
For: 62; Against: 0; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1215-702
**Subject: Voting Status of Retired Clergy at Annual Conference**
Committee Item: CO211-702-N
Petition:
20204-CO-702-D, Pg. 185
Membership: 86; Present: 64;
For: 62; Against: 0; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1216-706.2
**Subject: General Council on Ministries**
Committee Item: CO213-706.2-N
Petition:
20988-CO-706.2-D, Pg. 1268
Membership: 86; Present: 63;
For: 61; Against: 0; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1217-706.2
**Subject: Eliminate General Council on Ministries**
Committee Item: CO214-706.2-N
Petition:
20564-CO-706.2-D, Pg. 189
Membership: 86; Present: 63;
For: 61; Against: 0; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1218-NonDis
**Subject: Annual Conference Voting by Retired Clergy**
Committee Item: CO215-NonDis-N
Petition:
20869-CO-NonDis-O, Pg. 1272
Membership: 86; Present: 64;
For: 61; Against: 1; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1219-NonDis
**Subject: Voting Rights of Retired Clergy Members**
Committee Item: CO216-NonDis-N
Petition:
20230-CO-NonDis-O, Pg. 203
Membership: 86; Present: 64;
For: 62; Against: 0; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1220-752
**Subject: Optional District Council**
Committee Item: CO217-752-N
Petition:
20567-CO-752-D, Pg. 202
Membership: 86; Present: 67;
For: 64; Against: 0; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1221-749
**Subject: Annual Conference Judiciary Committee**
Committee Item: CO218-749-N
Petition:
22187-CO-749-D, Pg. 1270
Membership: 86; Present: 59;
For: 58; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1222-NonDis
**Subject: Voting Rights of Pastors**
Committee Item: CO219-NonDis-N
Petition:
23017-CO-NonDis-O, Pg. 1276
Membership: 86; Present: 62;
For: 61; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1223-750
**Subject: The District Conference**
Committee Item: CO221-750-N
Petition:
22626-CO-750-D, Pg. 1271
Membership: 86; Present: 67;
For: 61; Against: 3; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1224-NonDis
**Subject: A Day at the 1996 General Conference to Address Central Conference Issues**
Committee Item: CO222-NonDis-N
Petition:
21514-CO-NonDis-O, Pg. 1272
Membership: 86; Present: 63;

For: 62; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1225-NonDis
**Subject: Imperatives for "A Conference In The Imperative Mood"**
Committee Item: CO223-NonDis-N
Petition:
22196-CO-NonDis-O, Pg. 1273
Membership: 86; Present: 63;
For: 62; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1226-NonDis
**Subject: Lay Members of the Annual Conference Sessions**
Committee Item: CO224-NonDis-N
Petition;
22195-CO-NonDis-O, Pg. 1273
Membership: 86; Present: 63;
For: 62; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1227-752.2
**Subject: Membership in District Council on Ministries**
Committee Item: CO226-752.2-N
Petition:
22189-CO-752.2-D, Pg. 1271
Membership: 86; Present: 70;
For: 65; Against: 2; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1228-39
**Subject: Lay Delegates to the General, Jurisdictional or Central Conference**
Committee Item: CO227-39-N
Petition:
22158-CO-39-C, Pg. 1260
Membership: 86; Present: 64;
For: 62; Against: 0; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1229-36
**Subject: Voting rights of lay members of Annual Conference**
Committee Item: CO228-36-N
Petition:
20185-CO-36-C, Pg. 176
Membership: 86; Present: 69;
For: 66; Against: 0; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1230-NonDis
**Subject: Lay Persons Responsibilities at General Conference**
Committee Item: CO229-NonDis-N
Petition:
23012-CO-NonDis-O, Pg. 1276
Membership: 86; Present: 60;
For: 57; Against: 0; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1231-NonDis
**Subject: Responsibilities of Bishops at General Conference**
Committee Item: CO230-NonDis-N
Petition:
23011-CO-NonDis-O, Pg. 1276
Membership: 86; Present: 60;
For: 57; Against: 0; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1232-NonDis
**Subject: Delegates Expenses to Conferences**
Committee Item: CO231-NonDis-N
Petition:
23009-CO-NonDis-O, Pg. 1276
Membership: 86; Present: 60;
For: 57; Against: 0; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1233-NonDis
**Subject: General Conference Sessions**
Committee Item: CO232-NonDis-N
Petition:
23010-CO-NonDis-O, Pg. 1276
Membership: 86; Present: 60;
For: 57; Against: 0; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1234-NonDis
**Subject: General Conference Legislative Committees**
Committee Item: CO233-NonDis-N
Petition:
23013-CO-NonDis-O, Pg. 1276
Membership: 86; Present: 60;
For: 57; Against: 0; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1235-NonDis
**Subject: Enable Appointed Pastors to Vote for Jurisdictional and General Conference Delegates**
Committee Item: CO235-NonDis-N
Petition:
21036-CO-NonDis-O, Pg. 203
Membership: 86; Present: 53;
For: 51; Against: 0; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1236-NonDis
**Subject: Representation of Diaconal Ministers among those elected to General and Jurisdictional Conferences**
Committee Item: CO238-NonDis-N
Petition:
20871-CO-NonDis-O, Pg. 206
Membership: 86; Present: 66;
For: 62; Against: 1; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1237**-660.1
**Subject: The Office of District Superintendent**
Committee Item: CO241-660.1-N
Petition:
20834-CO-660.1-D, Pg. 1265
Membership: 86; Present: 65;
For: 62; Against: 0; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1238**-NonDis
**Subject: Random Assignment of Delegates to Committees**
Committee Item: CO243-NonDis-N
Petition:
22648-CO-NonDis-O, Pg. 1275
Membership: 86; Present: 61;
For: 59; Against: 0; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1239**-NonDis
**Subject: Churches outside the United States**
Committee Item: CO244-NonDis-N
Petition:
20777-CO-NonDis-O, Pg. 1272
Membership: 86; Present: 59;
For: 58; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1240**-NonDis
**Subject: Jurisdictions and Jurisdictional Conferences**
Committee Item: CO245-NonDis-N
Petition:
23015-CO-NonDis-O, Pg. 1276
Membership: 86; Present: 59;
For: 55; Against: 2; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1241**-NonDis
**Subject: The Election Procedures for Bishops**
Committee Item: CO246-NonDis-N
Petition:
23014-CO-NonDis-O, Pg. 1276
Membership: 86; Present: 59;
For: 55; Against: 2; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1242**-NonDis
**Subject: Commend Rev. Donald E. Wildmon**
Committee Item: CO247-NonDis-N
Petition:
22356-CO-NonDis-O, Pg. 1275
Membership: 86; Present: 64;
For: 53; Against: 2; Not Voting: 9;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1243**-NonDis
**Subject: Date of 2000 General Conference**
Committee Item: CO248-NonDis-N
Petition:
22192-CO-NonDis-O, Pg. 1272
Membership: 86; Present: 64;
For: 54; Against: 7; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1244**-726.5
**Subject: Committees, Task Force, and Consultations**
Committee Item: CO250-726.5-N
Petition:
20491-CO-726.5-D, Pg. 198
Membership: 86; Present: 71;
For: 61; Against: 7; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1245**-1104
**Subject: Responsibility of the General Board of Church and Society**
Committee Item: CS60-1104-N
Petition:
20867-CS-1104-D, Pg. 127
Membership: 102; Present: 86;
For: 85; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence in favor of Petition #20939 (CS 61).

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1246**-72
**Subject: Urban-Suburban Life**
Committee Item: CS110-72-N
Petition:
22320-CS-72-D, Pg. 1227
Membership: 102; Present: 85;
For: 80; Against: 4; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1247**-NonDis
**Subject: Proposal to Reduce the Waste of Paper**
Committee Item: CS111-NonDis-N
Petition:
22463-CS-NonDis-O, Pg. 1234
Membership: 102; Present: 85;
For: 85; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1248**-NonDis
**Subject: Environmental Protection**
Committee Item: CS112-NonDis-N
Petition:
22732-CS-NonDis-O, Pg. 1234
Membership: 102; Present: 85;
For: 85; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1249**-NonDis
**Subject: Abundant Living - Sustainable Lifestyle**
Committee Item: CS117-NonDis-N
Petition:
22508-CS-NonDis-O, Pg. 1245
Membership: 102; Present: 81;
For: 80; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence in favor of Petition #21038 (CS 118).

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1250-NonDis
**Subject: Support rights to object to an autopsy on religious grounds**
Committee Item: CS124-NonDis-N
Petition:
20004-CS-NonDis-O, Pg. 1244
Membership: 102; Present: 85;
For: 85; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1251-71
**Subject: Abortion: Right of the Mother**
Committee Item: CS127-71-N
Petitions:
20001-CS-71-D, Pg. 117;
20057-CS-71-D, Pg. 1219;
20153-CS-71-D, Pg. 118;
20184-CS-71-D, Pg. 119;
20289-CS-71-D, Pg. 120;
20704-CS-71-D, Pg. 121;
20705-CS-71-D, Pg. 121;
20706-CS-71-D, Pg. 122;
20707-CS-71-D, Pg. 122;
20976-CS-71-D, Pg. 1220;
20977-CS-71-D, Pg. 1220;
20978-CS-71-D, Pg. 1220;
20979-CS-71-D, Pg. 1221;
20980-CS-71-D, Pg. 1221;
22313-CS-71-D, Pg. 1221;
22314-CS-71-D, Pg. 1221;
22315-CS-71-D, Pg. 1222;
22336-CS-71-D, Pg. 1222;
22500-CS-71-D, Pg. 1222;
22501-CS-71-D, Pg. 1222;
22502-CS-71-D, Pg. 1222;
22535-CS-71-D, Pg. 1212;
22581-CS-71-D, Pg. 1223;
22582-CS-71-D, Pg. 1223;
22583-CS-71-D, Pg. 1223;
22884-CS-71-D, Pg. 1224;
22885-CS-71-D, Pg. 1224;
22886-CS-71-D, Pg. 1224
Membership: 102; Present: 89;
For: 84; Against: 1; Not Voting: 4;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence in favor of Petition #20749 (CS 170).

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1252-71
**Subject: Regarding Human Sexuality**
Committee Item: CS162-71-N
Petitions:
22302-CS-71-D, Pg. 1214;
22458-CS-NonDis-O, Pg. 1242;
22611-CS-71-D, Pg. 1216
Membership: 102; Present: 86;
For: 84; Against: 0; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence in favor of Petition #22612 (CS 161 ).

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1253-NonDis
**Subject: Human Sexuality**
Committee Item: CS163-NonDis-N
Petitions:
20973-CS-NonDis-O, Pg. 1239;
20984-CS-NonDis-O, Pg. 1239;
22340-CS-NonDis-O, Pg. 1240;
22457-CS-NonDis-O, Pg. 1242;
22579-CS-71-D, Pg. 1216;
22586-CS-NonDis-O, Pg. 1243;
22651-CS-NonDis-O, Pg. 1243
Membership: 102; Present: 86;
For: 84; Against: 0; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence in favor of Petitition # 22612 (CS 1612.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1254-71
**Subject: An Amendment on the Role of Sexuality**
Committee Item: CS164-71-N
Petitions:
20286-CS-71-D, Pg. 120;
20287-CS-71-D, Pg. 120;
22304-CS-71-D, Pg. 1215;
22453-CS-NonDis-O, Pg. 1241
Membership: 102; Present: 75;
For: 73; Against: 0; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1255-71
**Subject: Regarding Human Sexuality**
Committee Item: CS165-71-N
Petitions:
20061-CS-NonDis-O, Pg. 1239;
20120-CS-71-D, Pg. 118;
20121-CS-71-D, Pg. 118;
20195-CS-71-D, Pg. 119;
20702-CS-71-D, Pg. 121;
22305-CS-71-D, Pg. 1215;
22306-CS-71-D, Pg. 1215;
22307-CS-71-D, Pg. 1215;
22346-CS-NonDis-O, Pg. 1240;
22497-CS-71-D, Pg. 1216;
22728-CS-NonDis-O, Pg. 1244;
22888-CS-NonDis-O, Pg. 1244
Membership: 102; Present: 73;
For: 72; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1256-71
**Subject: Human Sexuality**
Committee Item: CS166-71-N
Petitions:
20053-CS-71-D, Pg. 118;
20054-CS-71-D, Pg. 1213;
20055-CS-71-D, Pg. 1213;
20122-CS-71-D, Pg. 118;
20261-CS-71-D, Pg. 119;
20284-CS-71-D, Pg. 120;
20526-CS-71-D, Pg. 120;
20700-CS-71-D, Pg. 121;
20701-CS-71-D, Pg. 121;
20748-CS-71-D, Pg. 122;
20864-CS-71-D, Pg. 1214;
20865-CS-71-D, Pg. 122;
20974-CS-71-D, Pg. 1214;
22303-CS-71-D, Pg. 1215;
22308-CS-71-D, Pg. 1215;
22309-CS-71-D, Pg. 1215;
22494-CS-71-D, Pg. 1216;
22495-CS-71-D, Pg. 1216;
22496-CS-71-D, Pg. 1216;
22873-CS-71-D, Pg. 1217;
22874-CS-71-D, Pg. 1217;
22875-CS-71-D, Pg. 1217;
22876-CS-71-D, Pg. 1217;
22877-CS-71-D, Pg. 1217;
22879-CS-71-D, Pg. 1217;
22880-CS-71-D, Pg. 1218;
22881-CS-71-D, Pg. 1218;
22882-CS-71-D, Pg. 1218
Membership: 102; Present: 86;
For: 84; Against: 0; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence in favor of Petition #22612 (CS 161).

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1257-NonDis-$
**Subject: Establishment of a Ministry Promoting the Sanctity of Human Life**
Committee Item: CS172-NonDis-N$
Petition:
22730-CS-NonDis-O$, Pg. 1236
Membership: 102; Present: 89;
For: 77; Against: 4; Not Voting: 8;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1258**-R125
**Subject: Responsible Parenthood**
Committee Item: CS174-R125-N
Petitions:
22506-CS-R125-U, Pg. 1238;
22616-CS-R126-U, Pg. 1239
Membership: 102; Present: 89;
For: 83; Against: 0; Not Voting: 6;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1259**-68
**Subject: Membership of National Youth Ministry Organization Steering Committee**
Committee Item: DI9-68-N
Petition:
20585-DI-1307-D, Pg. 256
Membership: 112; Present: 103;
For: 103; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1260**-632.8
**Subject: Youth Members to the General Council on Ministries**
Committee Item: DI12-632.8-N
Petition:
20990-DI-632.8-D, Pg. 1280
Membership: 112; Present: 103;
For: 103; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1261**-1307
**Subject: Membership of the National Youth Ministry Organization Steering Committee**
Committee Item: DI43-1307-N
Petition:
20964-DI-1307-D, Pg. 256
Membership: 112; Present: 103;
For: 103; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1262**-1306.2
**Subject: Membership of the National Youth Ministry Organization Legislative Assembly**
Committee Item: DI44-1306.2-N
Petition:
21476-DI-1306.2-D, Pg. 256
Membership: 112; Present: 103;
For: 103; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1263**-762
**Subject: District Youth Council**
Committee Item: DI47-762-N
Petition:
20584-DI-762-D, Pg. 246
Membership: 112; Present: 103;
For: 103; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1264**-282
**Subject: Lay Preacher**
Committee Item: DI60-282-N
Petitions:
20049-DI-282-D, Pg. 238;
20877-DI-282-D, Pg. 238;
22226-DI-282.2-D, Pg. 1280
Membership: 112; Present: 102;
For: 102; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1265**-NonDis
**Subject: Youth/Young Adult priority of General Conference for 1997-2000**
Committee Item: DI68-NonDis-N
Petition:
20235-DI-NonDis-O, Pg. 1046
Membership: 112; Present: 102;
For: 102; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1266**-221
**Subject: Regarding Baptism and Dedication**
Committee Item: DI97-221-N
Petition:
22513-DI-NonDis-O, Pg. 1300
Membership: 112; Present: 86;
For: 86; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1267**-219
**Subject: Admission into the Church**
Committee Item: DI124-219-N
Petition:
22108-DI-219-D, Pg. 1407
Membership: 112; Present: 86;
For: 85; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1268**-729
**Subject: Conference Board of Discipleship**
Committee Item: DI131-729-N
Petition:
20477-DI-729-D, Pg. 241
Membership: 112; Present: 91;
For: 91; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1269**-729.1
**Subject: General Responsibilities**
Committee Item: DI138-729.1-N
Petition:
21387-DI-729.1-D, Pg. 241
Membership: 112; Present: 95;
For: 95; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1270**-751.1
**Subject: District Lay Leader**
Committee Item: DI144-751.1-N
Petition:
20586-DI-751.1-D, Pg. 245
Membership: 112; Present: 92;
For: 92; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1271**-1203
**Subject: Incorporation of the General Board of Discipleship**
Committee Item: DI145-1203-N
Petition:
22744-DI-1203-D, Pg. 1283
Membership: 112; Present: 91;
For: 91; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1272**-NonDis
**Subject: Omit the 4th. Verse of the Hymn "Praise To The Lord, The Almighty" in the Printing of the Hymnal**
Committee Item: DI147-NonDis-N
Petition:
22224-DI-NonDis-O, Pg. 1296
Membership: 112; Present: 101;
For: 101; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1273**-NonDis
**Subject: Regarding Future Editions of the Book of Hymns**
Committee Item: DI148-NonDis-N
Petition:
22751-DI-NonDis-O, Pg. 1306
Membership: 112; Present: 101;
For: 101; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1274**-NonDis
**Subject: Include The 2nd. Verse of "America The Beautiful" in the Next Printing of the U. M. Hymnal**
Committee Item: DI150-NonDis-N
Petition:
22223-DI-NonDis-O, Pg. 1296
Membership: 112; Present: 101;
For: 101; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1275**-279.1
**Subject: Local Church Lay Speaker**
Committee Item: DI155-279.1-N
Petition:
20989-DI-279.1-D, Pg. 1279
Membership: 112; Present: 82;
For: 82; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1276**-279.1
**Subject: Church Council Approval of Lay Speaker**
Committee Item: DI156-279.1-N
Petitions:
20577-DI-279.1-D, Pg. 237;
20578-DI-280-D, Pg. 238
Membership: 112; Present: 82;
For: 80; Against: 0; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1277**-278
**Subject: The Lay Speaker's Program**
Committee Item: DI157-278-N
Petitions:
20251-DI-280-D, Pg. 238;
20269-DI-280-D, Pg. 238;
20272-DI-278-D, Pg. 237;
20273-DI-279-D, Pg. 237;
21466-DI-278-D, Pg. 237;
22737-DI-278-D, Pg. 1279;
22738-DI-278-D, Pg. 1279;
22739-DI-279-D, Pg. 1279;
22740-DI-280-D, Pg. 1279;
22741-DI-281-D, Pg. 1280
Membership: 112; Present: 80;
For: 76; Against: 2; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1278**-1202.1
**Subject: Incorporate Membership/Lay Paricipation**
Committee Item: DI160-1202.1-N
Petition:
20252-DI-1202.1-D, Pg. 247
Membership: 112; Present: 76;
For: 74; Against: 0; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1279**-NonDis
**Subject: Lay Speakers Training**
Committee Item: DI161-NonDis-N
Petition:
20790-DI-NonDis-O, Pg. 1286
Membership: 112; Present: 80;
For: 78; Against: 0; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1280**-744
**Subject: United Methodist Men**
Committee Item: DI165-744-N
Petition:
20495-DI-744-D, Pg. 243
Membership: 112; Present: 97;
For: 97; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1281**-1223
**Subject: United Methodist Men**
Committee Item: DI166-1223-N
Petition:
20880-DI-1223-D, Pg. 254
Membership: 112; Present: 97;
For: 97; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1282**-NonDis
**Subject: Doctrinal Standards**
Committee Item: DI171-NonDis-N
Petition:
20991-DI-NonDis-O, Pg. 1287
Membership: 112; Present: 84;
For: 83; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1283**-NonDis
**Subject: Doctrinal Standards**
Committee Item: DI172-NonDis-N
Petition:
20993-DI-NonDis-O, Pg. 1288
Membership: 112; Present: 84;
For: 83; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1284-NonDis
**Subject: The Renewal of Theology and Mission in The United Methodist Church**
Committee Item: DI173-NonDis-N
Petition:
22214-DI-NonDis-O, Pg. 1293
Membership: 112; Present: 84;
For: 83; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1285-NonDis
**Subject: Doctrinal Standards**
Committee Item: DI174-NonDis-N
Petition:
20996-DI-NonDis-O, Pg. 1289
Membership: 112; Present: 84;
For: 83; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1286-NonDis
**Subject: The Bible as the Rule of Faith and Practice**
Committee Item: DI175-NonDis-N
Petition:
20995-DI-NonDis-O, Pg. 1289
Membership: 112; Present: 84;
For: 83; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1287-NonDis
**Subject: Reaffirm the Holy Scriptures as the Primary and Central Authority**
Committee Item: DI176-NonDis-N
Petition:
22208-DI-NonDis-O, Pg. 1290
Membership: 112; Present: 84;
For: 83; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1288-NonDis
**Subject: Resolution to Confess Jesus as Lord of All**
Committee Item: DI177-NonDis-N
Petition:
22631-DI-NonDis-O, Pg. 1304
Membership: 112; Present: 84;
For: 82; Against: 0; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1289-NonDis
**Subject: A Call to Reaffirm our Belief in The Deity of Jesus Christ**
Committee Item: DI178-NonDis-N
Petition:
22409-DI-NonDis-O, Pg. 1298
Membership: 112; Present: 84;
For: 82; Against: 0; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1290-NonDis
**Subject: A Call to Reaffirm the Centrality of Christ**
Committee Item: DI179-NonDis-N
Petition:
22207-DI-NonDis-O, Pg. 1289
Membership: 112; Present: 84;
For: 83; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1291-NonDis
**Subject: Resolution on Doctrinal Integrity**
Committee Item: DI180-NonDis-N
Petition:
22900-DI-NonDis-O, Pg. 1307
Membership: 112; Present: 84;
For: 83; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1292-NonDis
**Subject: Doctrinal Integrity**
Committee Item: DI181-NonDis-N
Petition:
22210-DI-NonDis-O, Pg. 1291
Membership: 112; Present: 84;
For: 82; Against: 0; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1293-NonDis
**Subject: Doctrinal Integrity**
Committee Item: DI183-NonDis-N
Petition:
20154-DI-NonDis-O, Pg. 260
Membership: 112; Present: 84;
For: 83; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1294-NonDis
**Subject: A Proposal of Belief for the United Methodist Church**
Committee Item: DI184-NonDis-N
Petition:
22412-DI-NonDis-O, Pg. 1300
Membership: 112; Present: 84;
For: 83; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1295-NonDis
**Subject: A Renewal Faithful to Our Heritage**
Committee Item: DI185-NonDis-N
Petition:
22515-DI-NonDis-O, Pg. 1301
Membership: 112; Present: 84;
For: 83; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1296-NonDis
**Subject: Receiving, Endorsing and Implementing the Bishop's Statement on Wisdom**
Committee Item: DI186-NonDis-N
Petition:
20520-DI-NonDis-O, Pg. 264
Membership: 112; Present: 84;
For: 83; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1297-232.1
**Subject: Membership Records and Reports**
Committee Item: DI197-232.1-N
Petition:
22112-DI-232.1-D, Pg. 1410
Membership: 112; Present: 86;
For: 85; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1298-230
**Subject: Care of Members**
Committee Item: DI199-230-N
Petition:
21442-DI-230-D, Pg. 951
Membership: 112; Present: 86;
For: 85; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1299-230.4
**Subject: Care of members**
Committee Item: DI201-230.4-N
Petition:
20277-DI-230.4-D, Pg. 951
Membership: 112; Present: 86;
For: 85; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1300-912
**Subject: Support of the General Program Agencies of the Church**
Committee Item: FA56-912-N
Petition:
20599-FA-912-D, Pg. 372
Membership: 113; Present: 90;
For: 86; Against: 3; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1301-912
**Subject: The World Service Fund**
Committee Item: FA57-912-N
Petition:
20419-FA-912-D, Pg. 372
Membership: 113; Present: 90;
For: 88; Against: 2; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1302-910
**Subject: Definition of General Funds**
Committee Item: FA97-910-N
Petitions:
20417-FA-910-D, Pg. 371;
20597-FA-910-D, Pg. 371
Membership: 113; Present: 91;
For: 91; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1303-1606.3
**Subject: Powers, Duties, and Responsibilities of the Annual Conference**
Committee Item: FA110-1606.3-N
Petition:
21422-FA-1606.3-D, Pg. 381
Membership: 113; Present: 82;
For: 82; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1304-907.1
**Subject: Administrative Responsibilities of General Council on Finance and Administration**
Committee Item: FA127-907.1-N
Petition:
20595-FA-907.1-D, Pg. 369
Membership: 113; Present: 90;
For: 90; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1305-906
**Subject: Fiscal Responsibilities of General Council on Finance and Administration**
Committee Item: FA133-906-N
Petition:
20594-FA-906-D, Pg. 367
Membership: 113; Present: 90;
For: 87; Against: 2; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1306-906.12
**Subject: Current Wording on Homosexuality**
Committee Item: FA138-906.12-N
Petition:
20182-FA-906.12-D, Pg. 369
Membership: 113; Present: 85;
For: 76; Against: 9; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1307-921.1
**Subject: The Ministerial Education Fund**
Committee Item: FA141-921.1-N
Petition:
20793-FA-921.1-D, Pg. 373
Membership: 113; Present: 90;
For: 90; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1308-921.1
**Subject: The Ministerial Education Fund**
Committee Item: FA142-921.1-N
Petition:
20794-FA-921.1-D, Pg. 1314
Membership: 113; Present: 89;
For: 84; Against: 4; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1309-921.1
**Subject: Vouchers for the Ministerial Education Fund**
Committee Item: FA143-921.1-N
Petition:
22657-FA-921.1-D, Pg. 1315
Membership: 113; Present: 89;
For: 85; Against: 4; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1310-1602.1
**Subject: Membership of General Board of Pension and Health Benefits**
Committee Item: FA150-1602.1-N
Petition:
20603-FA-1602.1-D, Pg. 375
Membership: 113; Present: 83;
For: 83; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1311-711.3
**Subject: World Service and Conference Benevolences Budget**
Committee Item: FA160-711.3-N
Petition:
22469-FA-711.3-D, Pg. 1309
Membership: 113; Present: 91;
For: 83; Against: 4; Not Voting: 4;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1312-NonDis
**Subject: Conference Apportionments for Benevolences**
Committee Item: FA161-NonDis-N
Petition:
22252-FA-NonDis-O, Pg. 1318
Membership: 113; Present: 81;
For: 80; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1313-NonDis
**Subject: Connectional Tithing**
Committee Item: FA162-NonDis-N
Petition:
22359-FA-NonDis-O, Pg. 1319
Membership: 113; Present: 81;
For: 80; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1314-712
**Subject: Apportionments**
Committee Item: FA165-712-N
Petition:
22752-FA-712-D, Pg. 1309
Membership: 113; Present: 91;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1315-716
**Subject: Conference Treasurer/Director of Administrative Services**
Committee Item: FA166-716-N
Petition:
21625-FA-716-D, Pg. 360
Membership: 113; Present: 80;
For: 77; Against: 0; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1316-709.2
**Subject: Membership of the Annual Conference Council on Finance and Administration**
Committee Item: FA167-709.2-N
Petition:
21559-FA-709.2-D, Pg. 356
Membership: 113; Present: 86;
For: 86; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1317-709.2
**Subject: Membership on Annual Conference Council on Finance & Administration**
Committee Item: FA168-709.2-N
Petition:
22228-FA-709.2-D, Pg. 1308
Membership: 113; Present: 86;
For: 86; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1318-709.6
**Subject: Amenability of the Annual Conference Council on Finance and Administration**
Committee Item: FA169-709.6-N
Petition:
22633-FA-709.6-D, Pg. 1308
Membership: 113; Present: 86;
For: 84; Against: 1; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1319-710.3
**Subject: Requests rather than Apportionments**
Committee Item: FA171-710.3-N
Petition:
20717-FA-710.3-D, Pg. 357
Membership: 113; Present: 86;
For: 77; Against: 8; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1320-710
**Subject: Responsibilities of the Council on Finance and Administration**
Committee Item: FA174-710-N
Petition:
22634-FA-710-D, Pg. 1308
Membership: 113; Present: 86;
For: 86; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1321-714.2
**Subject: Annual Audit Reports**
Committee Item: FA176-714.2-N
Petition:
20372-FA-714.2-D, Pg. 360
Membership: 113; Present: 85;
For: 82; Against: 0; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1322-716.1
**Subject: Duties of Treasurers**
Committee Item: FA178-716.1-N
Petition:

20590-FA-716.1-D, Pg. 361
Membership: 113; Present: 79;
For: 75; Against: 1; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1323-NonDis
**Subject: Enabling of Ministries of Compassion and/or Proclamation**
Committee Item: FA180-NonDis-N
Petition:
22254-FA-NonDis-O, Pg. 1318
Membership: 113; Present: 81;
For: 79; Against: 2; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1324-NonDis
**Subject: Distribution of Limited Funds**
Committee Item: FA181-NonDis-N
Petition:
22253-FA-NonDis-O, Pg. 1318
Membership: 113; Present: 78;
For: 78; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1325-NonDis
**Subject: The Apportionments System**
Committee Item: FA182-NonDis-N
Petition:
22259-FA-NonDis-O, Pg. 1319
Membership: 113; Present: 78;
For: 77; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1326-NonDis
**Subject: Implementation of "Voluntary" Apportionments**
Committee Item: FA183-NonDis-N
Petition:
22257-FA-NonDis-O, Pg. 1319
Membership: 113; Present: 81;
For: 81; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1327-722.12
**Subject: Equitable Compensation**
Committee Item: FA184-722.12-N
Petitions:
20836-FA-722.12-D, Pg. 363;
22236-FA-722-D, Pg. 1310;
22475-FA-722.12-D, Pg. 1311
Membership: 113; Present: 81;
For: 79; Against: 2; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1328-722
**Subject: Commission on Equitable Salary**
Committee Item: FA185-722-N
Petition:
20498-FA-722-D, Pg. 361
Membership: 113; Present: 80;
For: 78; Against: 1; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1329-722.8
**Subject: Equitable Compensation**
Committee Item: FA186-722.8-N
Petition:
21566-FA-722.8-D, Pg. 362
Membership: 113; Present: 80;
For: 78; Against: 1; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1330-722.11
**Subject: Equitable Compensation**
Committee Item: FA187-722.11-N
Petition:
21567-FA-722.11-D, Pg. 362
Membership: 113; Present: 80;
For: 78; Against: 1; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1331-NonDis
**Subject: Basic Salary Plan**
Committee Item: FA188-NonDis-N
Petitions:
22235-FA-720-D, Pg. 1310;
22248-FA-NonDis-O, Pg. 1317
Membership: 113; Present: 81;
For: 81; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1332-717
**Subject: Clergy Support**
Committee Item: FA189-717-N
Petition:
20536-FA-717-D, Pg. 361
Membership: 113; Present: 84;
For: 80; Against: 0; Not Voting: 4;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1333-718
**Subject: Enabling Legislation for Basic Salary Plan - Clergy Support**
Committee Item: FA190-718-N
Petition:
22233-FA-718-D, Pg. 1310
Membership: 113; Present: 84;
For: 81; Against: 0; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1334-719
**Subject: Enabling Legislation for Basic Salary Plan Option -Proportional Payments**
Committee Item: FA191-719-N
Petition:
22234-FA-719-D, Pg. 1310
Membership: 113; Present: 84;
For: 79; Against: 1; Not Voting: 4;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1335-723
**Subject: Basic Salary Plan-Option for Annual Conference**
Committee Item: FA192-723-N
Petitions:

20013-FA-723-D, Pg. 363;
20373-FA-723-D, Pg. 363;
20882-FA-723-D, Pg. 364;
22468-FA-723-D, Pg. 1311
Membership: 113; Present: 80;
For: 78; Against: 1; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1336-712
**Subject: World Service Apportionments**
Committee Item: FA195-712-N
Petitions:
20127-FA-712-D, Pg. 359;
20128-FA-712.1-D, Pg. 359;
20129-FA-712.4-D, Pg. 360;
20413-FA-712-D, Pg. 359;
20414-FA-712.4-D, Pg. 360;
20835-FA-712-D, Pg. 1309;
22230-FA-712.1-D, Pg. 1309;
22231-FA-712.1-D, Pg. 1309;
22232-FA-712.5-D, Pg. 1310
Membership: 113; Present: 91;
For: 81; Against: 7; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1337-711.3
**Subject: World Service apportionments**
Committee Item: FA198-711.3-N
Petitions:
20125-FA-711.3-D, Pg. 358;
20126-FA-711.3-D, Pg. 358;
20750-FA-711.3-D, Pg. 358;
20998-FA-711.3-D, Pg. 1308;
20999-FA-711.4-D, Pg. 1309;
22229-FA-711.3-D, Pg. 1308;
22357-FA-711.3-D, Pg. 1309
Membership: 113; Present: 91;
For: 87; Against: 1; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1338-725
**Subject: Required Information from Clergy Members Appointed Beyond the Local Church**
Committee Item: FA199-725-N
Petition:
21251-FA-725-D, Pg. 364
Membership: 113; Present: 86;
For: 86; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1339-716.1
**Subject: Conference Benevolence Fund**
Committee Item: FA203-716.1-N
Petitions:
20130-FA-716.1-D, Pg. 360;
20131-FA-716.1-D, Pg. 360;
20415-FA-716.1-D, Pg. 360;
21565-FA-716.1-D, Pg. 361
Membership: 113; Present: 84;
For: 79; Against: 2; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1340-1702
**Subject: Organization of General Board of Publication**
Committee Item: FA205-1702-N
Petition:
20605-FA-1702-D, Pg. 381
Membership: 113; Present: 78;
For: 78; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1341-1702
**Subject: Reduction in size of the General Board of Publication**
Committee Item: FA206-1702-N
Petition:
20774-FA-1702-D, Pg. 381
Membership: 113; Present: 78;
For: 78; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1342-NonDis-$
**Subject: General Council on Finance and Administration**
Committee Item: FA219-NonDis-N$
Petition:
20521-FA-NonDis-O$, Pg. 384
Membership: 113; Present: 93;
For: 93; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1343-NonDis
**Subject: Apportionments**
Committee Item: FA222-NonDis-N
Petition:
22638-FA-NonDis-O, Pg. 1322
Membership: 113; Present: 93;
For: 88; Against: 4; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1344-NonDis-$
**Subject: The Africa University Fund**
Committee Item: FA223-NonDis-N$
Petitions:
21515-FA-NonDis-O$, Pg. 1317;
22249-FA-NonDis-O, Pg. 1317
Membership: 113; Present: 93;
For: 93; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1345-NonDis-$
**Subject: 1997-2000 Budget for General Funds**
Committee Item: FA224-NonDis-N$
Petitions:
20002-FA-NonDis-O$, Pg. 384;
20514-FA-NonDis-O$, Pg. 384;
20791-FA-NonDis-O, Pg. 386;
22255-FA-NonDis-O$, Pg. 1318;
22474-FA-NonDis-O$, Pg. 1320
Membership: 113; Present: 93;
For: 93; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1346-2618
**Subject: Statement of Information by the Judicial Council**
Committee Item: GJ2-2618-N
Petition:
22605-GJ-2618-D, Pg. 1485
Membership: 98; Present: 69;
For: 69; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1347-2623.1
**Subject: Re: Phrasing of the Charge**
Committee Item: GJ4-2623.1-N
Petitions:
20392-GJ-2623.1-D, Pg. 1487;
20393-GJ-2623.1-D, Pg. 1487
Membership: 98; Present: 69;
For: 69; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1348-1007.5
**Subject: Administering Agency**
Committee Item: GJ14-1007.5-N
Petition:
21307-GJ-1007.5-D, Pg. 709
Membership: 98; Present: 79;
For: 79; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1349-803
**Subject: Definitions, Structures, and Titles**
Committee Item: GJ71-803-N
Petitions:
20159-GJ-802.2-D, Pg. 695;
20160-GJ-803-D, Pg. 695;
20161-GJ-805-D, Pg. 696;
20162-GJ-806-D, Pg. 700;
20163-GJ-813-D, Pg. 701;
20165-GJ-906.1-D, Pg. 703;
20166-GJ-907.2-D, Pg. 703;
20167-GJ-911.2-D, Pg. 703;
20168-GJ-912-D, Pg. 704;
20169-GJ-913-D, Pg. 704;
20170-GJ-914.1-D, Pg. 704;
20172-GJ-1001-D, Pg. 705;
20173-GJ-1002-D, Pg. 705;
20174-GJ-1003-D, Pg. 705;
20175-GJ-1004-D, Pg. 705;
20176-GJ-1005-D, Pg. 705;
20177-GJ-1006-D, Pg. 706;
20178-GJ-1007-D, Pg. 707;
20179-GJ-1221.4-D, Pg. 709;
20180-GJ-1307.1-D, Pg. 709;
20569-GJ-1001-D$, Pg. 705;
20611-GJ-802-D, Pg. 694;
20612-GJ-803-D, Pg. 695;
20616-GJ-813-D, Pg. 701;
20617-GJ-814.6-D, Pg. 702;
20619-GJ-914.1-D, Pg. 704
Membership: 98; Present: 90;
For: 84; Against: 6; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1350-NonDis
**Subject: Rationale for General Church restructuring**
Committee Item: GJ74-NonDis-N
Petitions:
20158-GJ-NonDis-O, Pg. 711;
20164-GJ-814.6-D, Pg. 702;
20568-GJ-1001-D, Pg. 705;
20570-GJ-1002-D, Pg. 705;
20571-GJ-1003-D, Pg. 705;
20572-GJ-1004-D, Pg. 705;
20573-GJ-1005-D, Pg. 705;
20574-GJ-1006-D, Pg. 706;
20575-GJ-1007-D, Pg. 707;
20576-GJ-1007-D, Pg. 707;
20620-GJ-1006-D, Pg. 706;
20622-GJ-1007-D, Pg. 708;
20841-GJ-803.5-D, Pg. 1329;
21004-GJ-802.3-D, Pg. 1327;
21005-GJ-803.1-D, Pg. 1328;
21006-GJ-813-D, Pg. 1330;
21008-GJ-814.6-D, Pg. 1330;
21009-GJ-1001-D, Pg. 1331;
21556-GJ-NonDis-O, Pg. 718;
22772-GJ-1001-D, Pg. 1331;
22773-GJ-1002-D, Pg. 1331;
22774-GJ-1003-D, Pg. 1331;
22775-GJ-1004-D, Pg. 1331;
22776-GJ-1005-D, Pg. 1331;
22777-GJ-1006-D, Pg. 1331;
22778-GJ-1007-D, Pg. 1331
Membership: 98; Present: 87;
For: 78; Against: 9; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1351-748
**Subject: Eliminate Annual Conference Committee on Native American Ministry**
Committee Item: GJ93-748-N
Petition:
20488-GJ-748-D, Pg. 694
Membership: 98; Present: 81;
For: 81; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1352-748
**Subject: Committee on Native American Ministry**
Committee Item: GJ95-748-N
Petitions:
20451-GJ-748-D, Pg. 693;
20502-GJ-748-D, Pg. 694;
22262-GJ-748-D, Pg. 1327
Membership: 98; Present: 81;
For: 81; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1353-275
**Subject: Eliminate General Council on Ministries**
Committee Item: GJ100-275-N
Petition:
20607-GJ-275-D, Pg. 691
Membership: 98; Present: 81;
For: 81; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1354-276
**Subject: Eliminate General Council on Ministries**
Committee Item: GJ101-276-N
Petition:
20608-GJ-276-D, Pg. 693
Membership: 98; Present: 81;
For: 81; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1355-277.3
**Subject: Eliminate Annual Conference Council on Ministries**
Committee Item: GJ102-277.3-N
Petition:
20609-GJ-277.3-D, Pg. 693
Membership: 98; Present: 81;
For: 81; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1356**-274
**Subject: Resolution to Conform to the Observance of "Pornography Awareness Week"**
Committee Item: GJ104-274-N
Petition:
22763-GJ-274-D, Pg. 1325
Membership: 98; Present: 81;
For: 81; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1357**-275
**Subject: In Support of the Observance of "Pornography Awareness Week".**
Committee Item: GJ105-275-N
Petition:
22764-GJ-275-D, Pg. 1325
Membership: 98; Present: 81;
For: 81; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1358**-NonDis
**Subject: Gambling Awareness Sunday**
Committee Item: GJ107-NonDis-N
Petition:
20292-GJ-NonDis-O, Pg. 715
Membership: 98; Present: 81;
For: 81; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1359**-274
**Subject: Children and Youth Sunday**
Committee Item: GJ108-274-N
Petition:
23027-GJ-274-D, Pg. 1325
Membership: 98; Present: 81;
For: 81; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1360**-275.4
**Subject: United Methodist Student Day**
Committee Item: GJ109-275.4-N
Petition:
22566-GJ-275.4-D, Pg. 1325
Membership: 98; Present: 81;
For: 81; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1361**-NonDis
**Subject: Annual AIDS Awareness Sunday**
Committee Item: GJ110-NonDis-N
Petition:
20237-GJ-NonDis-O, Pg. 713
Membership: 98; Present: 81;
For: 81; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1362**-NonDis
**Subject: The Church and God's Creation**
Committee Item: GJ116-NonDis-N
Petitions:
20238-GJ-NonDis-O, Pg. 714;
22641-GJ-276-D, Pg. 1326
Membership: 98; Present: 81;
For: 81; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1363**-NonDis-$
**Subject: REPORT: Site Selection Task Force for GBGM**
Committee Item: GJ117-NonDis-N$
Petition:
20540-GJ-NonDis-O$, Pg. 683
Membership: 98; Present: 89;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1364**-NonDis-$
**Subject: Quadrennium of the Worker**
Committee Item: GJ119-NonDis-N$
Petition:
22478-GJ-NonDis-O$, Pg. 1335
Membership: 98; Present: 79;
For: 79; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1365**-NonDis-$
**Subject: A Quadrennium of The Worker and Ministries to ` Working People and The Workplace**
Committee Item: GJ120-NonDis-N$
Petition:
20236-GJ-NonDis-O$, Pg. 712
Membership: 98; Present: 79;
For: 79; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1366**-NonDis-$
**Subject: Meetings and a U. S. Convocation on "Heterosexism And The Mission of The Church"**
Committee Item: GJ128-NonDis-R$
Petition:
20888-GJ-NonDis-O$, Pg. 717
Membership: 98; Present: 79;
For: 75; Against: 4; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/21

The Committee recommends referral to Board of Church & Society.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1367**-NonDis
**Subject: Defining "Status" in the Constitution**
Committee Item: GJ141-NonDis-N
Petition:
20274-GJ-NonDis-O, Pg. 714
Membership: 98; Present: 84;
For: 84; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1368**-NonDis
**Subject: Use Cost of Relocating the GBGM as a Missional Priority Fund**
Committee Item: GJ142-NonDis-N
Petition:
22893-GJ-NonDis-O, Pg. 1340
Membership: 98; Present: 83;
For: 83; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1369**-NonDis-$
**Subject: The Global Nature of The Church**
Committee Item: GJ150-NonDis-N$
Petitions:
20275-GJ-NonDis-O, Pg. 714;
21719-GJ-NonDis-O$, Pg. 173;
22267-GJ-NonDis-O, Pg. 1334;
23026-GJ-NonDis-O, Pg. 1277
Membership: 98; Present: 67;
For: 67; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1370**-NonDis
**Subject: Vote to keep the headquarters of the General Board of Global Ministries in New York City**
Committee Item: GJ153-NonDis-N
Petition:
20516-GJ-NonDis-O, Pg. 715
Membership: 98; Present: 81;
For: 79; Against: 1; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1371**-NonDis
**Subject: Relocation of the General Board of Global Ministries**
Committee Item: GJ154-NonDis-N
Petition:
20744-GJ-NonDis-O, Pg. 716
Membership: 98; Present: 81;
For: 81; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1372**-NonDis
**Subject: Reconsider Relocation of the General Board of Global Ministries**
Committee Item: GJ155-NonDis-N
Petition:
20070-GJ-NonDis-O, Pg. 711
Membership: 98; Present: 81;
For: 75; Against: 6; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1373**-NonDis
**Subject: For the General Board of Global Ministries to Remain in New York**
Committee Item: GJ157-NonDis-N
Petition:
22892-GJ-NonDis-O, Pg. 1339
Membership: 98; Present: 81;
For: 81; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1374**-NonDis
**Subject: Location of the General Board of Global Ministries**
Committee Item: GJ158-NonDis-N
Petition:
20517-GJ-NonDis-O, Pg. 715
Membership: 98; Present: 81;
For: 79; Against: 1; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1375**-NonDis
**Subject: Relocation of the General Board of Global Ministries**
Committee Item: GJ159-NonDis-N
Petition:
20796-GJ-NonDis-O, Pg. 716
Membership: 98; Present: 81;
For: 75; Against: 6; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1376**-NonDis
**Subject: Relocation of the General Board of Global Ministries**
Committee Item: GJ160-NonDis-N
Petition:
20886-GJ-NonDis-O, Pg. 717
Membership: 98; Present: 81;
For: 79; Against: 1; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1377**-NonDis
**Subject: Relocation of the General Board of Global Ministries**
Committee Item: GJ162-NonDis-N
Petition:
22894-GJ-NonDis-O, Pg. 1340
Membership: 98; Present: 81;
For: 81; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1378**-NonDis
**Subject: Opposition to Moving the General Board of Global Ministries from New York to Reston, Va.**
Committee Item: GJ163-NonDis-N
Petition:
22910-GJ-NonDis-O, Pg. 1341
Membership: 98; Present: 84;
For: 84; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/21

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1379**-NonDis
**Subject: Relocation of the General Board of General Board of Global Ministries**
Committee Item: GJ164-NonDis-N
Petition:
22909-GJ-NonDis-O, Pg. 1341
Membership: 98; Present: 83;
For: 83; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1380**-NonDis
**Subject: Relocation of the General Board of Global Ministries**
Committee Item: GJ165-NonDis-N
Petition:
21010-GJ-NonDis-O, Pg. 1333
Membership: 98; Present: 81;
For: 81; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1381**-NonDis
**Subject: Relocation of the General Board of Global Ministries**
Committee Item: GJ166-NonDis-N
Petition:
21554-GJ-NonDis-O, Pg. 1333
Membership: 98; Present: 83;
For: 83; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;

Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1382-2400-$

**Subject: Offices of General Agencies, Boards, Commissions, Councils and Organizations**
Committee Item: GJ167-2400-N$
Petition:
21011-GJ-2400-D$, Pg. 1332
Membership: 98; Present: 83;
For: 83; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1383-NonDis

**Subject: Location of the General Board of Global Ministries**
Committee Item: GJ168-NonDis-N
Petition:
22891-GJ-NonDis-O, Pg. 1339
Membership: 98; Present: 81;
For: 81; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1384-2623

**Subject: Chargeable offenses**
Committee Item: GJ173-2623-N
Petition:
20375-GJ-2623-D, Pg. 1092
Membership: 98; Present: 62;
For: 62; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1385-2623.1

**Subject: Additional Chargeable Offenses**
Committee Item: GJ176-2623.1-N
Petition:
22607-GJ-2623.1-D, Pg. 1487
Membership: 98; Present: 69;
For: 69; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1386-2622

**Subject: A Description of the Nature of an Appeal**
Committee Item: GJ179-2622-N
Petition:
20214-GJ-2622-D, Pg. 1091
Membership: 98; Present: 69;
For: 69; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1387-2623.1

**Subject: Simplifying the Phrasing of the Charge**
Committee Item: GJ180-2623.1-N
Petition:
20803-GJ-2623.1-D, Pg. 1486
Membership: 98; Present: 69;
For: 69; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1388-2623.1

**Subject: Chargeable Offenses**
Committee Item: GJ182-2623.1-N
Petition:
22853-GJ-2623.1-D, Pg. 1487
Membership: 98; Present: 69;
For: 69; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1389-2623.1

**Subject: Chargeable Offenses**
Committee Item: GJ183-2623.1-N
Petition:
22852-GJ-2623.1-D, Pg. 1487
Membership: 98; Present: 69;
For: 69; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1390-2623.1

**Subject: Chargeable Offenses**
Committee Item: GJ184-2623.1-N
Petition:
21547-GJ-2623.1-D, Pg. 1486
Membership: 98; Present: 62;
For: 62; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1391-2204.1

**Subject: Membership of General Commission on the Status and Role of Women**
Committee Item: GJ201-2204.1-N
Petition:
20647-GJ-2204.1-D, Pg. 913
Membership: 98; Present: 56;
For: 56; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1392-1907.1

**Subject: Organization and Membership of the General Commission on Communication**
Committee Item: GJ206-1907.1-N
Petition:
21377-GJ-1907.1-D, Pg. 909
Membership: 98; Present: 56;
For: 56; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1393-1907.1

**Subject: Membership and Staff of General Commission on Communication**
Committee Item: GJ207-1907.1-N
Petition:
20640-GJ-1907.1-D, Pg. 908
Membership: 98; Present: 56;
For: 56; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1394-2006.1

**Subject: Membership of General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns**
Committee Item: GJ209-2006.1-N
Petition:
20644-GJ-2006.1-D, Pg. 911
Membership: 98; Present: 56;
For: 56; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1395-2103
**Subject: Membership of General Commission on Religion and Race**
Committee Item: GJ211-2103-N
Petition:
20646-GJ-2103-D, Pg. 911
Membership: 98; Present: 56;
For: 56; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1396-NonDis-$
**Subject: A U.S. Convocation on "Heterosexism and the Mission of the Church"**
Committee Item: GJ231-NonDis-N$
Petition:
22518-GJ-NonDis-O$, Pg. 1337
Membership: 98; Present: 67;
For: 67; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1397-NonDis-$
**Subject: Review of the Church**
Committee Item: GJ232-NonDis-N$
Petition:
20824-GJ-NonDis-O$, Pg. 1496
Membership: 98; Present: 69;
For: 69; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1398-2622
**Subject: Fair Process**
Committee Item: GJ236-2622-N
Petition:
22391-GJ-2622-D, Pg. 1486
Membership: 98; Present: 69;
For: 69; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1399-2622
**Subject: Providing the Right for the Accused to Face the Accusers**
Committee Item: GJ242-2622-N
Petition:
21543-GJ-2622-D, Pg. 1485
Membership: 98; Present: 69;
For: 69; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1400-2622
**Subject: Reasonable setting of time and place for fair Process Hearings and Interviews**
Committee Item: GJ243-2622-N
Petition:
20215-GJ-2622-D, Pg. 1091
Membership: 98; Present: 69;
For: 69; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1401-2622
**Subject: Stating the Constitutional Right of Protection from Self-Incrimination**
Committee Item: GJ245-2622-N
Petition:
20216-GJ-2622-D, Pg. 1091
Membership: 98; Present: 69;
For: 69; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1402-NonDis
**Subject: Specific Responsibilities of the Board of Ordained Ministry**
Committee Item: HE51-NonDis-N
Petition:
20903-HE-NonDis-O, Pg. 1104
Membership: 86; Present: 72;
For: 72; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1403-2201
**Subject: General Commission on the Status and Role of Women**
Committee Item: IC10-2201-N
Petition:
22716-IC-2201-D, Pg. 1389
Membership: 71; Present: 55;
For: 55; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1404-2302-$
**Subject: General Commission on the Status and Role of Conservatives**
Committee Item: IC11-2302-N$
Petition:
21014-IC-2302-D$, Pg. 1389
Membership: 71; Present: 53;
For: 53; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1405-NonDis
**Subject: Celebrate and support the ongoing work of the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women**
Committee Item: IC99-NonDis-N
Petitions:
20222-IC-NonDis-O, Pg. 917;
22025-IC-NonDis-O, Pg. 1392;
22424-IC-2201-D, Pg. 1389
Membership: 71; Present: 55;
For: 54; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1406-1906.12
**Subject: Staff**
Committee Item: IC102-1906.12-N
Petition:
20553-IC-2208-D, Pg. 913
Membership: 71; Present: 55;
For: 46; Against: 7; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1407-NonDis
**Subject: Designate "The Elimination of Racism in Its Many Forms" as a Special Emphasis for 1997-2000**
Committee Item: IC108-NonDis-N

Petition:
22430-IC-NonDis-O, Pg. 1396
Membership: 71; Present: 64;
For: 63; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1408-NonDis
**Subject: Prejudice/Discrimination**
Committee Item: IC117-NonDis-N
Petition:
20801-IC-NonDis-O, Pg. 1391
Membership: 71; Present: 63;
For: 62; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1409-2106
**Subject: Staff**
Committee Item: IC118-2106-N
Petition:
20552-IC-2106-D, Pg. 912
Membership: 71; Present: 61;
For: 53; Against: 7; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1410-R245
**Subject: Ecumenical Decade: Solidarity with Women**
Committee Item: IC120-R245-N
Petition:
22021-IC-R245-U, Pg. 1404
Membership: 71; Present: 54;
For: 49; Against: 3; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1411-R242
**Subject: Ecumenical Decade: Churches in Solidarity with Women**
Committee Item: IC121-R242-N
Petition:
22527-IC-R242-U, Pg. 1403
Membership: 71; Present: 53;
For: 53; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1412-NonDis
**Subject: The Ecumenical Decade**
Committee Item: IC123-NonDis-N
Petitions:
20221-IC-NonDis-O, Pg. 916;
20727-IC-NonDis-O, Pg. 918;
20896-IC-NonDis-O, Pg. 920;
22526-IC-NonDis-O, Pg. 1397
Membership: 71; Present: 58;
For: 54; Against: 0; Not Voting: 4;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1413-NonDis
**Subject: A Resolution on the Women's Spirituality Movement and the United Methodist Church**
Committee Item: IC128-NonDis-N
Petition:
22859-IC-NonDis-O, Pg. 1499
Membership: 71; Present: 53;
For: 50; Against: 3; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1414-261
**Subject: Local Church work area on Prayer**
Committee Item: LC14-261-N
Petition:
20098-LC-261-D, Pg. 959
Membership: 89; Present: 68;
For: 67; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1415-261
**Subject: Work Area on Prayer in the Local Church**
Committee Item: LC15-261-N
Petition:
22814-LC-261-D, Pg. 1415
Membership: 89; Present: 69;
For: 69; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1416-261
**Subject: Coordinator of Prayer Ministries**
Committee Item: LC16-261-N
Petition:
22815-LC-261-D, Pg. 1415
Membership: 89; Present: 69;
For: 69; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1417-261
**Subject: Eliminate Local Church Work Areas**
Committee Item: LC18-261-N
Petition:
20671-LC-261-D, Pg. 960
Membership: 89; Present: 70;
For: 70; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence in favor of #20352.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1418-261
**Subject: Work Areas of the Local Church**
Committee Item: LC19-261-N
Petition:
22122-LC-261-D, Pg. 1414
Membership: 89; Present: 68;
For: 67; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1419-262.11
**Subject: Local Church Work Area on Prayer.**
Committee Item: LC20-262.11-N
Petition:
20099-LC-262.11-D, Pg. 960
Membership: 89; Present: 71;
For: 69; Against: 1; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence in favor of #20098.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1420-262.11
**Subject: The Work Area Chairperson of Worship**
Committee Item: LC21-262.11-N
Petition:
22575-LC-262.11-D, Pg. 1416
Membership: 89; Present: 71;
For: 67; Against: 4; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1421-262.2
**Subject: Responsibilities of Work Area Chairperson of Church and Society**
Committee Item: LC23-262.2-N
Petition:
22123-LC-262.2-D, Pg. 1415
Membership: 89; Present: 70;
For: 70; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1422-262.2
**Subject: The work area chairperson of Church and Society**
Committee Item: LC24-262.2-N
Petition:
20958-LC-262.2-D, Pg. 960
Membership: 89; Present: 71;
For: 71; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1423-262
**Subject: Coordinator of Prayer Ministries**
Committee Item: LC26-262-N
Petition:
22816-LC-262-D, Pg. 1415
Membership: 89; Present: 70;
For: 70; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence in favor of #20098.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1424-262.5
**Subject: Criminal Justice and Mercy Ministries as a Responsibility of the Evangelism Work Area**
Committee Item: LC27-262.5-N
Petition:
22127-LC-262.5-D, Pg. 1415
Membership: 89; Present: 71;
For: 71; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence in favor of #22132.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1425-262.3
**Subject: Criminal Justice and Mercy Ministries as a Means of Utilizing Community Volunteers**
Committee Item: LC28-262.3-N
Petition:
22125-LC-262.3-D, Pg. 1415
Membership: 89; Present: 71;
For: 71; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence in favor of #22132.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1426-262.2
**Subject: Criminal Justice and Mercy Ministry as a Responsibility of Church and Society Work Area**
Committee Item: LC29-262.2-N
Petition:
22124-LC-262.2-D, Pg. 1415
Membership: 89; Present: 71;
For: 71; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence in favor of #22132.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1427-262.4
**Subject: The Chairperson of Education**
Committee Item: LC30-262.4-N
Petition:
22126-LC-262.4-D, Pg. 1415
Membership: 89; Present: 71;
For: 71; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1428-262.10
**Subject: The Chairperson of Stewardship**
Committee Item: LC31-262.10-N
Petition:
21596-LC-262.10-D, Pg. 960
Membership: 89; Present: 71;
For: 71; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1429-262.10
**Subject: The Work Area Chairperson of Stewardship**
Committee Item: LC32-262.10-N
Petition:
21450-LC-262.10-D, Pg. 960
Membership: 89; Present: 71;
For: 71; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1430-262.5
**Subject: The Work Area Chairperson of Evangelism**
Committee Item: LC33-262.5-N
Petition:
21449-LC-262.5-D, Pg. 960
Membership: 89; Present: 71;
For: 71; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1431-263.2
**Subject: The Health and Welfare Ministries Representative**
Committee Item: LC34-263.2-N
Petition:
20332-LC-263.2-D, Pg. 961
Membership: 89; Present: 73;
For: 73; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence in favor of # 20354.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1432-264.7
**Subject: Local Church Committee on Criminal Justice and Mercy Ministries**
Committee Item: LC36-264.7-N
Petition:
22132-LC-264.7-D, Pg. 1417
Membership: 89; Present: 73;
For: 73; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1433-264
**Subject: Program Agencies: Involvement in Community Ministries**
Committee Item: LC37-264-N
Petition:
22129-LC-264-D, Pg. 1416
Membership: 89; Present: 73;
For: 73; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence in favor of 20672.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1434-264.1
**Subject: Program Agencies**
Committee Item: LC40-264.1-N
Petition:
20355-LC-264.1-D, Pg. 961
Membership: 89; Present: 73;
For: 73; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1435-2541.3
**Subject: Incorporated Local Church Property - Sale, Transfer, Lease or Mortgage**
Committee Item: LC48-2541.3-N
Petition:
20731-LC-2541.3-D, Pg. 1424
Membership: 89; Present: 74;
For: 65; Against: 7; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1436-2540.3
**Subject: Unincorporated Local Church Property-Sale, Transfer, Lease or Mortgage**
Committee Item: LC49-2540.3-N
Petition:
20730-LC-2540.3-D, Pg. 1423
Membership: 89; Present: 74;
For: 65; Against: 7; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1437-2530.2
**Subject: Seasonal Local United Methodist Churches Trustes**
Committee Item: LC57-2530.2-N
Petition:
22683-LC-2530.2-D, Pg. 1421
Membership: 89; Present: 75;
For: 72; Against: 2; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1438-2533.1
**Subject: Board of Trustees - Powers and Limitations**
Committee Item: LC59-2533.1-N
Petition:
22820-LC-2533.1-D, Pg. 1421
Membership: 89; Present: 81;
For: 79; Against: 2; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1439-2533.2
**Subject: Purchase of Local Church Insurance**
Committee Item: LC61-2533.2-N
Petition:
22684-LC-2533.2-D, Pg. 1422
Membership: 89; Present: 81;
For: 77; Against: 1; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1440-2533.6
**Subject: Board and Trustees Powers and Limitations**
Committee Item: LC64-2533.6-N
Petition:
22144-LC-2533.6-D, Pg. 1422
Membership: 89; Present: 79;
For: 77; Against: 1; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1441-2534
**Subject: Permanent Endowment Fund Committee**
Committee Item: LC65-2534-N
Petition:
22147-LC-2534-D, Pg. 1422
Membership: 89; Present: 78;
For: 78; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1442-2537
**Subject: Unicorporated Local Church Property**
Committee Item: LC74-2537-N
Petition:
21016-LC-2537-D, Pg. 1423
Membership: 89; Present: 79;
For: 79; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1443-2539
**Subject: Incorporated Local Church Property - Notice and Authorization**
Committee Item: LC75-2539-N
Petition:
21017-LC-2539-D, Pg. 1423
Membership: 89; Present: 79;
For: 79; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1444-2540
**Subject: Sale, Transfer, Lease or Mortgage**
Committee Item: LC76-2540-N
Petition:
21018-LC-2540-D, Pg. 1423
Membership: 89; Present: 79;
For: 79; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1445-2541
**Subject: Incorporated Local Church Property - Sale, Lease, Transfer, or Mortgage**
Committee Item: LC77-2541-N
Petition:
21019-LC-2541-D, Pg. 1423
Membership: 89; Present: 79;
For: 79; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1446-2541.2
**Subject: Local Church Property**
Committee Item: LC78-2541.2-N
Petition:
21020-LC-2541.2-D, Pg. 1424
Membership: 89; Present: 62;
For: 61; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1447-2541.3
**Subject: Local Church Property**
Committee Item: LC79-2541.3-N
Petition:
21021-LC-2541.3-D, Pg. 1424
Membership: 89; Present: 64;
For: 63; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1448-2551
**Subject: Study of Local Church Potential**
Committee Item: LC83-2551-N
Petition:
22151-LC-2551-D, Pg. 1426
Membership: 89; Present: 69;
For: 69; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1449-2544.8
**Subject: Approval of the Church Conference of the Building Committee's Plans**
Committee Item: LC87-2544.8-N
Petition:
22150-LC-2544.8-D, Pg. 1426
Membership: 89; Present: 79;
For: 79; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence. Already within capability of church.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1450-252.1
**Subject: Responsibilities of a Local Church Lay Leader**
Committee Item: LC88-252.1-N
Petition:
20761-LC-252.1-D, Pg. 957
Membership: 89; Present: 74;
For: 73; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1451-2542
**Subject: Disposition of Church building or parsonage**
Committee Item: LC95-2542-N
Petition:
21033-LC-2542-D, Pg. 1424
Membership: 89; Present: 74;
For: 72; Against: 1; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1452-2541.2
**Subject: Voting of Members of the Local Church Property Committee**
Committee Item: LC96-2541.2-N
Petition:
22148-LC-2541.2-D, Pg. 1424
Membership: 89; Present: 74;
For: 73; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1453-NonDis
**Subject: Trial Procedures**
Committee Item: LC97-NonDis-N
Petition:
20799-LC-NonDis-O, Pg. 1102
Membership: 89; Present: 74;
For: 73; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1454-NonDis
**Subject: Day Care Facilities**
Committee Item: LC98-NonDis-N
Petition:
20900-LC-NonDis-O, Pg. 1427
Membership: 89; Present: 73;
For: 72; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1455-247
**Subject: Membership of the Charge Conference**
Committee Item: LC138-247-N
Petition:
20006-LC-247-D, Pg. 1411
Membership: 89; Present: 70;
For: 70; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1456-230
**Subject: Period of Grace for Inactive Members of a Local United Methodist Church**
Committee Item: LC139-230-N
Petitions:
20093-LC-230.1-D, Pg. 1409;
20094-LC-230.1-D, Pg. 1409;
20095-LC-230.2-D, Pg. 1410;
20096-LC-230.3-D, Pg. 1410;
20097-LC-230.4-D, Pg. 1410;
20224-LC-230-D, Pg. 949;
20529-LC-230-D, Pg. 949;
20554-LC-230-D, Pg. 950;
22530-LC-230.1-D, Pg. 1409;
22571-LC-230-D, Pg. 1408
Membership: 89; Present: 73;
For: 70; Against: 3; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence in favor of #21442.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1457-250.7
**Subject: Special Attention for the Inclusion of all**
Committee Item: LC140-250.7-N
Petitions:
20328-LC-250.7-D, Pg. 956;
20330-LC-259-D, Pg. 959
Membership: 89; Present: 73;
For: 73; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1458**-248.14
**Subject: Duties of the Charge Conference**
Committee Item: LC141-248.14-N
Petition:
22676-LC-248.14-D, Pg. 1412
Membership: 89; Present: 74;
For: 72; Against: 1; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1459**-201
**Subject: Organization and Administration**
Committee Item: LC142-201-N
Petition:
21893-LC-201-D, Pg. 1013
Membership: 89; Present: 73;
For: 71; Against: 0; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1460**-257.3
**Subject: Enabling Legislation for Basic Salary Plan Option- The Administrative Board**
Committee Item: LC145-257.3-N
Petition:
22121-LC-257.3-D, Pg. 1414
Membership: 89; Present: 74;
For: 72; Against: 2; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1461**-252.1
**Subject: Responsibilities of the Local Church Lay Leader**
Committee Item: LC149-252.1-N
Petition:
21448-LC-252.1-D, Pg. 957
Membership: 89; Present: 74;
For: 71; Against: 0; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1462**-252.1
**Subject: Responsibilities of a Lay Leader**
Committee Item: LC150-252.1-N
Petition:
22441-LC-252.1-D, Pg. 1413
Membership: 89; Present: 74;
For: 71; Against: 3; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1463**-257.3
**Subject: Responsibilities of the Administrative Board**
Committee Item: LC151-257.3-N
Petition:
22368-LC-257.3-D, Pg. 1414
Membership: 89; Present: 74;
For: 74; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1464**-248.13
**Subject: Powers and Duties of the Charge Conference**
Committee Item: LC152-248.13-N
Petition:
22367-LC-248.13-D, Pg. 1412
Membership: 89; Present: 74;
For: 74; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1465**-248.6
**Subject: Powers and Duties of the Church Conference**
Committee Item: LC153-248.6-N
Petition:
22113-LC-248.6-D, Pg. 1411
Membership: 89; Present: 74;
For: 73; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1466**-257.3
**Subject: Responsibilities of the Administrative Board**
Committee Item: LC154-257.3-N
Petition:
22574-LC-257.3-D, Pg. 1414
Membership: 89; Present: 74;
For: 74; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1467**-247.7
**Subject: Charge and Church Conference, Absentee Ballots**
Committee Item: LC156-247.7-N
Petition:
22811-LC-247.7-D, Pg. 1411
Membership: 89; Present: 74;
For: 73; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1468**-210
**Subject: Church Membership**
Committee Item: LC157-210-N
Petition:
22438-LC-210-D, Pg. 1407
Membership: 89; Present: 75;
For: 75; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1469**-406.10
**Subject: Appeal Process for Local Pastors**
Committee Item: LC158-406.10-N
Petition:
20538-LC-406.10-D, Pg. 1049
Membership: 89; Present: 62;
For: 62; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1470**-270.1
**Subject: Committee on Nominations and Personnel**
Committee Item: LC161-270.1-N
Petitions:
20100-LC-270.1-D, Pg. 1417;
20101-LC-270.1-D, Pg. 1417;
20245-LC-270.1-D, Pg. 962;
21453-LC-270.1-D, Pg. 963;
23020-LC-NonDis-O, Pg. 1427
Membership: 89; Present: 37;
For: 37; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence in favor of 22133.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1471-270.1
**Subject: Committee on Nominations and Personnel**
Committee Item: LC162-270.1-N
Petition:
22134-LC-270.1-D, Pg. 1417
Membership: 89; Present: 41;
For: 41; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1472-270.1
**Subject: Local Church Administrative Committees**
Committee Item: LC163-270.1-N
Petition:
20674-LC-270.1-D, Pg. 962
Membership: 89; Present: 42;
For: 42; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence in favor of 20657.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1473-270.1
**Subject: Committee on Nominations and Personnel**
Committee Item: LC164-270.1-N
Petition:
22550-LC-270.1-D, Pg. 1418
Membership: 89; Present: 44;
For: 44; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1474-270.2
**Subject: Appointed Staff**
Committee Item: LC165-270.2-N
Petition:
20102-LC-270.2-D, Pg. 963
Membership: 89; Present: 47;
For: 47; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1475-270.2
**Subject: Committee on Pastor-Parish Relations**
Committee Item: LC167-270.2-N
Petition:
20005-LC-270.2-D, Pg. 1418
Membership: 89; Present: 47;
For: 47; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1476-270.2
**Subject: Accountability of Non-Appointed Local Church Staff to Appointed Pastor-in-Charge and Committees**
Committee Item: LC168-270.2-N
Petition:
22136-LC-270.2-D, Pg. 1418
Membership: 89; Present: 47;
For: 47; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1477-270.2
**Subject: Annual Evaluation of the Pastor**
Committee Item: LC170-270.2-N
Petition:
22140-LC-270.2-D, Pg. 1419
Membership: 89; Present: 46;
For: 46; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1478-270.2
**Subject: Duties of the Committee on Pastor-Parish Relations**
Committee Item: LC171-270.2-N
Petition:
22142-LC-270.2-D, Pg. 1419
Membership: 89; Present: 48;
For: 48; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1479-270.2
**Subject: Duties of the Committee on Pastor-Parish Relations**
Committee Item: LC172-270.2-N
Petition:
22370-LC-270.2-D, Pg. 1419
Membership: 89; Present: 48;
For: 48; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1480-NonDis
**Subject: Lay Member/Reserve Lay Members to Annual Conference**
Committee Item: LC175-NonDis-N
Petition:
22821-LC-NonDis-O, Pg. 1427
Membership: 89; Present: 50;
For: 50; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1481-270.2
**Subject: Committee on Pastor-Parish Relations**
Committee Item: LC177-270.2-N
Petition:
22442-LC-270.2-D, Pg. 1420
Membership: 89; Present: 50;
For: 50; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1482-270.2
**Subject: Committee on Pastor-Parish Relations**
Committee Item: LC179-270.2-N
Petition:
22444-LC-270.2-D, Pg. 1420
Membership: 89; Present: 50;
For: 50; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1483-270.2
**Subject: Duties of the Committee on Pastor-Parish Relations (Staff-Parish Relations)**
Committee Item: LC181-270.2-N
Petition:
22818-LC-270.2-D, Pg. 1420
Membership: 89; Present: 50;
For: 50; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;

Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1484-270.2
**Subject: Committee on Pastor-Parish Relations**
Committee Item: LC182-270.2-N
Petition:
21130-LC-270.2-D, Pg. 964
Membership: 89; Present: 50;
For: 50; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence in favor of 20103.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1485-270.2
**Subject: Enabling Legislation for Basic Salary Plan Option-Committee on Pastor-Parish Relations**
Committee Item: LC183-270.2-N
Petitions:
20856-LC-270.2-D, Pg. 964;
22137-LC-270.2-D, Pg. 1418
Membership: 89; Present: 51;
For: 48; Against: 3; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence in favor of 22117 and 22121.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1486-253
**Subject: Chairperson of Prayer Ministries**
Committee Item: LC186-253-N
Petitions:
22118-LC-253.2-D, Pg. 1413;
22573-LC-253-D, Pg. 1413;
22678-LC-253.2-D, Pg. 1413;
22813-LC-253-D, Pg. 1413
Membership: 89; Present: 59;
For: 59; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence in favor of 20352.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1487-257.4
**Subject: The Church Council and Local Church Funding**
Committee Item: LC187-257.4-N
Petition:
20667-LC-257.4-D, Pg. 958
Membership: 89; Present: 60;
For: 60; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1488-248.19
**Subject: Powers and Duties of a Charge Conference**
Committee Item: LC188-248.19-N
Petition:
20227-LC-248.19-D, Pg. 955
Membership: 89; Present: 59;
For: 59; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1489-248
**Subject: Responsibility of the Charge Conference**
Committee Item: LC189-248-N
Petition:
20007-LC-248-D, Pg. 1411
Membership: 89; Present: 59;
For: 59; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1490-249
**Subject: The Church Conference**
Committee Item: LC191-249-N
Petition:
22812-LC-249-D, Pg. 1412
Membership: 89; Present: 59;
For: 59; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1491-251.4
**Subject: Duties of the Charge Conference**
Committee Item: LC193-251.4-N
Petition:
20329-LC-251.4-D, Pg. 956
Membership: 89; Present: 59;
For: 59; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1492-257.4
**Subject: Responsibilities of the Administrative Board/ Council**
Committee Item: LC194-257.4-N
Petition:
20842-LC-257.4-D, Pg. 1414
Membership: 89; Present: 59;
For: 54; Against: 5; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1493-270.2
**Subject: Duties of the Committee on Pastor-Parish Relations (Staff-Parish Relations)**
Committee Item: LC195-270.2-N
Petition:
22819-LC-270.2-D, Pg. 1421
Membership: 89; Present: 61;
For: 61; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1494-270.2
**Subject: Pastoral Advisory Committee**
Committee Item: LC196-270.2-N
Petition:
21133-LC-270.2-D, Pg. 964
Membership: 89; Present: 62;
For: 62; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1495-270.2
**Subject: The Committee on Pastor-Parish Relations**
Committee Item: LC197-270.2-N
Petition:
21454-LC-270.2-D, Pg. 964
Membership: 89; Present: 62;
For: 62; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence in favor of 22443.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1496-270.2
**Subject: The Make-up of the Committee on Pastor-Parish Relations (Staff-Parish Relations)**

Committee Item: LC199-270.2-N
Petition:
22817-LC-270.2-D, Pg. 1420
Membership: 89; Present: 62;
For: 62; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1497-NonDis
**Subject: Discontinue the term "Pastor-Parish Relations Committee'**
Committee Item: LC200-NonDis-N
Petition:
22578-LC-NonDis-O, Pg. 1427
Membership: 89; Present: 61;
For: 61; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1498-270.2
**Subject: Pastor-Parish Relations Committee and the Lay Preacher**
Committee Item: LC201-270.2-N
Petition:
22576-LC-270.2-D, Pg. 1420
Membership: 89; Present: 62;
For: 62; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1499-228
**Subject: Church Council and Care of Members**
Committee Item: LC213-228-N
Petitions:
20650-LC-227-D, Pg. 949;
20651-LC-228-D, Pg. 949;
20652-LC-229-D, Pg. 949;
20654-LC-233-D, Pg. 952
Membership: 89; Present: 62;
For: 62; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1500-248.14
**Subject: Conference Benevolence**
Committee Item: LC216-248.14-N
Petitions:
20106-LC-248.14-D, Pg. 955;
20422-LC-248.14-D, Pg. 955;
21029-LC-248.14-D, Pg. 1412
Membership: 89; Present: 62;
For: 58; Against: 4; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1501-257.3
**Subject: Basic Salary Plan - The Administrative Board**
Committee Item: LC218-257.3-N
Petition:
20855-LC-257.3-D, Pg. 958
Membership: 89; Present: 74;
For: 74; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1502-257.7
**Subject: Responsibility of the Administrative Board**
Committee Item: LC219-257.7-N
Petition:
21089-LC-257.7-D, Pg. 959
Membership: 89; Present: 74;
For: 74; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1503-253.2
**Subject: Retired Diaconal Ministers**
Committee Item: LC220-253.2-N
Petition:
23074-LC-253.2-D
Membership: 89; Present: 69;
For: 69; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1504-247.2
**Subject: The Relationship of a Retired Diaconal Minister to a Charge Conference**
Committee Item: LC221-247.2-N
Petition:
22440-LC-247.2-D, Pg. 1411
Membership: 89; Present: 69;
For: 69; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1505-248.2
**Subject: Powers and Duties of the Charge Conference**
Committee Item: LC225-248.2-N
Petition:
22549-LC-248.2-D, Pg. 1411
Membership: 89; Present: 74;
For: 73; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence in favor of 20696.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1506-227
**Subject: Affiliate and Associate Members**
Committee Item: LC226-227-N
Petition:
22111-LC-227-D, Pg. 1408
Membership: 89; Present: 74;
For: 74; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1507-252
**Subject: Committee on Pastor-Parish Relations**
Committee Item: LC227-252-N
Petition:
21031-LC-252-D, Pg. 1413
Membership: 89; Present: 74;
For: 73; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1508-225
**Subject: Confirmation without vows of full membership**
Committee Item: LC234-225-N
Petition:
20092-LC-225-D, Pg. 1408
Membership: 89; Present: 72;
For: 71; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1509**-248.14
**Subject: Local Church Apportionments**
Committee Item: LC236-248.14-N
Petition:
20659-LC-248.14-D, Pg. 955
Membership: 89; Present: 62;
For: 62; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1510**-514.2
**Subject: Specific Responsibilities of Bishops**
Committee Item: MN6-514.2-N
Petition:
22847-MN-514.2-D, Pg. 1475
Membership: 113; Present: 99;
For: 99; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1511**-514.8
**Subject: Specific Responsibilities of Bishops**
Committee Item: MN8-514.8-N
Petition:
22419-MN-514.8-D, Pg. 1475
Membership: 113; Present: 99;
For: 99; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1512**-514.3
**Subject: Limit Travel of Bishops**
Committee Item: MN9-514.3-N
Petition:
20685-MN-514.3-D, Pg. 1079
Membership: 113; Present: 98;
For: 94; Against: 0; Not Voting: 4;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1513**-501
**Subject: The Office of District Superintendent**
Committee Item: MN12-501-N
Petition:
20844-MN-501-D, Pg. 1472
Membership: 113; Present: 96;
For: 95; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1514**-504
**Subject: Office of Superintendent**
Committee Item: MN15-504-N
Petition:
20846-MN-504-D, Pg. 1473
Membership: 113; Present: 96;
For: 95; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1515**-315
**Subject: The Ordained Deacon**
Committee Item: MN21-315-N
Petition:
21830-MN-315-D, Pg. 996
Membership: 113; Present: 100;
For: 99; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1516**-509.1
**Subject: Termination of Office**
Committee Item: MN31-509.1-N
Petition:
22078-MN-509.1-D, Pg. 1473
Membership: 113; Present: 102;
For: 101; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1517**-509.1
**Subject: Mandatory Retirement of Bishops**
Committee Item: MN32-509.1-N
Petition:
22380-MN-509.1-D, Pg. 1473
Membership: 113; Present: 101;
For: 97; Against: 3; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1518**-509.1
**Subject: Mandatory Retirement**
Committee Item: MN34-509.1-N
Petition:
22079-MN-509.1-D, Pg. 1473
Membership: 113; Present: 102;
For: 101; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1519**-509
**Subject: Discontinuation of Office**
Committee Item: MN35-509-N
Petition:
21527-MN-509-D, Pg. 1473
Membership: 113; Present: 101;
For: 101; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1520**-509
**Subject: Termination of Office — Bishop**
Committee Item: MN36-509-N
Petition:
21528-MN-509-D
Membership: 113; Present: 101;
For: 100; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1521**-509
**Subject: Termination of Office**
Committee Item: MN37-509-N
Petition:
20853-MN-509-D, Pg. 1076
Membership: 113; Present: 101;
For: 96; Against: 3; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1522**-503
**Subject: The Office of District Superintendent**
Committee Item: MN39-503-N
Petition:
22845-MN-503-D, Pg. 1473
Membership: 113; Present: 101;
For: 99; Against: 2; Not Voting: 0;

Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1523-503
**Subject: Office of District Superintendent**
Committee Item: MN40-503-N
Petition:
20845-MN-503-D, Pg. 1472
Membership: 113; Present: 101;
For: 88; Against: 2; Not Voting: 11;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1524-419
**Subject: Eligibility and Rights of Associate Members**
Committee Item: MN42-419-N
Petition:
21811-MN-419-D, Pg. 990
Membership: 113; Present: 69;
For: 69; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1525-420
**Subject: Requirements for Election as Associate Members**
Committee Item: MN43-420-N
Petition:
21812-MN-420-D, Pg. 990
Membership: 113; Present: 69;
For: 69; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1526-410
**Subject: Existing, Reinstatement, and Retirement of Local Pastor**
Committee Item: MN46-410-N
Petition:
21802-MN-410-D, Pg. 990
Membership: 113; Present: 69;
For: 69; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1527-409
**Subject: Continuance as a Local Pastor**
Committee Item: MN48-409-N
Petition:
21801-MN-409-D, Pg. 990
Membership: 113; Present: 69;
For: 69; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1528-408
**Subject: Categories of Local Pastor**
Committee Item: MN50-408-N
Petition:
21800-MN-408-D, Pg. 990
Membership: 113; Present: 69;
For: 69; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1529-411
**Subject: Counseling Elders**
Committee Item: MN54-411-N
Petition:
21803-MN-411-D, Pg. 990
Membership: 113; Present: 69;
For: 69; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1530-207
**Subject: Entrance Procedures for Lay Ministry Stewards**
Committee Item: MN73-207-N
Petition:
21768-MN-207-D, Pg. 987
Membership: 113; Present: 103;
For: 100; Against: 1; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1531-206
**Subject: The Exercise of the Office of Lay Ministry Steward**
Committee Item: MN74-206-N
Petition:
21766-MN-206-D, Pg. 987
Membership: 113; Present: 103;
For: 101; Against: 1; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1532-206
**Subject: Lay Ministry Stewards**
Committee Item: MN75-206-N
Petition:
22921-MN-206-D, Pg. 1502
Membership: 113; Present: 103;
For: 102; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1533-206
**Subject: Servant Leadership Roles of the Lay Ministry Steward**
Committee Item: MN76-206-N
Petition:
21767-MN-206-D, Pg. 987
Membership: 113; Present: 103;
For: 100; Against: 1; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1534-206
**Subject: Cooperative parish Ministries**
Committee Item: MN78-206-N
Petition:
21900-MN-206-D, Pg. 1014
Membership: 113; Present: 103;
For: 103; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1535-205
**Subject: Pastoral Charge**
Committee Item: MN79-205-N
Petition:
21898-MN-205-D, Pg. 1014
Membership: 113; Present: 103;
For: 102; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1536**-205
**Subject: Qualities Desired in a Lay Ministry Steward**
Committee Item: MN81-205-N
Petition: -
21764-MN-205-D, Pg. 987
Membership: 113; Present: 103;
For: 100; Against: 1; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1537**-204
**Subject: Nature of Office of Lay Ministry Steward**
Committee Item: MN82-204-N
Petition:
22920-MN-204-D, Pg. 1502
Membership: 113; Present: 102;
For: 101; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1538**-204
**Subject: Responsibilities of the Local Church**
Committee Item: MN83-204-N
Petition:
21897-MN-204-D, Pg. 1014
Membership: 113; Present: 103;
For: 102; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1539**-204
**Subject: The Nature of the Office of Lay Ministry Steward**
Committee Item: MN84-204-N
Petition:
21762-MN-204-D, Pg. 986
Membership: 113; Present: 103;
For: 100; Against: 1; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1540**-203
**Subject: The Local Church as a Connectional Society**
Committee Item: MN86-203-N
Petition:
21896-MN-203-D, Pg. 1014
Membership: 113; Present: 103;
For: 95; Against: 1; Not Voting: 7;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1541**-203
**Subject: Christian Formation**
Committee Item: MN87-203-N
Petition:
21761-MN-203-D, Pg. 986
Membership: 113; Present: 103;
For: 99; Against: 1; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1542**-202
**Subject: Christian Discipleship**
Committee Item: MN88-202-N
Petition:
22919-MN-202-D, Pg. 1502
Membership: 113; Present: 102;
For: 101; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1543**-202
**Subject: The Church of Jesus Christ**
Committee Item: MN89-202-N
Petition:
21895-MN-202-D, Pg. 1014
Membership: 113; Present: 103;
For: 102; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1544**-202
**Subject: Christian Discipleship**
Committee Item: MN90-202-N
Petition:
21760-MN-202-D, Pg. 986
Membership: 113; Present: 103;
For: 100; Against: 1; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1545**-202
**Subject: The Purpose of Christian Discipleship**
Committee Item: MN91-202-N
Petition:
21759-MN-202-D, Pg. 986
Membership: 113; Present: 103;
For: 101; Against: 1; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1546**-201
**Subject: The Office of Lay Ministry Steward**
Committee Item: MN92-201-N
Petition:
21757-MN-201-D, Pg. 985
Membership: 113; Present: 104;
For: 100; Against: 1; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1547**-201
**Subject: Congregations as Covenant Communities**
Committee Item: MN93-201-N
Petition:
21758-MN-201-D, Pg. 985
Membership: 113; Present: 103;
For: 99; Against: 0; Not Voting: 4;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1548**-207
**Subject: Churches in Transitional Communities**
Committee Item: MN98-207-N
Petition:
21901-MN-207-D, Pg. 1014
Membership: 113; Present: 103;
For: 103; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1549**-452
**Subject: Election of Lay Ministry Steward**
Committee Item: MN102-452-N
Petition:

21949-MN-452-D, Pg. 1018
Membership: 113; Present: 102;
For: 100; Against: 1; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1550-439.2
**Subject: Pastoral Responsibilities**
Committee Item: MN107-439.2-N
Petition:
20392-MN-439.2-D, Pg. 1059
Membership: 113; Present: 101;
For: 101; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1551-439
**Subject: Responsibilities and Duties of a Pastor**
Committee Item: MN110-439-N
Petition:
21100-MN-439-D, Pg. 1058
Membership: 113; Present: 100;
For: 100; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1552-324
**Subject: Ministry of an Elder**
Committee Item: MN151-324-N
Petition:
22969-MN-324-D, Pg. 1506
Membership: 113; Present: 107;
For: 102; Against: 3; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1553-324
**Subject: Ministry of an Elder**
Committee Item: MN152-324-N
Petition:
22937-MN-324-D, Pg. 1506
Membership: 113; Present: 107;
For: 104; Against: 0; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1554-510
**Subject: Status of Retired Bishops**
Committee Item: MN173-510-N
Petition:
20683-MN-510-D, Pg. 1076
Membership: 113; Present: 75;
For: 71; Against: 2; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1555-38
**Subject: Ministerial Delegates to the General, Jurisdictional and Central Conferences**
Committee Item: MN194-38-N
Petition:
22009-MN-38-C, Pg. 1025
Membership: 113; Present: 94;
For: 94; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1556-407
**Subject: License as a Local Pastor**
Committee Item: MN226-407-N
Petition:
21799-MN-407-D, Pg. 990
Membership: 113; Present: 69;
For: 69; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1557-412
**Subject: General Provisions**
Committee Item: MN229-412-N
Petition:
21804-MN-412-D, Pg. 990
Membership: 113; Present: 69;
For: 69; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1558-521
**Subject: Limit Travel of District Superintendent**
Committee Item: MN273-521-N
Petition:
20689-MN-521-D, Pg. 1080
Membership: 113; Present: 100;
For: 100; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1559-301
**Subject: Relation to the Ministry of All Christians**
Committee Item: MN284-301-N
Petitions:
20037-MN-301-D, Pg. 1431;
22951-MN-301-D, Pg. 1431;
22970-MN-301-D, Pg. 1431
Membership: 113; Present: 104;
For: 103; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1560-450
**Subject: Maternity/Paternity Leave**
Committee Item: MN303-450-N
Petition:
21220-MN-450-D, Pg. 1067
Membership: 113; Present: 71;
For: 71; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1561-433
**Subject: Classification of Ordination**
Committee Item: MN307-433-N
Petition:
21790-MN-433-D, Pg. 989
Membership: 113; Present: 99;
For: 99; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1562-733.1
**Subject: Board of Ordained Ministry - Associate Member**
Committee Item: MN322-733.1-N
Petition:
21531-MN-733.1-D
Membership: 113; Present: 113;
For: 112; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1563**-733
**Subject: Conference Board of Ordained Ministry**
Committee Item: MN323-733-N
Petition:
22944-MN-733-D, Pg. 1507
Membership: 113; Present: 96;
For: 87; Against: 5; Not Voting: 4;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1564**-733
**Subject: Conference Board of Ordained Ministry**
Committee Item: MN324-733-N
Petition:
20511-MN-733-D, Pg. 1085
Membership: 113; Present: 113;
For: 113; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1565**-733.1
**Subject: Membership of Conference Board of Ordained Ministry**
Committee Item: MN325-733.1-N
Petition:
20467-MN-733.1-D, Pg. 1085
Membership: 113; Present: 100;
For: 100; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1566**-733.1
**Subject: Election of Board of Ordained Ministry Members**
Committee Item: MN327-733.1-N
Petition:
20259-MN-733.1-D, Pg. 1085
Membership: 113; Present: 99;
For: 94; Against: 4; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1567**-733.2
**Subject: Duties of the Board of Ordained Ministry**
Committee Item: MN328-733.2-N
Petition:
21533-MN-733.2-D, Pg. 1483
Membership: 113; Present: 95;
For: 95; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1568**-733
**Subject: Conference Board of Ordained Ministry**
Committee Item: MN329-733-N
Petition:
22602-MN-733-D, Pg. 1483
Membership: 113; Present: 95;
For: 94; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1569**-733.1
**Subject: Giving Lay Members of the Board of Ordained Ministry a vote on all matters before the Board**
Committee Item: MN330-733.1-N
Petition:
20149-MN-733.1-D, Pg. 1085
Membership: 113; Present: 99;
For: 91; Against: 4; Not Voting: 4;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1570**-733.1
**Subject: Annual Conference Board of Ordained Ministry**
Committee Item: MN331-733.1-N
Petition:
20745-MN-733.1-D, Pg. 1086
Membership: 113; Present: 99;
For: 95; Against: 1; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1571**-733.1
**Subject: Membership of the Board of Ordained Ministry**
Committee Item: MN332-733.1-N
Petition:
20468-MN-733.1-D, Pg. 1086
Membership: 113; Present: 100;
For: 100; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1572**-733.1
**Subject: Conference Board of Ordained Ministry**
Committee Item: MN333-733.1-N
Petition:
21672-MN-733.1-D, Pg. 1087
Membership: 113; Present: 96;
For: 95; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1573**-733.1
**Subject: Membership on Board of Ordained Ministry**
Committee Item: MN334-733.1-N
Petition:
20406-MN-733.1-D, Pg. 1085
Membership: 113; Present: 100;
For: 96; Against: 1; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1574**-733.1
**Subject: Conference Board of Ordained Ministry**
Committee Item: MN335-733.1-N
Petition:
20743-MN-733.1-D, Pg. 1086
Membership: 113; Present: 100;
For: 95; Against: 1; Not Voting: 4;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1575**-455
**Subject: Readmission to Probationary Membership**
Committee Item: MN349-455-N
Petition:
21885-MN-455-D, Pg. 1012
Membership: 113; Present: 72;
For: 72; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1576**-444
**Subject: Evaluation**
Committee Item: MN351-444-N
Petition:
21873-MN-444-D, Pg. 1010
Membership: 113; Present: 93;
For: 93; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1577**-456
**Subject: Readmission after Honorable or Administrative Location**
Committee Item: MN353-456-N
Petition:
21886-MN-456-D, Pg. 1012
Membership: 113; Present: 72;
For: 72; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1578**-457
**Subject: Readmission after Surrender of the Ministerial Office**
Committee Item: MN355-457-N
Petition:
21887-MN-457-D, Pg. 1012
Membership: 113; Present: 72;
For: 72; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1579**-458
**Subject: Readmission after Termination by Action of the Annual Conference**
Committee Item: MN357-458-N
Petition:
21246-MN-458-D, Pg. 1076
Membership: 113; Present: 73;
For: 73; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1580**-458
**Subject: Readmission after Termination by Action of the Annual Conference**
Committee Item: MN358-458-N
Petition:
21888-MN-458-D, Pg. 1012
Membership: 113; Present: 72;
For: 72; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1581**-459
**Subject: Readmission After Involuntary Retirement**
Committee Item: MN359-459-N
Petition:
21889-MN-459-D, Pg. 1012
Membership: 113; Present: 72;
For: 72; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1582**-448
**Subject: Leave of Absence**
Committee Item: MN361-448-N
Petition:
21877-MN-448-D, Pg. 1011
Membership: 113; Present: 68;
For: 68; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1583**-448.1
**Subject: Voluntary Leave of Absence**
Committee Item: MN373-448.1-N
Petition:
21210-MN-448.1-D, Pg. 1064
Membership: 113; Present: 68;
For: 68; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1584**-735.3
**Subject: Annual Review of the Bishop's Ministry**
Committee Item: MN408-735.3-N
Petition:
22387-MN-735.3-D, Pg. 1483
Membership: 113; Present: 76;
For: 76; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1585**-759.4
**Subject: Annual Review of the District Superintendent's Ministry**
Committee Item: MN424-759.4-N
Petition:
22389-MN-759.4-D, Pg. 1484
Membership: 113; Present: 76;
For: 76; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1586**-452
**Subject: Retirement**
Committee Item: MN475-452-N
Petition:
21881-MN-452-D, Pg. 1011
Membership: 113; Present: 68;
For: 68; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1587**-NonDis
**Subject: Regarding the Ordained Ministry Study**
Committee Item: MN496-NonDis-N
Petition:
22702-MN-NonDis-O, Pg. 1498
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1588**-110
**Subject: Ordained Ministry**
Committee Item: MN497-110-N
Petitions:
22918-MN-110-D, Pg. 1502;
22947-MN-108-D, Pg. 1430;
22948-MN-109-D, Pg. 1431;
22949-MN-110-D, Pg. 1431;
22950-MN-111-D, Pg. 1431
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1589**-415
**Subject: Educational Requirements**
Committee Item: MN548-415-N
Petitions:
21808-MN-416-D, Pg. 990;
21809-MN-417-D, Pg. 990;
21810-MN-418-D, Pg. 990
Membership: 113; Present: 97;
For: 96; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1590**-320
**Subject: Eligibility and Rights of Probationary Membership**
Committee Item: MN550-320-N
Petition:
22932-MN-320-D, Pg. 1505
Membership: 113; Present: 98;
For: 97; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1591**-319
**Subject: Probationary Service**
Committee Item: MN553-319-N
Petition:
22931-MN-319-D, Pg. 1505
Membership: 113; Present: 89;
For: 89; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1592**-318
**Subject: Consecration as a Probationary Member**
Committee Item: MN556-318-N
Petition:
22929-MN-318-D, Pg. 1504
Membership: 113; Present: 83;
For: 81; Against: 0; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1593**-302
**Subject: The Nature of Diaconal Ministry**
Committee Item: MN564-302-N
Petition:
22953-MN-302-D, Pg. 1432
Membership: 113; Present: 104;
For: 103; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1594**-302
**Subject: The Nature of Ministry and Ordination**
Committee Item: MN565-302-N
Petition:
22971-MN-302-D, Pg. 1432
Membership: 113; Present: 104;
For: 103; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1595**-303.2
**Subject: Purpose of Ordination**
Committee Item: MN566-303.2-N
Petition:
22922-MN-303.2-D, Pg. 1502
Membership: 113; Present: 104;
For: 103; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1596**-303
**Subject: Transitional Provisions**
Committee Item: MN567-303-N
Petition:
22972-MN-303-D, Pg. 1433
Membership: 113; Present: 104;
For: 103; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1597**-303
**Subject: Entrance into Diaconal Ministry**
Committee Item: MN568-303-N
Petition:
22954-MN-303-D, Pg. 1432
Membership: 113; Present: 104;
For: 103; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1598**-304.1
**Subject: Candidacy for Diaconal Ministry**
Committee Item: MN569-304.1-N
Petition:
20843-MN-304.1-D, Pg. 1040
Membership: 113; Present: 104;
For: 103; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1599**-304
**Subject: Candidacy for Ordained Ministry**
Committee Item: MN570-304-N
Petition:
20905-MN-304-D, Pg. 1039
Membership: 113; Present: 104;
For: 103; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1600**-304
**Subject: Candidacy for Diaconal Ministry**
Committee Item: MN571-304-N
Petition:
21134-MN-304-D, Pg. 1039
Membership: 113; Present: 104;
For: 103; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1601**-304
**Subject: Candidacy for Diaconal Ministry**
Committee Item: MN572-304-N
Petition:
21135-MN-304-D, Pg. 1039
Membership: 113; Present: 104;
For: 103; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1602**-304.5
**Subject: Diaconal Ministry**
Committee Item: MN573-304.5-N
Petition:
21136-MN-304.5-D, Pg. 1040

Membership: 113; Present: 104;
For: 103; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1603-304.1
**Subject: Candidacy for Diaconal Ministry**
Committee Item: MN574-304.1-N
Petition:
22686-MN-304.1-D, Pg. 1433
Membership: 113; Present: 104;
For: 103; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1604-304
**Subject: Candidacy for Diaconal Ministry**
Committee Item: MN575-304-N
Petition:
22955-MN-304-D, Pg. 1433
Membership: 113; Present: 104;
For: 103; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1605-305
**Subject: Continuation of Candidacy**
Committee Item: MN576-305-N
Petition:
22956-MN-305-D, Pg. 1433
Membership: 113; Present: 104;
For: 103; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1606-305.3
**Subject: Continuation of Candidacy**
Committee Item: MN577-305.3-N
Petition:
21137-MN-305.3-D, Pg. 1040
Membership: 113; Present: 104;
For: 103; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1607-401
**Subject: Relation of Ordained Clergy to the Ministry of all Christians**
Committee Item: MN578-401-N
Petition:
20039-MN-401-D, Pg. 1046
Membership: 113; Present: 104;
For: 103; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1608-401
**Subject: Relation to the Ministry of All Christians**
Committee Item: MN579-401-N
Petition:
23036-MN-401-D, Pg. 1442
Membership: 113; Present: 104;
For: 103; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1609-402
**Subject: The Nature of Ministry and Ordination**
Committee Item: MN580-402-N
Petition:
23037-MN-402-D, Pg. 1442
Membership: 113; Present: 104;
For: 103; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1610-454.1
**Subject: Complaints**
Committee Item: MN631-454.1-N
Petition:
22843-MN-454.1-D, Pg. 1472
Membership: 113; Present: 96;
For: 96; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1611-454.1
**Subject: Disposition of Complaints**
Committee Item: MN632-454.1-N
Petitions:
20402-MN-454.1-D, Pg. 1072;
21235-MN-454.1-D, Pg. 1073
Membership: 113; Present: 96;
For: 96; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1612-454.3
**Subject: Deleting Administrative Location**
Committee Item: MN633-454.3-N
Petition:
22379-MN-454.3-D, Pg. 1472
Membership: 113; Present: 95;
For: 95; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1613-454.1
**Subject: Options for Directed Counseling or Therapy in Program of Remedial Action**
Committee Item: MN634-454.1-N
Petition:
22103-MN-454.1-D, Pg. 1471
Membership: 113; Present: 95;
For: 95; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1614-454.3
**Subject: Recommendation to Administrative Location**
Committee Item: MN635-454.3-N
Petition:
22598-MN-454.3-D, Pg. 1472
Membership: 113; Present: 96;
For: 96; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1615-454.1
**Subject: Declaration of Lost Credentials**
Committee Item: MN636-454.1-N
Petition:
20145-MN-454.1-D, Pg. 1072
Membership: 113; Present: 95;
For: 95; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1616-454.1
**Subject: Regarding Joint Review Committee Evidence**
Committee Item: MN637-454.1-N
Petition:
20258-MN-454.1-D, Pg. 1072
Membership: 113; Present: 95;
For: 95; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1617-454.1
**Subject: Grievance Procedures**
Committee Item: MN638-454.1-N
Petition:
20403-MN-454.1-D, Pg. 1072
Membership: 113; Present: 95;
For: 95; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1618-454.1
**Subject: Grievance Procedures**
Committee Item: MN639-454.1-R
Petition:
20404-MN-454.1-D, Pg. 1072
Membership: 113; Present: 96;
For: 96; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends referral to GBHEM

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1619-454.1
**Subject: Complying with Judicial Council's Offering and Defining Mediation**
Committee Item: MN640-454.1-R
Petition:
21525-MN-454.1-D, Pg. 1470
Membership: 113; Present: 96;
For: 96; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends referral to GBHEM

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1620-NonDis
**Subject: Joint Inquiry Process for Ordained and Diaconal Ministries**
Committee Item: MN651-NonDis-N
Petition:
20732-MN-NonDis-O, Pg. 1102
Membership: 113; Present: 96;
For: 96; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1621-443.1
**Subject: Interim pastors as category of appointment**
Committee Item: MN652-443.1-N
Petitions:
20046-MN-443.1-D, Pg. 1060;
20115-MN-437.3-D, Pg. 1057;
22072-MN-437-D, Pg. 1461
Membership: 113; Present: 93;
For: 93; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1622-454.1
**Subject: Grievances, Complaints, and Chargeable Offenses**
Committee Item: MN653-454.1-N
Petitions:
21526-MN-454.1-D, Pg. 1471;
22077-MN-454.1-D, Pg. 1471;
22377-MN-454.1-D, Pg. 1471;
22378-MN-454.1-D, Pg. 1471
Membership: 113; Present: 95;
For: 95; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1623-454.1
**Subject: Referral of Complaints**
Committee Item: MN657-454.1-N
Petition:
21236-MN-454.1-D, Pg. 1073
Membership: 113; Present: 97;
For: 97; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concerence as amended:

In the footnote substitute the word Council for the word Court..

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1624-454.1
**Subject: Judicial Council Insistance on Mediation**
Committee Item: MN658-454.1-N
Petitions:
21522-MN-454.1-D, Pg. 1470;
21523-MN-454.1-D, Pg. 1470;
21524-MN-454.1-D, Pg. 1470
Membership: 113; Present: 95;
For: 95; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1625-304.1
**Subject: Regarding Fidelity**
Committee Item: MN659-304.1-N
Petition:
20384-MN-304.1-D, Pg. 1039
Membership: 113; Present: 95;
For: 95; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1626-402.2
**Subject: Faithful in all Relationships**
Committee Item: MN663-402.2-N
Petition:
20135-MN-402.2-D, Pg. 1046
Membership: 113; Present: 95;
For: 95; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1627-402.2
**Subject: Correcting Language which Classifies Lesbians and Gay Persons**
Committee Item: MN664-402.2-N
Petition:
20136-MN-402.2-D, Pg. 1047
Membership: 113; Present: 95;
For: 95; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1628-402.2
**Subject: Ordination and Appointment of Homosexual Persons and Advocates of the Homosexual Lifestyle**

Committee Item: MN670-402.2-N
Petition:
20734-MN-402.2-D, Pg. 1047
Membership: 113; Present: 95;
For: 95; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1629-402.2
**Subject: Definition of a self-avowed practicing homosexual**
Committee Item: MN671-402.2-N
Petition:
20809-MN-402.2-D, Pg. 1047
Membership: 113; Present: 95;
For: 95; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1630-402.2
**Subject: Human Sexuality**
Committee Item: MN673-402.2-N
Petition:
20827-MN-402.2-D, Pg. 1048
Membership: 113; Present: 95;
For: 95; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1631-304.1
**Subject: Regarding Fidelity**
Committee Item: MN674-304.1-N
Petition:
22416-MN-304.1-D, Pg. 1433
Membership: 113; Present: 95;
For: 95; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1632-402.2
**Subject: The Ordained Ministry**
Committee Item: MN675-402.2-N
Petition:
20808-MN-402.2-D, Pg. 1442
Membership: 113; Present: 95;
For: 95; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1633-402.2
**Subject: Human Sexuality**
Committee Item: MN676-402.2-N
Petition:
20826-MN-402.2-D, Pg. 1443
Membership: 113; Present: 95;
For: 95; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1634-402.2
**Subject: Human Sexuality**
Committee Item: MN677-402.2-N
Petition:
21026-MN-402.2-D, Pg. 1443
Membership: 113; Present: 95;
For: 95; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1635-402.2
**Subject: Ordination of Homosexuals**
Committee Item: MN678-402.2-N
Petition:
21027-MN-402.2-D, Pg. 1443
Membership: 113; Present: 95;
For: 95; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1636-402.2
**Subject: Human Sexuality**
Committee Item: MN679-402.2-N
Petition:
21028-MN-402.2-D, Pg. 1443
Membership: 113; Present: 95;
For: 95; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1637-402.2
**Subject: Human Sexuality**
Committee Item: MN680-402.2-N
Petition:
22041-MN-402.2-D, Pg. 1443
Membership: 113; Present: 95;
For: 95; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1638-402.2
**Subject: Human Sexuality**
Committee Item: MN681-402.2-N
Petition:
22042-MN-402.2-D, Pg. 1443
Membership: 113; Present: 95;
For: 95; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1639-402.2
**Subject: Ordination and Appointment of Homosexual Persons**
Committee Item: MN682-402.2-N
Petition:
22043-MN-402.2-D, Pg. 1443
Membership: 113; Present: 95;
For: 95; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1640-402.2
**Subject: Standards for Ordained Ministry**
Committee Item: MN683-402.2-N
Petition:
22044-MN-402.2-D, Pg. 1443
Membership: 113; Present: 95;
For: 95; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1641-402.2
**Subject: The Ordained Ministry**
Committee Item: MN684-402.2-N
Petition:
22045-MN-402.2-D, Pg. 1444
Membership: 113; Present: 95;
For: 95; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1642**-402.2
**Subject: Ministry in the Christian Church**
Committee Item: MN685-402.2-N
Petition:
22414-MN-402.2-D, Pg. 1444
Membership: 113; Present: 95;
For: 95; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1643**-402.2
**Subject: Not Define "Self-Avowed Practicing Homosexual"**
Committee Item: MN686-402.2-N
Petition:
22415-MN-402.2-D, Pg. 1444
Membership: 113; Present: 95;
For: 95; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1644**-402.2
**Subject: Relations of Ordained Ministers to the Ministry of All Christians**
Committee Item: MN687-402.2-N
Petition:
22588-MN-402.2-D, Pg. 1444
Membership: 113; Present: 95;
For: 95; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1645**-402.2
**Subject: Relation of Ordained Ministers to the Ministry of All Christians**
Committee Item: MN688-402.2-N
Petition:
22687-MN-402.2-D, Pg. 1444
Membership: 113; Present: 95;
For: 95; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1646**-402.2
**Subject: Standards for Ordained Ministry**
Committee Item: MN689-402.2-N
Petition:
22688-MN-402.2-D, Pg. 1444
Membership: 113; Present: 95;
For: 95; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1647**-402.2
**Subject: Regarding the Redefinition of "Self-Avowed Practicing Homosexual"**
Committee Item: MN690-402.2-N
Petition:
22689-MN-402.2-D, Pg. 1444
Membership: 113; Present: 95;
For: 95; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1648**-402.2
**Subject: Relation of Ordained Ministers to the Ministry of All Christians**
Committee Item: MN691-402.2-N
Petition:
22690-MN-402.2-D, Pg. 1445
Membership: 113; Present: 95;
For: 95; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1649**-402.2
**Subject: The Ordained Ministry**
Committee Item: MN692-402.2-N
Petition:
22831-MN-402.2-D, Pg. 1445
Membership: 113; Present: 95;
For: 95; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1650**-402.2
**Subject: Ordination and Appointment of Homosexual Persons**
Committee Item: MN693-402.2-N
Petition:
22832-MN-402.2-D, Pg. 1445
Membership: 113; Present: 95;
For: 95; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1651**-402.2
**Subject: The Practice of Homosexuality**
Committee Item: MN694-402.2-N
Petition:
22833-MN-402.2-D, Pg. 1445
Membership: 113; Present: 95;
For: 95; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1652**-402.2
**Subject: Ordination, Appointment and/or Reappointment of a Practicing Homosexual**
Committee Item: MN695-402.2-N
Petition:
22834-MN-402.2-D, Pg. 1445
Membership: 113; Present: 95;
For: 95; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1653**-402.2
**Subject: Ordination and Appointment of Homosexual Persons**
Committee Item: MN696-402.2-N
Petition:
22835-MN-402.2-D, Pg. 1445
Membership: 113; Present: 95;
For: 95; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1654**-402.2
**Subject: Ordination and Appointment of Homosexual Persons**
Committee Item: MN697-402.2-N
Petition:
22836-MN-402.2-D, Pg. 1445

Membership: 113; Present: 95;
For: 95; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1655-402.2
**Subject: Ordination and Appointment of Homosexual Persons**
Committee Item: MN698-402.2-N
Petition:
22837-MN-402.2-D, Pg. 1446
Membership: 113; Present: 95;
For: 95; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1656-402.2
**Subject: Restricting Acceptance of Homosexuals for Ordination and Appointment**
Committee Item: MN699-402.2-N
Petition:
22895-MN-402.2-D, Pg. 1446
Membership: 113; Present: 95;
For: 95; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1657-402.2
**Subject: Human Sexuality**
Committee Item: MN700-402.2-N
Petition:
22896-MN-402.2-D, Pg. 1446
Membership: 113; Present: 95;
For: 95; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1658-404.4
**Subject: The Ordained Ministry**
Committee Item: MN701-404.4-N
Petition:
22047-MN-404.4-D, Pg. 1447
Membership: 113; Present: 95;
For: 95; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1659-404.4
**Subject: Regarding Fidelity**
Committee Item: MN702-404.4-N
Petition:
22589-MN-404.4-D, Pg. 1447
Membership: 113; Present: 95;
For: 95; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1660-404.4
**Subject: Eliminate the Footnote**
Committee Item: MN703-404.4-N
Petition:
22590-MN-404.4-D, Pg. 1447
Membership: 113; Present: 95;
For: 95; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1661-404.4
**Subject: The Certified Candidate**
Committee Item: MN704-404.4-N
Petition:
22824-MN-404.4-D, Pg. 1447
Membership: 113; Present: 95;
For: 95; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1662-405.4
**Subject: The Ordained Ministry**
Committee Item: MN705-405.4-N
Petition:
22826-MN-405.4-D, Pg. 1447
Membership: 113; Present: 95;
For: 95; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1663-524
**Subject: Fair Process**
Committee Item: MN710-524-N
Petitions:
20819-MN-524-D, Pg. 1479;
21529-MN-513.5-D, Pg. 1474;
21530-MN-513.5-D, Pg. 1474;
22087-MN-525-D, Pg. 1479;
22381-MN-513-D, Pg. 1473;
22382-MN-513.5-D, Pg. 1474;
22418-MN-513.5-D, Pg. 1475;
22696-MN-513-D, Pg. 1474;
22846-MN-513-D, Pg. 1474
Membership: 113; Present: 96;
For: 96; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1664-454.1
**Subject: Congregation Notification and Extension of Clergy Suspension**
Committee Item: MN711-454.1-N
Petitions:
20139-MN-454.1-D, Pg. 1071;
20140-MN-454.1-D, Pg. 1071;
20141-MN-454.1-D, Pg. 1071;
20142-MN-454.1-D, Pg. 1071;
20143-MN-454.1-D, Pg. 1071;
20146-MN-454-D, Pg. 1070
Membership: 113; Present: 94;
For: 94; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1665-454
**Subject: Grievance Procedures**
Committee Item: MN712-454-N
Petitions:
20405-MN-454.1-D, Pg. 1072;
21883-MN-454-D, Pg. 1012;
21884-MN-454-D, Pg. 1012
Membership: 113; Present: 95;
For: 95; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1666-454.1
**Subject: Grievance Procedures**
Committee Item: MN714-454.1-N
Petition:
22597-MN-454.1-D, Pg. 1472
Membership: 113; Present: 96;
For: 96; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1667**-454
**Subject: General Provisions**
Committee Item: MN715-454-N
Petitions:
20753-MN-454-D, Pg. 1468;
20817-MN-454-D, Pg. 1469;
21521-MN-454-D, Pg. 1469;
22376-MN-454-D, Pg. 1469;
22844-MN-454-D, Pg. 1469
Membership: 113; Present: 95;
For: 95; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1668**-402.2
**Subject: Human Sexuality**
Committee Item: MN716-402.2-N
Petition:
21158-MN-402.2-D, Pg. 1048
Membership: 113; Present: 95;
For: 95; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

# Calendar Items

**1669**-629
**Subject: Eliminate Jurisdictional Council on Ministries**
Committee Item: CO96-629-N
Petition:
20560-CO-629-D, Pg. 182
Membership: 86; Present: 67;
For: 36; Against: 28; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1670**-NonDis
**Subject: Regarding The Title of the Book of Discipline**
Committee Item: CO185-NonDis-N
Petition:
22649-CO-NonDis-O, Pg. 1275
Membership: 86; Present: 60;
For: 38; Against: 19; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1671**-36
**Subject: Lay Members voting on the Board of Ordained Ministry**
Committee Item: CO207-36-A
Petition:
20781-CO-36-C, Pg. 1259
Membership: 86; Present: 69;
For: 66; Against: 0; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/21

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows: By Substituting the following:

Amend ¶36: Article II

~~*Article II.* The Annual Conference, delegated to the General Conference under the Constitution, with the exception that the only those lay members elected to serve in the membership of the Board of Ordained Ministry may not vote on matters of ordination.~~

The Annual Conference is the basic body in the Church and as such shall have reserved to it the right to vote on all constitutional amendments, on the election of ~~ministerial~~**clergy** and lay delegates to the General and the Jurisdictional or Central Conferences, on all matters relating to the character and conference relations of its ~~ministers~~**clergy** and such other rights as have not been delegated to the General Conference under the Constitution, with the exception that the lay members may not vote on matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of ~~ministers~~**clergy except that the lay members ~~elected to serve in the membership~~of the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry may vote on matters of ordination character, and conference relations of clergy, with the further exception that lay members of the District Committee on the Ordained Ministry be full participating members of the District Committee on the Ordained Ministry with vote.** It shall discharge such duties and exercise such powers as the General Conference under the Constitution may determine.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1672**-704
**Subject: Powers and Duties of the Annual Conference**
Committee Item: CO220-704-A
Petition:
22647-CO-704-D, Pg. 1268
Membership: 86; Present: 64;
For: 47; Against: 13; Not Voting: 4;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows: Delete the following sentence from the petition:

~~For purposes of improved clergy morale, more effective itinerancy, compensation equity, or other reason.~~The....

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1673**-NonDis-$
**Subject: The Jurisdictional System of Organization**
Committee Item: CO234-NonDis-C$
Petition:
20541-CO-NonDis-O$, Pg. 204
Membership: 86; Present: 77;
For: 74; Against: 0; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1674**-NonDis
**Subject: Ethnic Membership on Conference Boards and Agencies**
Committee Item: CO249-NonDis-C
Petition:
22354-CO-NonDis-O, Pg. 1274
Membership: 86; Present: 64;
For: 35; Against: 27; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1675**-NonDis
**Subject: Reduce Environmental Tobacco Smoke**
Committee Item: CS113-NonDis-A
Petition:
22617-CS-NonDis-O, Pg. 1234
Membership: 102; Present: 77;
For: 65; Against: 12; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Delete the three paragraphs after the first two paragraphs

Remove the word further from the last paragrah so that the petition reads:

Whereas, the Environmental Protection Agency of the United States (EPA) has established the health risks attributed to Environmental Tobacco Smoke (ETS), also known as second-hand, passive, or involuntary smoke; and

Whereas, EPA studies conclude ETS is responsible for lung deaths of approximately 3,000 non-smokers in the United States each year; ~~and~~

~~Whereas, EPA studies conclude exposure to ETS causes other health problems in adults, including coughing, phlegm production, and reduced lung function; and~~

~~Whereas, in school systems within the United States, children suffer from asthma, noted to be the fastest growing condition among children with ETS increasing its severity as well as generating other risks; and~~

~~Whereas, the Clean Air Act does not encompass involuntary smoke in public restaurants, a threat to the health of non-smokers;~~

~~Therefore, be it resolved, that the 1996 session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church go on record in support of any federal legislative and administrative efforts to curtail or eliminate the presence of ETS in public restaurants; and~~

Be it ~~further~~ resolved, that this action encourage the inclusion of ETS prevention in the Clean Air Act and enable more stringent laws by the states to supersede those of federal law, in this case, specifically the Clean Air Act.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1676-R504

**Subject: Gun Violence in the U.S.**
Committee Item: CS159-R504-A
Petition:
21364-CS-R504-U, Pg. 150
Membership: 102; Present: 87;
For: 70; Against: 13; Not Voting: 4;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

In the third paragraph add the word annually at the end of the fourth sentence and substitute more than for approximatelyso that the text reads as follows:

Working as an instrument ... In the United States, ~~approximately~~ **more than** 30,000 men, women, and children are shot to death in homicides, suicides and accidents **annually**...

In the sixth paragraph which begins We do not believe delete the first sentence so that the text reads as follows:

~~We do not believe there is any constitutional personal right to bear arms.~~ Although there is vigorous debate over the meaning of the Second Amendment to the Constitution, which speaks to the right to keep and bear arms, the United States Supreme Court and lower federal courts have held that the private ownership of guns is not protected by the Second Amendment.

Correct the spelling of devices: in the section labeled 5", so the text will read:

5. Supports the outlawing of the production and sales of automatic weapon conversion kits as well as the production of guns that cannot be detected by traditionally used metal detection ~~devises~~ **devices.**

In the section labeled 7 delete the words media and in the first sentence, and insert print, broadcasting and electronic media as well as the: and place a period after usage to children and delete the rest of that section so that it will read:

7. Calls upon the ~~media and~~ **print, broadcasting and electronic media as well as the** entertainment industry to refrain from promoting gun usage to children. ~~in such magazines as *Boys Life, Guns and Ammo, Guns, The American Rifleman* and many others. We also discourage the graphic depiction and glorification of violence by the entertainment industry.~~

Renumber 8" and 9" and insert the following as number 8" and also add numbers 11" and 12", so the text reads as follows:

**8.Discourages the graphic depiction and glorification of violence by the entertainment industry, which greatly influences our society, and recommends that these issues be addressed through education and consciousness raising.**

~~8.~~ **9.**Calls on all United Methodists who are members of gun clubs and associations to use their influence to help expand gun education and safety programs. These individuals should also enter into dialogue with their clubs and associations to establish responsible and safe gun regulations, and to build a safer and less violent society.

~~9.~~ **10.**Calls for all church properties and facilities to be designated as No Gun Zones and prohibit guns from being carried onto the premises.

**11. Calls upon the federal and state governments to provide significant assistance to victims of gun violence and their families.**

**12.Recommends that annual conferences make visible public witness to the sin of gun violence and to the hope of community healing.**

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1677-71-MR

**Subject: Homosexuality and the Church**
Committee Item: CS161-71-C
Petition:
22612-CS-71-D, Pg. 1217
Membership: 102; Present: 92;
For: 46; Against: 45; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

MINORITY REPORT

Retain the current statements regarding homosexuality in para. 71.F of the Discipline.

1. David A. Seamands18. Gary D. Sowers

2. Joseph Harris19. James E. Swanson, Sr.

3. James B. Moneyham20.Lewis F. Tibbets

4. Jerry Mayo21. Thomas C. Webb

5. Luis Ernesto Trevino (Luis Roberto Trevino Rodrigues)22. Richard Norton

6. Margaret F. Knight23. John Simon

7. Martin A. Case24. Boris Trajkovski

8. Harold D. Nixon25. Chr. Alsted (Christian)

9. Anthony R. Oglesby26. Delight B. Wier

10. Dick Wright (Richard S.)27. C.A. Dillon

11. E. Thomas Murphy28. Alfred C. Rhonemus

12. Joseph F. DiPaolo29. Rick Kindschi

13. Mary Virginia Taylor30. John A. Mason

14. Mike Lowry (John M.)31. David A. Banks

15. Donald A. Lehman32. Duane N. Andrews

16. Gloria E. Holt33. Emmadell Robinson

17. Tom M. Junk34. Philip Brooks

35. James T. Seymour

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1678-NonDis
**Subject: Homosexuals in the Military**
Committee Item: CS167-NonDis-A
Petition:
21473-CS-NonDis-O, Pg. 142
Membership: 102; Present: 74;
For: 47; Against: 15; Not Voting: 12;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Change the conclusion to read:

Conclusion: ~~The United Methodist Church should affirm the rights of homosexuals to serve in the United States Armed Forces.~~ **The U.S. military should not exclude persons from service solely on the basis of sexual orientation.**

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1679-72
**Subject: Rights of the Unborn**
Committee Item: CS171-72-N
Petition:
22585-CS-72-D, Pg. 1226
Membership: 102; Present: 90;
For: 61; Against: 18; Not Voting: 11;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1680-NonDis
**Subject: Include the Hymn "Eternal Father, Strong To Save" in the Next Printing of the U.M. Hymnal**
Committee Item: DI151-NonDis-N
Petition:
22222-DI-NonDis-O, Pg. 1295
Membership: 112; Present: 100;
For: 79; Against: 20; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1681-NonDis-$
**Subject: General Commission on United Methodist Men**
Committee Item: DI152-NonDis-A$
Petition:
20712-DI-NonDis-O$, Pg. 1285
Membership: 112; Present: 75;
For: 69; Against: 1; Not Voting: 5;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Add as a new Section XVI, paragraphs 2301 and following, a General Commission on United Methodist Men to the *Discipline*:

**¶ 2301 Name.——There shall be a General Commission on United Methodist Men in The United Methodist Church.**

**The general commission shall be amenable to the General Conference of The United Methodist Church. Between sessions of the General Conference, the commission shall be accountable to the General Council on Ministries by reporting and interpreting activities in its purpose.**

**¶ 2302 Purpose.——The General Commission on United Methodist Men shall have primary oversight for the coordination and resourcing of mens work within The United Methodist Church.**

**1. To provide resources and support services to foster the development of units of United Methodist Men.**

**a) Provide specific and optional models for these units in the local church, district, annual conference, and jurisdiction.**

**b) Receive recommendations from the National Association of Conference Presidents of United Methodist Men and other national organizations representing the Central Conferences and other worldwide Methodist liaisons.**

**c) Promote the chartering and annual recertification of local church mens units with the General Commission on United Methodist Men.**

**2. To seek methods for involving men in a growing relationship to the Lord Jesus Christ and his Church.**

**a) Provide resources and support for programs of evangelism which are geared to mens needs in cooperation with the area of evangelism. To assist men to discover that witness is an integral part of daily life in the work place, the community, the parish, and the home.**

**b) Provide resources and support for programs of mission in cooperation with all areas of the church dealing with missional opportunities enabling men for outreach and service as an integral part of their Christian servanthood.**

**c) Provide resources and support for programs of spiritual life in cooperation with areas of faith development to assist men to realize that witness and outreach, mission and ministry, are extensions of their faith development and their relationship to God through Jesus Christ.**

**d) Provide resources and support for programs of stewardship in cooperation with the area of stewardship which will lead men to an understanding of their responsibility for stewardship, including time, talent, money, and prayer.**

**e) Seek resources and support for men as husbands and fathers in a rapidly changing society.**

**f) Continue in a constant search for new and better ways for The United Methodist Church to minister to and through men.**

**g) Provide resources and support for the office of scouting ministries and the national association of United Methodist Scouters for training of local church district, annual conference, jurisdictional scouting coordinators.**

**h) Be an active partner with The Upper Room in the Living Prayer Center ministry, with support for WATTS telephone service and promotion. At every level there shall be Prayer Coordinators in United Methodist Men.**

**i) United Methodist Men shall be partners with local churches with moving members. The program shall be called Moving United Methodist.**

**¶ 2303 Membership.**

**1.~~Two bishops elected by Council on Bishops. Four members elected by each jurisdiction from the National Association of Conference Presidents, one of whom will be the Jurisdictional President, two members elected by jurisdiction conference which shall include one woman and one clergy, one of whom shall be ethnic. The National Association of Conference Presidents will assure that each ethnic group is represented on the commission (Asian American, African American, Hispanic American, and Native American) as well as two young adults (under 35) from their organizations. Ex officio members (not eligible to hold offices in GCOUMM) President of National Association of Conference Presidents United Methodist Men, President of National Association of United Methodist Scouters, and President of United Methodist Men Foundation.~~The Commission shall consist of 43 voting members as defined in ¶ 805 of the general provisions and ¶ 635. There shall be 2 Bishops elected by

the College of Bishops; 6 members elected by each Jurisdictional Conference upon nomination by the Jurisdictional Committee on United Methodist Men which will include at least one clergy, one woman, ethnic representation, and the Jurisdictional President of United Methodist Men; 5 representatives of the National Association of Conference Presidents including the National President; 1 elected president from a national organization of United Methodist Men of a Central Conference or conferences who shall be selected by the Commission on Central Conference Affairs; and 5 members-at-large which shall include at least two young adults. Ex officio members with voice shall include the President of the United Methodist Men Foundation and the President of the National Association of United Methodist Scouters.

2. Vacancies.——Vacancies in the general commission membership shall be filled by procedures defined in ¶812 of the General Provisions.

3. Officers.——The General Commission on United Methodist Men shall elect as its officers a president, vice president, secretary, and other such officers as it shall deem necessary.

4. Staff.——The General Commission on United Methodist Men shall nominate for election by the General Council on Ministries its general secretary, who shall provide executive, administrative, and programmatic leadership (¶813). The commission shall elect such other staff members as needs require within the General Conference mandates and the authority vested in the commission to develop policies and programs directed toward the realization of its purpose.

5. Meetings.——The general commission shall meet annually with such additional meetings as needs demand.

[Delete 6. Funding and substitute.]The General Council on Finance and Administration shall make provision for the necessary support of the work of the Commission by transferring from the budget of the General Board of Discipleship those World Service Funds and direct United Methodist Men contributions (Charter fees and EMS memberships) allocated for United Methodist Men which include operating funds, office rent, equipment, service and directors travel for the next quadrennium. Also the office space and equipment currently used by the United Methodist Men Division would be transferred to the Commission. In the event that the Commission is not self-supporting after the first quadrennium, disposition will be at the direction of the General Conference.

Renumber remaining sections of Chapter Six. Administrative Order.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1682-NonDis

**Subject: Service of Worship for the Celebration of Persons' Mutual Support and Commitment**
Committee Item: DI170-NonDis-N
Petition:
22212-DI-NonDis-O, Pg. 1291
Membership: 112; Present: 86;
For: 66; Against: 15; Not Voting: 5;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1683-722.12

**Subject: Shared Salary Plan Option**
Committee Item: FA37-722.12-N
Petition:
20499-FA-722.12-D, Pg. 362
Membership: 113; Present: 80;
For: 62; Against: 16; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1684-921

**Subject: To Specify Spiritual Growth among the Purposes of the Ministerial Education Fund**
Committee Item: FA140-921-N
Petition:
20374-FA-921-D, Pg. 373
Membership: 113; Present: 90;
For: 74; Against: 16; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1685-921

**Subject: The Ministerial Education Fund**
Committee Item: FA144-921-N
Petition:
22244-FA-921-D, Pg. 1314
Membership: 113; Present: 87;
For: 73; Against: 13; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1686-711.3

**Subject: The Separation of World Service and Conference Benevolence into two separate line items**
Committee Item: FA159-711.3-N
Petition:
20718-FA-711.3-D, Pg. 358
Membership: 113; Present: 97;
For: 59; Against: 35; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1687-NonDis-MR

**Subject: Monetary Assistance to the Promotion or Acceptance of Homosexuality**
Committee Item: FA179-NonDis-N
Petition:
22640-FA-NonDis-O, Pg. 1322
Membership: 113; Present: 81;
For: 54; Against: 27; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

**MINORITY REPORT**

Insert new sub-paragraph 16 and renumber:

**To seek to ensure that no council, commission, board, agency, or committee of the conference gives conference funds for the promotion or endoresement of homosexual practice.**

Signatures:

1. Dale E. Jones
2. Leighton Farrell
3. Charles Eurey
4. Charles N. Crutchfield
5. Joe A. Williams
6. Charles Lippse
7. Charles W. Courtoy
8. Bill Pickett
9. Hammie L. Chaplin
10. Gary Ward
11. Glenn Kohlhepp
12. F. H. Furman, Jr.
13. Tom Gerib

14. Alan Groseclose

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1688-722
**Subject: Equitable Compensation**
Committee Item: FA193-722-N
Petition:
20591-FA-722-D, Pg. 362
Membership: 113; Present: 94;
For: 48; Against: 45; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1689-712
**Subject: Annual Conference Apportionment Procedures**
Committee Item: FA196-712-N
Petition:
20589-FA-712-D, Pg. 359
Membership: 113; Present: 91;
For: 59; Against: 28; Not Voting: 4;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1690-711.3
**Subject: World Service and Conference Benevolence**
Committee Item: FA197-711.3-N
Petition:
20412-FA-711.3-D, Pg. 358
Membership: 113; Present: 90;
For: 54; Against: 32; Not Voting: 4;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1691-711.1
**Subject: Annual Conference Budgeting Procedures**
Committee Item: FA204-711.1-N
Petition:
20588-FA-711.1-D, Pg. 357
Membership: 113; Present: 97;
For: 61; Against: 32; Not Voting: 4;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1692-800-$
**Subject: Committee on Audit and Review**
Committee Item: GJ27-800-A$
Petition:
20751-GJ-800-D$, Pg. 694
Membership: 98; Present: 87;
For: 62; Against: 20; Not Voting: 5;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Add a new ¶ to Chapter Six, Section I:

*Committee on Audit and Review.* ~~—It shall be the policy of The United Methodist Church that all general agencies shall have.~~ *Any general agency receiving general church funds in excess of two million dollars annually shall have* a **Committee on Audit and Review** *composed of no more than six (6) members, except that the committee on Audit Review of CFA shall have more.* **Each Committee on Audit and Review shall report and be amenable directly to the governing body of the general agency. Members of the Committee on Audit and Review shall not be officers or members of the general agency executive committee, and at least half shall not be members of the general agency but shall be United Methodists and shall possess appropriate technical** *knowledge and expertise* ~~experience. The committees function shall be the financial oversight of the general agency in cooperation with the General Council on Finance and Administration Committee on Audit and Review. The General Council on Finance and Administration shall advise and consent in the appointment of the outside members to the general agency Committee on Audit and Review.~~ *The Committee shall review the audits and related financial policies of the general agency. In their review, the Committee shall be governed by financial policies and procedures established by the General Council on Finance and Administration, in accordance with its disciplinary responsibilities.*

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1693-277
**Subject: Relating to Disability Awareness Sunday**
Committee Item: GJ91-277-C
Petition:
22260-GJ-277-D, Pg. 1326
Membership: 98; Present: 79;
For: 64; Against: 15; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1694-NonDis-$
**Subject: Focus on Young People - Walking Together in the Way that Leads to Life**
Committee Item: GJ140-NonDis-C$
Petition:
21678-GJ-NonDis-O$, Pg. 599
Membership: 98; Present: 84;
For: 82; Against: 0; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1695-NonDis-!
**Subject: Standing Commission on Alcohol and Drugs**
Committee Item: IC133-NonDis-A!
Petition:
23076-IC-NonDis-O!
Membership: 71; Present: 58;
For: 51; Against: 0; Not Voting: 7;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends deletion of the whole petition and substitution of the following text:

STRONGLY URGE GENERAL BOARD OF CHURCH AND SOCIETY TO CREATE A STANDING COMMITTEE ON DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE

It is time for The United Methodist Church to fully reclaim its historic position in leading efforts to confront drug and alcohol abuse and promote abstinence in modern society.

In 1990, the Council of Bishops, through its Special Initiative on Drugs and Violence, captured the attention of the world when it showed that the church can have an impact on communities and families torn apart by drug and alcohol abuse and violence. This special ministry resulted in the grass roots focus of the Special Program on Substance Abuse and Related Violence created by the 1992 General Conference and supported by the generous contributions ;to the Mission Initiatives Fund.

While the Special Program has been highly successful in its initial efforts to overcome denial and raise the issue of drug and alcohol abuse and violence throughout the church, we believe that it must be followed by a deeper commitment on the part of all areas of the church. Simple words printed in a book of resolu-

tions are not enough. It is a sin to mouth words, but not follow them with the appropriate actions, especially when millions of lives are at stake.

We strongly urge the General Board of Church and Society to form a Standing Committee on Drug and Alcohol Abuse during the 1996 quadrennium. We would pry that the committees advocacy would be supported by appropriate financial resources and staffing that befits the crisis in our midst. We would encourage the board to strengthen its efforts assisting churches to become involved in ministries with persons in recovery.

We believe there is no other issue that the board must confront that puts more lives at risk every day, every month, every year. Such an action would be in keeping with the boards historic role as an advocate for holy living and calling our governmental leaders into accountability for their actions.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1696-2544.7

**Subject: Voting of the Membership of the Building Committee**
Committee Item: LC91-2544.7-N
Petition:
22149-LC-2544.7-D, Pg. 1426
Membership: 89; Present: 78;
For: 64; Against: 13; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1697-248.13

**Subject: Enabling Legislation for Basic Salary Plan Option- The Charge Conference**
Committee Item: LC144-248.13-A
Petition:
22117-LC-248.13-D, Pg. 1412
Membership: 89; Present: 74;
For: 59; Against: 12; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Replace the word Basic with Shared.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1698-516.3

**Subject: Working with Ordained and Diaconal Ministers and Commissioned Personnel**
Committee Item: MN7-516.3-A
Petition:
21340-MN-516.3-D, Pg. 1079
Membership: 113; Present: 98;
For: 82; Against: 12; Not Voting: 4;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Amend ¶ 516.3:

3. To ~~read~~ **announce** the appointments of deaconesses, diaconal ministers, **home missionaries, and** lay persons in service under ~~the World Division of~~ the General Board of Global Ministries~~, and home missionaries~~.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1699-509.1

**Subject: Mandatory Retirement**
Committee Item: MN30-509.1-N
Petition:
21255-MN-509.1-D, Pg. 1076
Membership: 113; Present: 102;
For: 61; Against: 41; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/18

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1700-451

**Subject: Disability Leave**
Committee Item: MN195-451-N
Petition:
21880-MN-451-D, Pg. 1011
Membership: 113; Present: 83;
For: 55; Against: 26; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1701-733.2

**Subject: Duties of the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry**
Committee Item: MN326-733.2-N
Petition:
22094-MN-733.2-D, Pg. 1483
Membership: 113; Present: 95;
For: 74; Against: 14; Not Voting: 7;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

# Removed from the Consent Calendar

## 480-813

Removed from consent calendar A03 by the following delegates:

Keaton, Jonathan D.;

Akers, Mary E.;

Williams, Margaret A.;

McCoy, Myron F.;

Henry, Daniel.

## 490-1413

Removed from consent calendar A03 by the following delegates:

Gwinn, Al;

Davis, Lindsey;

Holsinger, Jim;

Bowdan, Mel;

Jones, Dale.

## 543-258

Removed from consent calendar A03 by the following delegates:

Trumble, Bette T.;

Abram, Charlotte;

Hasemeyer, Bill;

Turner, Richard D.;

Vetter, Jeremy.

## 545-259

Removed from consent calendar A03 by the following delegates:

Trumble, Bette T.;

Rathod, Samuel R.;

Urbom, Warren;

McCullough, June D.;

Rainier, Helen L..

## 547-250

Removed from consent calendar A03 by the following delegates:

Trumble, Bette T.;

Arnold, Jr. W. E. (Buddy);

Goodgame, Gordon C.;
King, Jr. James R.;
Gentry, James E..

**548**-249

Removed from consent calendar A03 by the following delegates:

Trumble, Bette T.;
Arnold, Jr. W. E. (Buddy);
Goodgame, Gordon C.;
King, Jr. James R.;
Gentry, James E..

**552**-110

Removed from consent calendar A03 by the following delegates:

Banks, David A.;
Sowers, Gary D.;
Robinson, Emmadell;
Bauknight, Brian K.;
Lowry, John M..

**553**-321

Removed from consent calendar A03 by the following delegates:

Keck, Duane J.;
Barrett, Joy A.;
Watson, B. Michael;
Moore, Joy J.;
Kammerer, Charlene P..

**554**-313

Removed from consent calendar A03 by the following delegates:

Keck, Duane J.;
Barrett, Joy A.;
Watson, B. Michael;
Moore, Joy J.;
Kammerer, Charlene P..

**555**-320

Removed from consent calendar A03 by the following delegates:

Foster, S. Stephen;
Lutz, Sandra W.;
Riddle, Barbara W.;
Kammerer, Charlene P.;
McCleskey, J. Lawrence.

**556**-319

Removed from consent calendar A03 by the following delegates:

Keck, Duane J.;
Barrett, Joy A.;
Watson, B. Michael;
Moore, Joy J.;
Kammerer, Charlene P..

**557**-318

Removed from consent calendar A03 by the following delegates:

Keck, Duane J.;
Barrett, Joy A.;
Watson, B. Michael;
Moore, Joy J.;
Kammerer, Charlene P..

**559**-NonD

Removed from consent calendar B03 by the following delegates:

Day, R. Randy;
Parris, Shirley;
Ingram, Betsy;
Capen, Beth;
Fowlkes, Nancy.

**576**-NonD

This calendar item was determined by the Coordinator of the Calendar to have financial implications and was removed from consent calendar B03.

**656**-801

Removed from consent calendar C03 by the following delegates:

Bagwell, Timothy J.;
Martin, Flo S.;
Daughtery, Vergil L.;
Swanson, James E.;
Horton, John E..

**710**-NonD

Removed from consent calendar C03 by the following delegates:

Burwell, Susanne L.;
Winston, Joseph M.;
Fang, Marcus;
Deming, Joan C.;
Foster, S. Stephen.

# Proceedings of the 1996 General Conference of The United Methodist Church

## Committee On Journal Report

The Committee On Journal hereby certifies as accurate, with the following corrections, the proceedings as printed in the *Daily Christian Advocate* for Monday, April 22, 1996.

*Daily Edition*, page 268, column 3, line 10, should read "ANNIE GONZALES: Let us pray."

*Daily Edition*, page 268, column 3, line 19, replace ANNIE GONZALEZ with RAQUEL MARTINEZ.

**Reported by William Reasner**
**Chair, Committee On Journal**
(C13, seat 2)

## Monday Morning Session April 22, 1996

*Bishop William Grove, presiding*

BISHOP WILLIAM GROVE: Let's be in order, please.

STEVE KIMBROUGH: As we gather, would you join me with two Native Americans, Mr. Kenneth Deere and Mr. Alvin Deer?

BISHOP GROVE: Let's be in order, please.

KIMBROUGH: We'd like for you to stand, and we're going to sing, "Heleluyam." You only have to join in two words: Heleluyam and Hele. These gentlemen will lead us. We ask that you stand and join us.

*(song)*

*(applause)*

BISHOP GROVE: Thank you very much. Our thanks also to Bishop Jones for that message and to Bishop Swenson and the others who shared with them in our leadership of worship today. Our organist for this week is Kathleen Forsberg, who is organist at the Littleton United Methodist Church in Littleton, Colorado. Why don't you welcome her and thank the others? It's time now for our shared prayer and seeking of the sermon. I think that the two questions that we're asking will come onto the monitors, and we ask you again, as we have at the beginning of each session, to turn to someone near you and have a conversation for four or five minutes about those two questions: What is my desire for the next hours of these General Conference? and, What do I believe is God's desire? Then after the time, period of time has passed, I'll call you to pray together. Can we be in order and turn to our neighbors and have a brief conversation about those two questions?

*(conversation)*

BISHOP GROVE: All right, will you now pray together, asking for the discernment of God's will for the General Conference?

*(prayer)*

BISHOP GROVE: Now may we pray together using the "Collect For Purity of Heart," which I think you all know?

*(prayer)*

BISHOP GROVE: I recognize Charles Applebee at microphone 12 for a personal privilege, and I would ask John Thomas, the Commission on—chair of the Commission on the General Conference to be ready to respond to this request, which I believe is going to be made. Charles Applebee, at microphone 12. Would you indicate your conference?

*Invitation to Elizabeth Dole*

CHARLIE APPLEBY (South Carolina): Thank you Bishop Grove. One way to avoid sending confusing signals during an election year could be to invite Elizabeth Dole to bring greetings to this great General Conference. Like Mrs. Clinton, Mrs. Dole has been of lifelong Methodist roots. As president on leave of the American Red Cross, Mrs. Dole works with the poor, the hungry, the disaster victims, is certainly representative of the Methodism call to help the downtrodden and the oppressed. Bishop Grove, I move that the Commission on the Conference be asked to invite Mrs. Dole to address this great conference.

BISHOP GROVE: Is there a second? (second)

BISHOP GROVE: There is a second. Now, this request has been made first of the Commission—was referred to the Commission on the General Conference. So I would like to ask Mr. John Thomas to make a response if he wishes to do so. I think I see him going back to microphone 10. Eight. Microphone eight.

JOHN THOMAS: Bishop and members of the Conference, this issue has come before the Commission on General Conference on two occasions. On each occasion, after discussing the matter, the Commission, by a majority vote feels that to do so would be to inject perhaps more partisan politics into the matter than may there be there now. And each time the commission has, by majority vote, declined to invite Elizabeth Dole, even though they have recognized her great input into this great church of ours.

BISHOP GROVE: All right. Is there further discussion, anyone want to speak for the motion? I hope we can settle this quickly, but we can have—you're entitled to two speeches. One has been made on

either side. Really entitled to three. Is there...? Back here. Is this a speech for? All right. I recognize you. Go to microphone seven.

CHARLES PEARCE (Florida): Four months after our last General Conference in Louisville, my home and ten acre line grove was destroyed by Hurricane Andrew. The UMCOR and the Red Cross was invaluable to 50 thousand people in the Homestead area. And your prayers and the millions of dollars that you sent to us in Homestead can never be fully appreciated. I want to thank, personally, each one today for this. But knowing what the Red Cross did under Elizabeth Dole's leadership can also never be fully appreciated. I would hope that this great, great conference would see fit to invite her as the president of the Red Cross at that time. Thank you.

BISHOP GROVE: All right. Is there a speech against? Back here. Yes, I see a green card. No, the one on the aisle. There. Go to microphone nine.

RONALD BRETSCH (North Central New York): Thank you Bishop. As an enrolled Republican, but more as a United Methodist, I would like to remind the body those of us from the United States, we have one President at one time, and we have one First Lady at one time.

BISHOP GROVE: Thank you. Are you ready? I think you are. I don't see anyone. Vote when the light appears.

BISHOP GROVE: (results: yes 301, no 562, abstain 24) Thank you. The motion is defeated. We're ready now for the Consent Calendar. I recognize Fitzgerald Reist and Sara Miller.

*Process for Deleting Items from Consent Calendar*

FITZGERALD REIST: (Coordinator of the Calendar): I've been asked to explain and clarify for folks, again, a few items related to the Consent Calendars. First of all, let me say that there is a form available in the secretary's office for the General Conference in room C204 for the removal of items from the Consent Calendar. We must use that form because the material asking for removal comes to us sometimes without the information we need to identify the petition.

I had one note that came with five names on it, but no number of calendar or otherwise. So we need use the form. We would appreciate it if you would pick that up when you need to make a request for removal from Consent Calendar. Room C204.

The other thing that I want to say to you is that you do not need to remove from Consent Calendar items which are not on the Consent Calendar. *(laughter)* I know it is very confusing locating what Consent Calendar things are on because they're on pages following the heading, and sometimes it is confusing. But you do not need to request those items that are not on Consent Calendar to be removed. They may be discussed on the floor automatically.

The Consent Calendar that we will be considering today is...the Consent Calendars we will be considering today are A02, B02, and C02. We have had removed from Consent Calendar A02 by request of delegates the following items: Calendar Items 102, 103, 104, 133, 141, 145, 165, and 194. Before you panic, they're all spelled out on page 260 in the *DCA*.

SARA MILLER: Bishop Grove, Sara Miller.

BISHOP GROVE: Yes.

MILLER: I would move the adoption of the Consent Calendar A02, with the deletion of those items which have been named.

BISHOP GROVE: It would be good to give the page. The page is 129. The first page of the Consent Calendar A02. That motion is before you. Vote when the light appears. [773 approved] The motion is adopted. The Consent Calendar is approved with those deletions.

REIST: Consent Calendar B02 is found on page 142 of the *DCA* in your blue book. There are no changes to Consent Calendar B02.

MILLER: Bishop, I move the adoption of Consent Calendar B02.

BISHOP GROVE: That is before you. Vote when the light appears. [834 approved]

Motion is supported. Consent Calendar B02 is approved.

REIST: Consent Calendar C02 is found in your *DCA*, and I apologize, I lost my bookmark. It is on page 155 of your *DCA*. Calendar Items 306 and 397 have been removed by the request of the delegates.

MILLER: Bishop, I move the adoption of Consent Calendar C02, with the deletions noted.

BISHOP GROVE: Please vote when the light appears. [854 approved] That Consent Calendar, C02, is approved.

MILLER: I have one additional item for the Agenda and Calendar Committee. This afternoon at 3:30 there will be a five minute presentation by Cheetah Framol of the Philippines who is president of International Diaconia.

BISHOP GROVE: That's placed on the agenda for 3:30 this afternoon. Thank you. Ready now for the Native American Ministries report. I'm not sure who's to give that, but if those persons who are presenting that report will come now, we are ready to receive it.

*Report on Native American Comprehensive Plan*

SAMUEL WYNN: Bishop, delegates. This morning, the drumming group who is with us is from the Blackfeet Reservation, and they would ask for your prayers for a grandmother who has passed away, Ms. Alice Samoa. And she has been taken back to Great Falls this morning. Let us stand together for the Blackfeet Tribal Flag Song.

*(song)*

WYNN: You may be seated. Bishop, delegates, and to all the saints called United Methodists who have traveled from the four corners of the earth, gathered together as laity and clergy, grace and peace to you from

God our Creator, and the Lord of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

The 1992 General Conference passed the Native American Comprehensive Plan, and its passage was a historic event for The United Methodist Church. Four years later, it gives us great joy and pleasure to share with you what has been accomplished since that time. The plan is found in Volume Two of the *Advanced DCA* on pages 1342 through 1354.

The delegation of the responsibility for carrying out its directions was given to the General Board of Global Ministries. A task force was established with two Native Americans from the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference, the Native American International Caucus, one Native American person from the Alaskan Missionary Conference, and one director and one staff person from each of the four general boards and agencies. The task force was organized, and it met in Syracuse, New York; the Blackfeet Reservation in Browning, Montana; Schurz, Nevada; Dulac, Louisiana; and the Seminole Reservation in Morehaven, Florida.

The purpose of these meetings were twofold. Number one, to fulfill the responsibilities assigned to the task force by the 1992 General Conference. Two, to provide opportunity for Native Americans within their own community to share their struggles, hopes, and dreams about the future. As a result of our time of listening, the task force was encouraged and strengthened by the witness of their faith in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Our stories of faith today are similar to the faith stories of the Wyandots who introduced Methodism to parts of the Midwest. Let me share a small part of the Wyandots' faith story.

In Zanesville, Ohio, on September 5, 1824, an unidentified Wyandot tribesman gave his personal testimony and spoke of the spiritual benefits of the Christian faith. As Christ had brought power of salvation not only to one man but also to a whole community of people, this tribesman stated, "Our eyes never melted unto tears while worshipping until we heard the name of Jesus Christ."

This story reminds us of the apostle Paul in his letter to the church to Ephesus when he said, "I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and your love toward all the saints."

We continue to fill gaps and to build bridges upon the faith of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ through the four directions that is set forth in the Native American Comprehensive Plan. They are: denominational presence, Native American spirituality, congregational development, and leadership development.

MARV ABRAMS: The Comprehensive Plan is one that has been an exciting program. I have coordinated that for the task force. And as we met in Montana, we began to talk about these four directions. And from that we put together a logo. And I want you to think about it with me.

### *Native Americans and the Four Directions*

Think of a circle. Think of the four directions of that circle. The circle is not one that is a closed circle; it is a broken circle, signifying that is not just for native people, but it is for all of God's people. There are four directions to our plan. The circle, of course, is a very powerful symbol among Native Americans. When there is peace, wholeness, and harmony, Native Americans view the circle as in balance. There is a balance to life. There is a balance to our world.

The four directions: the East, the South, the West, and the North, symbolize new life, healing, traditional values, and power. Some Native Americans in the United Methodist Church, using John Wesley's quadrilateral, would assign scripture, experience, tradition, and reason to these four directions. In the logo that I'm describing, we have some buttons, and we will be passing these out later in the week, there are two things that you will notice about the logo. One, as I said, that it is not a closed circle. Second, that there is a cross that is formed at the intersection of the lines drawn through each of these cardinal points. Native Americans within the United Methodist Church believe that only through the cross of Jesus Christ can balance, wholeness, peace, harmony, and salvation be achieved. And you will note, when you see the logo, that there are half arrows that are parallel each arm of the cross. They symbolize the work of the Holy Spirit, which has guided the Native American Comprehensive Plan task force as it developed its work, this report, and the recommendations that you see before you.

Against a backdrop of need and opportunity, the four committees of the Native American Comprehensive Plan, use the four directions contained in the circle as a guide for their work. The remainder of this report will be given by the chairs and by witnesses of the accomplishments of these committees. The North, symbolizing powers associated with denominational presence. The denominational presence committee is chaired by Ann Saunkeah. The witnesses will be Bob Mangum and Betty Admussen.

The West, symbolizing religious heritage, is associated with Native American spirituality. The Native American Spirituality Committee is chaired by Anne Marshall. The witness will be Joe Parker.

The South, symbolizing healing winds, is associated with congregational development. The Congregational Development Committee is chaired by Billie Nowabbi. The witness will be Shirley Montoya.

The East, symbolizing new life, is associated with leadership development. The Leadership Development Committee is chaired by Cynthia Abrams, and the witness will be Alvin Deer.

If you will turn to page 1353, you will see many of the plans and the programs of these committees.

### *Denominational Presence Committee*

ANN SAUNKEAH: The Denominational Presence Committee is de-

veloping structures that will help annual conference keep the doors of communication open between Native American ministries, rural communities, and the United Methodist Church. We have encouraged the Church's program boards and agencies to develop or maintain advisory committees or linkage groups. These committees or groups will be the voice of Native American needs at the general church level. They will also help the boards and agencies be sensitive to Native American culture in program development.

The committee has made available training for five jurisdictional consultants, who, in turn, help annual conferences establish and train their committees on Native American ministry, as mandated by paragraph 748 of the *Book of Discipline.* We will now hear from two of the jurisdictional consultants.

*Southeastern Jurisdictional Agency for Native American Ministries*

BOB MANGUM: I work with SEJANAM, the Southeastern Jurisdictional Agency for Native American Ministries. I am also a jurisdictional consultant, working with annual conferences, helping them to create, organize, and train committees on Native American ministry. We held an initial training session for conference committees in 1994 to train leadership of those committees. Since then, we have provided training for committees at conference sites, to help empower these committees to function effectively.

In one conference, the Native American Committee prints a newsletter to help create greater awareness of Native American issues in that conference, and also to promote Native American Awareness Sunday. In another conference, the Native American Committee has established a Simeon F. Cummings Endowment Fund for Native American ministries, to help create a funding for ministries in the Southeast. In another conference, the committee is working to identify Native Americans in a large municipal area, and then to create a ministry of presence. In the Southeast, the comprehensive plan is helping create a Native American Advocate Ministry Group in each of the annual conferences. Existing ministries are being strengthened, and new congregations and ministries are being formed.

*South Central Jurisdiction Native American Ministries*

BETTY ADMUSSEN (Missouri-West): I am one of the five jurisdictional consultants, and I work with the South Central Jurisdiction. We are working with all of the annual conferences to assist them in getting the Native American committees established. What a wonderful venture this has been for me! You see, there are 582,000 Native Americans in the South Central Jurisdiction. And many of them have been invisible to our United Methodist communities. Statistics tell us that 69 percent of the total Native American populations live in the urban areas, and you have become aware of the pockets of the communities you didn't even know existed. I have heard your stories of how you are working with the Native American monies to invite our brothers and sisters to the table. Scholarships have been made available for schooling, camps have been established for youth, and internships have been available for young adults who are interested in learning more about the ministry of this great church.

In the South Central Jurisdiction, a training session has been planned for the first week in August, using the Southeastern Jurisdiction's Native American Ministry as a model. The other three jurisdictions will also have training sessions in the fall. We are here today to say "thank you" for allowing space at the table.

*Native Americans Spirituality Committee*

ANNE MARSHALL: Native Americans are spiritual people, and our very being has spiritual significance. The goal of the Native Americans Spirituality Committee is to help Native American United Methodists and the general church develop respect for spiritual values, our practices, and symbols of native people, which will bridge understandings among us. A survey instrument was developed and tested in various Native American settings and communities. In addition to the survey, information gathered from dialogues based on spirituality will be used during the 1997 to the year 2000 quadrennium, to develop curriculum, resources and a mission statement sensitive to Native American culture for the local churches, annual conferences, and seminaries.

JOE PARKER: The West, in Native American spirituality, relates to the association of the Native Americans. Native Americans understand that everything spiritual, everything has spiritual significance. The goals of the Native American Spirituality Committee is to help Native American United Methodists and the United Methodist Church develop a respect and understanding of the spiritual values, practices, and symbols of native people.

When I was six years old, in New England, the Native Americans, most of them, were assimilated into the communities, and at the age of six I was taken away from my family with my brothers, and put into an orphanage. This was during the Depression, 'cause we know the government knows best how to take care of people, and subsequently, they placed me with an Irish family, who was, I'd say religious people, but through my prayer life, the Creator did instill in me a total respect for all of life, which we believe that Native American spirituality is. So my work on the task force, a brother on the task force shared with me that when he was growing up on the reservation, that his grandmother, who was a long-time Methodist, and teachings for the long houses, he thought that some of the things being taught seemed to him to be pagan. But after seminary, and then returning to the reservation, to

share in a ministry, that these same lessons that were coming from the long house, to him, seemed biblical. It is this Native American spirituality that has helped native people to survive. Aho!

*Native American Congregational Committee*

BILLIE NOWABBI: The congregational committee is developing models of ministry that can be established, revitalized, and strengthened within Native American rural and reservation communities. These models will: 1) be culturally sensitive to Native American ways of life; 2) be developed in partnership with United Methodist program agencies and Native American entities and; 3) utilize existing resources available in the United Methodist Church.

We offer four models of ministry:

1) Recruiting and training of gatherers. Ten Native Americans attended the orientation of trainers to resource, coordinate, and provide cultural context for those becoming a gatherer. A gatherer is a Native American who gathers other Native Americans for worship, fellowship, outreach, and service. The gatherer is encouraged to fish for people like Christ's first disciples. Ninety-four participants from 21 annual conferences attended the first training event. Each team included a lay person, a clergy, and a conference staff person. With supervision, a gatherer may serve to establish new ministries or to assist a pastor.

2) Rural Reservation Chaplaincy. Twenty-five gatherers from Native American churches and ministries are invited to pursue certification as rural reservation chaplains. A chaplain may affirm and respond to economic and social needs of Native American people and communities. They will share resources and services, and help to strengthen Native American communities.

3) The third model is a Native American Consultation on the Diaconal Ministry that will be held during September 20 through 22, 1996. The purpose is to develop models and resources for recruitment, certification, consecration, and deployment of Native Americans as Diaconal Ministers.

4) And then the last model is the Rural and Reservation Congregational Development, and the accomplishments will be shared by the following witness.

*Western Jurisdiction for the Native American Ministries*

SHIRLEY MONTOYA: Serving as the Western Jurisdiction for the Native American Comprehensive Plan, I have seen a vision and a dream become a reality. Through seed money from the Native American Comprehensive Plan and strong commitment and support of the Desert Southwest Annual Conference, the Northern Arizona Native American Ministry has become a reality. This ministry will provide a United Methodist presence among the largest concentration of Native Americans in the annual conference. The majority of these Native Americans are the Denai People, the Navajos. The Native American Comprehensive Plan's four directions will provide the base from which this ministry will be developed to meet the needs and address the issues of the Native Americans in this area.

The vision of this ministry is to empower people; a ministry of affirmation through the liberating gospels of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Only in this way can we, as a people, begin to combat poverty, homelessness, alcoholism, violence.

The ministry will have three phases: First, to assess and focus on the crucial needs and concerns of the people. Second, to formulate and develop clusters, utilizing the gatherers concept, to identify leadership. And third, the beginning development of our congregation, identifying leadership.

This is God's plan. This is God's timing. Your prayers and your support is greatly needed for the long life and success of this ministry.

*National Native American Family Camp*

CYNTHIA ABRAMS: One Native American leader recounted his experience at the 1960 General Conference by saying he was a dark spot in a sea of white faces. The leadership development committee recognizes that for Native American people to truly be a part of the church, we need to be involved in all levels of the church. We need to be at the table.

An example of this quadrennium's work was a continuing education training event in 1995 for pastors and other church workers at the National Native American Family Camp. Along with the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, we are exploring a course of study designed to be sensitive to Native American leaders and their unique situations. The plan has enabled and will continue to enable Native Americans to be effective leaders in the church and in their communities.

As we look toward the twenty-first century, we are calling on the church to be in partnership with Native American people. As we continue to develop new, innovative, creative, and vital ministries, like the reservation chaplaincy, that will help deal with economic development, alternatives to gaming. We want to be a part of the circle that includes the whole church, as we continue to develop and implement creative leadership models for this great denomination.

*Native American Leadership Development*

ALVIN DEER (Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference): Leadership development means training events such as Event '95, whose goal was to introduce local church leaders from the Native American communities to the United Methodist structure and polity, for application at the local, district, annual conference, jurisdictional, and general conference levels. Nearly 100 persons participated and were given the opportunity to attend

workshops led by Native Americans. One participant stated, "I never realized what a great church we have, and I want to be more involved." Another person said, "This event has far-reaching ramifications which shall continue to influence our mission of ministry in the Native American community."

Leadership development also means salary parity for Native American pastors. Pastors in the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference are as committed to the ministry of Jesus Christ as any in the denomination. Many of our pastors commit to full-time ministry knowing that the entry level of a full-time pastor in the OIMC is $12,000 per year. The 1996 conference average compensation of our Native American pastors is 52 percent less than the denominational average compensation.

At this General Conference, great attention has been given to the impact of local church obligations. General apportionments rise. Conference benevolences rise. Local church expenses rise. The very necessary missional needs rise. And pastoral salaries rise. In many Native American churches, it is not possible to meet all the obligations of the local church and pay salaries comparable to the denominational average compensation.

The Native American Comprehensive Plan has recognized that in order for many Native Americans to answer the call to ministry, that they have bound themselves to the minimum salary levels of the annual conference. The plan has embarked on a process to study salary parity for Native American pastors in order for Native Americans to answer the call, and then not be burdened by poverty-level compensation. Through the Native American Comprehensive Plan, we will find a means to parity in Native American compensation.

KENNETH DEERE: As Native Americans are representing our own sovereign nation here, we ask that you join us in the song that you just learned earlier: "Heleluyam!" by standing, and I'm going to ask my elder, George Miller, to lead us in that song. Will you stand, please?

*(song)*

*Native Americans Look Ahead to Next Quadrennium*

SAM WYNN (North Carolina Conference): You may be seated. Now that you have heard about the accomplishments, the impact, and the necessity for this plan, you have the opportunity to join as partners with Native Americans throughout North America in the continuation of this exciting ministry. Here are several of the findings that the task force would encourage you to remember. That over 60 percent of all Native Americans live in metropolitan areas. The Native American population has increased 39 percent between 1980 and 1990. Just under one-half of those older than the age of 25 living on reservations are high school drop-outs. One third of Native Americans, including Eskimo and Aleut, in the United States live below the poverty level. Among Native American teenagers, the suicide rate is four times higher than of any other ethnic group in the United States. Native Americans are four times more likely to die of alcoholism than any other group in the United States. The fetal alcohol syndrome is six times higher than the national average.

The next General Conference, when we meet together, will be the beginning of a new millennium. The decisions that you make today will impact the future of our denomination. The Native American community will be affected by this decision and as well as others throughout our church. It is the purpose of the Native American Comprehensive Plan to share the gospel of Christ from the four directions of the Native American Plan, thus giving our children hope for a brighter future.

The faith that the Wyandots expressed in Zanesville, Ohio, on September 24, 1824, brought about salvation and spiritual benefit not only to one man but to a whole community. Likewise, this same faith has watered the desolate places within the hearts of Native American people today within The United Methodist Church, replacing despondency, loss of hope, poverty, and brokenness with new hope, new dreams, and new life.

In the Book of Ezekiel in chapter 37, verses 9 and 10, God reveals to Ezekiel in this vision the state of a nation that is dry, that is desolate, that has little or no life. However, he brings a vision of restoration and new life, and he says, "Then He said to me, 'Prophesy and breathe. Prophesy, mortal, and say to breath: Thus saith the Lord God: Come from the four winds, oh breath and breathe upon the slain that they may live.' I prophesied as I was commanded, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and they stood on their feet as a vast multitude."

We, as Native Americans, can relate to Ezekiel's vision. The dry bones are symbols of our past and present oppressions, some of which have been mentioned here today. But we press forward. We continue to strive for a better way of life for our children and for our children's children. God through his Son, has breathed new life into our spirit. And like the Wyandots, we, too, have received God's benefits through the saving power of Jesus Christ. Our eyes melted into tears as well, but our tears are also tears of hope, joy, and love because of the impact of this Plan in our community.

We want to say thank you for what you have done, and thank you to the Native American Fax Network, and the support that we have received from United Methodist Communications and the other four program boards and agencies, the General Council on Ministry throughout The United Methodist Church. Now may God's peace abide with each of you always; the love and the faith of Jesus Christ continue to strengthen you.

*(applause)*

BISHOP GROVE: Thank you very much Sam Wynn and Marvin Abrams and all the others who have brought this report to us. We are very grateful to you. I think we are ready now for calendar items related to this report, and I recognize Carolyn Johnson, chair of the Legislative Committee on Global Ministries.

*Calendar Items from BOGM*

CAROLYN JOHNSON: Good morning, Bishop and delegates. Well, there was one person out there who said good morning back. Thank you. This morning, on behalf of legislative group number six, Global Ministries, we'll be bringing to you four calendar items. All of the calendar items are found in your blue *DCA* on page 174.

We will be looking at calendar items beginning with Calendar Item 444. The reference material that you will need for that is found in your *Advance DCA* book one, the red book, on page 778. As you're turning to that page, it might help you to know that that item is in the lower left hand column. This first item, continuation of the Native American Comprehensive Plan, the petition number is 21345. As the legislative group reviewed the petition, the recommendation was concurrence: 108 for, 0 against, and 0 not voting. And therefore, because of the financial implications, our recommendation is concurrence, with reference to GCF&A. And I so move, Bishop.

BISHOP GROVE: All right. Will you vote when the light appears. [880 approved]

BISHOP: That is affirmed. Approved, with reference to Finance for the financial implications.

JOHNSON: Thank you. The next item, and you'll notice we are going in descending order, is Calendar Item 443, also on page 174. This item and the one that will follow it relate to the National Plan for Hispanic Ministries. The reference material you will need is found in the *Advance DCA* book one, that's the red book, on page 762. And again, as you are going to that page, it might be helpful for you to know that it's in the lower portion of the right hand column. This is petition number 20078. This petition is to continue the emphasis on the National Plan for Hispanic Ministries. The legislative group reviewed it and recommended concurrence on a vote of 104 for, 0 against, and 0 not voting. Again, because of the financial implications, our recommendation to you is concurrence, with reference to GCF&A, and I so move.

BISHOP GROVE: All right, it is before you. Anyone want to speak to it? I think you're ready. Vote when the light appears. [908 approved]

BISHOP GROVE: It is approved, with reference to Finance.

JOHNSON: Thank you. The next Calendar Item 442, again on page 174. This recommendation is on the National Plan for Hispanic Ministries. The reference material in the *Advance DCA* book one, the red book, is on page 771 at the bottom of the right hand column. Petition number 21343. The recommendation from the legislative group on a vote of 107 for, 0 against, and 1 not voting, was concurrence, with reference to GCF&A, and I so move.

BISHOP GROVE: All right. Anyone wish to speak to it? Vote when the light appears. [922 approved]

BISHOP GROVE: It is approved, with reference.

JOHNSON: Thank you, and the final item that we will bring to you today is Calendar Item 441 on Asian-American Language Ministry Study. The *Advance DCA* reference is *Advance DCA*, book one, the red book, page 777. You will find this in the lower portion of the left hand column. It's petition number 21344. On a vote of 107 for, 0 against, and 1 not voting, the legislative group recommends concurrence, with reference to GCF&A, and I so move.

BISHOP GROVE: All right. Anyone wish the floor? Yes. I see a hand over here. Go to microphone six.

*Clarification of Budget Referrals and GCF&A*

BARBARA WILLIAMS RIDDLE (Florida Conference): A question. The ones—the items that are being brought before us today that are being referred to GCF&A are not currently in the proposed budget that has gone out to us, and these are being referred, and these will be in addition? I want to make sure I understand.

JOHNSON: As I understand it, the rules of the General Conference require that any items that have financial implications, whether they are in an existing budget, whether they are continuation, or whether they will be a new program, must be referred back to GCF&A who handles those on site and are required to report back to this session of the General Conference. Is that correct, Bishop?

BISHOP GROVE: That is correct, and my understanding is that these amounts are in the proposed budget, but it still has to go to GCF&A. Is that right? Is that your understanding? Yes.

RIDDLE: So for clarification, everything that we're considering at this point has been and is considered in the proposed budget that will be before us later in the week?

JOHNSON: The items that I brought you today, yes.

RIDDLE: Thank you.

BISHOP GROVE: All right. Are you ready? Vote when the light appears. [919 approved]

BISHOP GROVE: The motion is passed. The proposal is approved, with reference.

JOHNSON: Bishop, may I introduce to the house the other members of the legislative team who will also be coming to you later on in the week? Howard Daughenbaugh, vice chair, who's a clergy delegate from Central Illinois; and Betty Suzuki, who is our secretary and lay delegate from California-Nevada. Thank you.

BISHOP GROVE: Thank you very much. *(applause)* And thanks again to all of those who presented the Native American Plan to us today. We're

within five minutes of recess, and I think we're going to take it now rather than going to the next legislative committee, rather than to break into their work. So we're in recess for 15 minutes. Please be in your seat ready to begin at 25 minutes after ten.

BISHOP GROVE: Come back as quickly now as you can. We have a lot of work to do this morning. All right, let's be in order, please. Please, friends, we need to begin. We have two items of personal privilege that I want to recognize, and I know that you want to be here for that.

Will the delegates be seated? We're going to begin. If you're at the cookie tables, please, if you're a delegate, please return. We're way past our starting time, and you don't seem to be moving this way. I recognize the delegate at microphone three for special privilege. Let's be in order, please.

PATRICIA FARRIS (California-Pacific): I invite the sisters and brothers of the General Conference to be in prayer and thanksgiving for the life and the ministry of the Rev. Tim Tyner from our annual conference, who died last night, after a long journey with AIDS. As we're in prayer, I'd like to lift up the refrain of one of Tim's favorite hymns: "I will cling to the old rugged cross, till my burdens at last I lay down. I will cherish the old rugged cross, and exchange it one day for a crown." Let us be in silent prayer together.

BISHOP GROVE: Can we be in silence as we remember this brother?

*(silence)*

PATRICIA FARRIS (California-Pacific): Hear our prayer, O God, and give us your peace. Amen.

BISHOP GROVE: Amen. Another matter of concern: A delegate has asked me if I would just ask you without recognizing him, if we could send a greeting to the mayor of Ft. Smith, Arkansas. That community has been devastated by a hurricane. The mayor is a United Methodist. As we hold the people of that community in our prayers, is it in accord with your will that we send greetings to the community in a correspondence to the mayor? Unless there is objection, we will do that by common consent. I see no objection; it is done.

Another person asked for a moment of privilege relative to a letter to be sent down here. I don't see him. Microphone seven.

### *Elizabeth Dole Update*

AUSTIN FREDERICK JR. (Southwest Texas): I move that the 1996 General Conference send a letter affirming Elizabeth Dole's church membership and exemplary service on behalf of the church and the Red Cross. If I may have a second, I would like to speak to that.

BISHOP GROVE: Is there a second? It is seconded.

FREDERICK: Bishop, while I was at my seat, visions of the *Denver Post* headlines reading "the 1996 General Conference voted not to hear Elizabeth Dole" came in my head, and I think that we could do this, in allowing, in expressing our deep appreciation for her work.

BISHOP GROVE: All right, it's before you. I don't think this is a matter of courtesy. Is there objection? If there is not, we'll do it by common consent.

Any objection? I see no card. It is approved by common consent. A letter of greeting and good wishes and appreciation will be sent on behalf of the General Conference to Elizabeth Dole, a faithful United Methodist. Thank you.

Ready now to recognize Paul Ervin, Chair of the legislative committee on Discipleship.

PAUL R.ERVIN JR. (North Georgia): Thank you, Bishop Grove. First, I would like to introduce the committee's secretary and vice-chair, if they would stand: Susan Hassinger, from the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference is our vice-chair, and Martha Etter from the Southwest Texas Conference is our secretary.

Please turn to page 227 in your red book. While you're doing that, I'm going to need request permission of the body, Bishop, to allow Dr. Gayle Felton, of Duke Divinity School, and Dr. Dale Dunlap to speak to the body on behalf of the study. Bishop? I need to request Dr. Felton, Dr. Gayle Felton, and Dr. Dale Dunlap to be able to address on this particular study.

### *Baptism Study Committee*

BISHOP: Members of the Baptismal Study Committee?

ERVIN: Yes, sir.

BISHOP: Is there objection to voice for these two particular persons who served on the committee? I see none. Permission is granted.

ERVIN: Thank you. Today I hope we will celebrate the approval of a significant and important document in the life of our church. I know many of you may have attended earlier conferences, where our doctrinal statements and theological tasks were adopted. Last Saturday, by your approving the Consent Calendar Items 26 and 27, you approved the report of the Baptism Study Committtee entitled, *By Water and the Spirit*, a United Methodist understanding of baptism. After a day of review and explanation of the document, the Discipleship legislative committee passed, 100-0, approval of this paper, with only one amendment. I wish to commend the study committtee that has spent so much time and has been so patient over the last eight years to come to today.

At this time, I would like to introduce the chair of the study committee, to introduce any of the committee members he wishes to introduce, and those who will be assisting in the report to this General Conference. Following the report, we will have two legislative petitions, and there will be others throughout the week to come before this body related to the baptism study that will require additional conference action.

At this time, I would like to introduce Mark Trotter, clergy member of

the California-Pacific Conference, and chair of the Baptism Study Committee. Mark.

*History of Baptism Study Committee*

MARK TROTTER (California-Pacific): Bishop, and members of the General Conference. The General Conference in 1984, adopted new rituals for the Church. Typical of United Methodist interests in things sacramental, at least in those days, no one seemed to notice what happened except the church's curriculum writers, who realized that the 1984 baptism ritual had signficantly changed the way we think about baptism.

The General Board of Discipleship, therefore, petitioned the 1988 General Conference to establish a committee to study the United Methodist understanding of baptism and its relation to confirmation and other rites of the church. The delegates to the 1988 General Conference also received the proposed hymnal that year. And when they opened it, they discovered that the 1984 rituals for Holy Communion and Holy Baptism were not at the back of the hymnal, where they're supposed to be, but in the front. It's referred to as "in your face editing." And the result was to cause an awareness of baptism, the likes of which has not been present in the church for over 100 years.

A committee was formed with representatives from three agencies: the General Board of Discipleship, the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, the General Commission on Church Unity and Interreligious Concerns, plus theologians from the differing theological points of view, and others to make up the inclusiveness of the committee. We began meeting in 1989, working with drafts that were prepared for each meeting, held in different regions of the country, so that we could talk with both laity and clergy who had been sent the latest draft of the document, and met with us for a session to share with us their opinions of it.

By 1992, we felt we had a pretty good document, but we still did not have consensus on some knotty problems. And so we submitted our work to that 1992 General Conference under the title, *By Water and the Spirit*, and asked that it be sent to the connection as a whole, along with a study guide and a response questionnaire, to be returned to the committee by fall of 1995. I understand that 20,000 copies of the study guide were sold by the beginning of 1995. The committee received 1,200 responses, which we read, discussed, and used to sharpen and focus a final draft, which was sent to all of you along with our proposed legislation.

*Results of Baptism Study*

We have now completed our assignment and placed it in your hands. But I feel that we have accomplished much more. The baptismal study has served as a catalyst for denomination-wide discussion of who we are as Christians. Although we were not responsible for the new baptism ritual, a great number of the questions directed to us have been questions about elements in the ritual. And the questions about the ritual correspond to the issues at the heart of Christian identity, beginning with the renunciations. The question arose immediately, why do we have to use such primitive language, such as renouncing evils powers of this world? Why do we pray that the infants be washed of sin? Have we not gone beyond such pre-scientific ways of discussing human nature, especially in little children? Why do we say baptism is initiation into the church? Why the prayer over the water with its rehearsal of the history of salvation? Why the laying on of hands in the act of confirmation? Why not postpone baptism until the individual can decide for himself or herself? Why not rebaptize? The church that seeks the answers to these questions has returned to the source, to one of the wells from which we draw the waters of renewal.

The study has also proved to be a resource for the renewal of ministry for many pastors, which has been another gratifying byproduct of the study. I offer my own testimony as an example. Before I took this assignment eight years ago, I was a typical United Methodist pastor, which meant baptism was something I rarely ever thought about. It was something that I did for families, and I treated baptism in that way in the worship, as a distraction. I got 'em in, got 'em done, and then got 'em out. And when I was appointed to serve on this committee, I thought I'd better try the new ritual, in case somebody who knew my position should stumble into worship some day. So I did. And the result has been a transformation of my understanding of my ministry, a transformation of the life of my congregation, and my own personal life.

Baptism is no longer seen as a service that we perform for families, but as the initiating sacrament of the church, to be celebrated in the worship of the church, not only as the initiation of new members, but through its rehearsal of who we are. It's an opportunity for God to renew us as individuals, and as the church.

And finally, the committee's work has demonstrated that it is possible for us to discuss an issue on which there are sharp divisions of opinion and find common ground. We do not think it is presumptuous to suggest that the committee's work is an example of how Christians from differing points of view can find unity. The committee's life together was a practical application of the theme of this conference, "In essentials, unity; in nonessentials, liberty; and in all things, charity." It was no picnic, but we did it. And as a result we received criticism from both sides of the theological scrimmage. But we receive encouragement also from the old story about the field commander who said, when his troops said that they felt that he was moving too fast, and his general said that he was moving too slow, he figured he was at the right place. And when criticism came equally

from both sides, we figured that our work was done, and we stopped.

There are statements here in this document that some will feel to be compromises. And they are right, but we believe they are appropriate and defensible, given our task to find common ground on which all of us can stand as United Methodists in thinking about baptism.

*Members of Baptism Study Committee Introduced*

We propose that *By Water and the Spirit, the United Methodists' Understanding of Baptism* is a foundation document for discussing our unity. The names of those who have served on the committee are listed at the conclusion of the report on page 235. I want to name them as a way of thanking them for their contribution. Some of them we've managed to get here on the stage, others are in the room someplace, and others are not able to be here at this conference. Dan Benedict, Oley Borgen, Sang E. Chun, Dale Dunlap, John Ewing, Gayle Felton, John Gooch, Sharon Hels, Pat Jelinek, Chuck Kishbaugh, Tom Langford, Jean Audrey Powers, Thomas Salsgiver, Stanley Washington, and Garnet Wilder.

There are two that I want to thank especially. First Peggy Sewall, who was the secretary for the committee for all these eight years, and made sense out of what must have seemed at times, a babel of tongues, and consistently and quietly contributed wisdom and grace to our proceedings. She was a gift to this committee.

*(applause)*

And Dale Dunlap, who did the hard work of writing the many drafts of the paper during the committee's formative days in the first quadrennium. I don't know if you can appreciate what it is to spend hours and hours writing something and then submit it to 15 people who then begin to tear it apart. There must be a circle in hell where that is the punishment.

*(laughter)*

For four years, through at least four drafts, this brilliant, faithful, and gracious man, served his church, as he has done so many times over the years. We are most grateful for Dale Dunlap's contribution to our committee.

*(applause)*

It is now my pleasure to introduce to you, Gayle Felton. Gail teaches at Duke Divinity School. She's made valuable contributions to the work of this committee, and as many of you know, she's been a kind of ambassador for the committee, introducing *By Water and the Spirit* on scores of occasions to both clergy and laity, and giving them at the same time, an invaluable education in Methodist history and sacramental theology. She will now give you a brief tour through *By Water and the Spirit*.

*(applause)*

*By Water and the Spirit*

GAYLE FELTON: Good morning! Several years ago, I read in *Christianity Today* magazine, a kind of mythical account of a softball game. The softball game was being played between a wide range of persons of various denominations. And without going into the details that developed as that story was told, I was simply struck by a characterization in it, this story being written by a Presbyterian, and his comment at one point was, "Oh we love to play softball with the United Methodists. They don't care what the rules are." I've been struck by that, and have remembered it since, because I fear that this has often been the stereotype of Methodism that has come to us from other denominations, and indeed, the stereotype of United Methodism that has sometimes existed even within our own denomination.

Do United Methodists believe anything? Or do we make the appeal that we're sometimes accused of making, "Come on and be a United Methodist, you don't have to believe nothing." I don't believe this is the position we want our church to be in. I don't believe that it is the position that we are in. This, to me, has been one of the great values of the work that we have done on the Baptism Study. It is, I believe, the great value of this document to the church, as it serves us henceforth, as a guide, as a source, as a touchstone. For not only our understanding of the sacrament, but more broadly, our understanding of theology.

For baptism cannot really be limited to a particular ceremonial act conducted by a minister on a Sunday morning involving one child or adult. In talking about the meaning of baptism, we are talking about our understanding of who God is, of who we are in relationship to God, we are talking about how the brokenness of our relationship with God, with each other, with the natural world, and indeed even with our own best selves; how that brokenness, how that alienation can be overcome. What God has done to make it possible for us to come into saving relationship with God through Jesus Christ. We are talking when we think about baptism as well, about the meaning of the church, and what it is that the church has to do with our relationship with God. Why is it that God has given us the church, and within the church, the sacraments, referred to as "means of grace,"—ways that God's grace comes to us and is active and transformative in our lives?

As you look at the baptism document, *By Water and the Spirit*, as it is printed in your copy volume one of the *DCA*, beginning on page 227. I'm certainly not going to read the document, or even to summarize it, but I do want us to look together for a few moments, at the overall plan or layout of the document, and some of the foundational thinking that, it seems to me, undergirds the whole thing.

*By Water and the Spirit Rooted in History*

The first page, and indeed continuing over into the second page of the

document, is really a very condensed historical, theological survey of the United Methodist tradition. United Methodism is a mediating tradition. It is a church in which, I believe, some of the best elements of the Christian faith, as they are exemplified in a variety of other denominations, are brought together, are combined, are synthesized, to make up what we as United Methodists believe. This, indeed, is in line with our heritage. A part of the recovery of United Methodism today and in the future, I believe, will be our recovery of the significance of our heritage. It is in knowing how we got to this place, that we will be able to examine the realities of the life of our Church today, and work toward a revitalization of our ministry in the world tomorrow.

So, in this document, as indeed as in our baptismal rituals, we are looking back to the classical Christian tradition in which we stand. And we are looking back specifically to the Wesleyan tradition that we have inherited from our founders. When we look at the Wesleyan tradition, we must remind ourselves that John Wesley was an Anglican priest, not just an Anglican priest until he became a Methodist, but indeed an Anglican priest all of his life. He had no desire to leave the Anglican Church, he only wished to rekindle the flame of God's spirit burning within it. And so, Wesley is not *just* an Anglican priest, but he is also a Methodist revivalist, a fervent evangelical, preaching the necessity of a personal experience of rebirth, in commitment and discipleship to Jesus Christ.

Now these are two aspects of Christian theology, that we often believe are separate. And indeed, that we sometimes believe are actually opposing and contradictory to each other.

### *Wesley and Baptism*

GAYLE FELTON: We have a tendency to split off what we consider the evangelical, revivalistic view of faith from what we consider the sacramental, ecclesiastical understanding. But in truth, this is not an option for United Methodists. Such a split is not an option for us if we are going to be authentic to our heritage, if we are going to proclaim the version of the gospel, if you will, that God raised up the United Methodists to proclaim. For John Wesley was able to create a synthesis, a blend or combination of the high Anglican, ecclesiastical, sacramental side of his belief, with the fervant, revivalistic, evangelicalism that he proclaimed actively in the many decades of his ministry.

This synthesis, this belief that God works through the church, and through the sacraments of the church, in a very powerful and special way. And yet, at the same time, God expects, indeed requires, each individual to come into saving relationship with God through trusting surrender and commitment to Christ.

Wesley holds those wholes of the faith together. And neither one alone is Wesleyan. Neither one alone is authentic United Methodism. Mediating positions, synthesis positions, are difficult to maintain. It is much easier to go to extremes on issues than it is to see the truth of all sides and hold those together. And unfortunately, for us contemporary United Methodists, John Wesley's creative synthesis of sacramentalism and evangelicalism did not survive the passage across the Atlantic to the United States without sustaining some damage and change.

When Methodism first came to what is now the United States, we know that it came into a society very different from the society of Great Britain where it had its origins. For example, John Wesley's revisions of the *Book of Common Prayer*, which he sent over to America as the guide is for the Sunday service for the Methodists in North America. This very carefully done, and to Wesley, very important guide to worship was, in truth, rather flippantly tossed aside by most of the early Methodist preachers, lay preachers they were, and indeed even by the first ordained preachers in Methodism in America after 1784, when the Methodist Episcopal Church was officially created.

Most of the worship life of early Methodists, and with that term I include, of course, the traditions that, make up the Evangelical Church and the United Brethren Church with which we are now one family. Most of the worship in these early traditions was worship that was quite informal, focusing upon hymn singing, Bible reading, preaching the word, and praying. And Wesley's sacramentalism, while never lost, was certainly de-emphasized and depreciated in the American environment.

I don't think though that we should go too far with this; we should remind ourselves that even in the midst of camp-meeting revivalism, and camp-meeting revivalism was, of course, typical of Methodism in the 17th Century. Even in the midst of this very evangelical expression of the faith, the sacraments continued to have their place in every camp meeting there was often Holy Communion and every camp meeting climaxed with the service of baptism. But it is certainly true that as far as the balance between sacramentalism and evangelicalism that Wesley had developed, the scales do not stay in balance, and there is much more stress upon the evangelical and much less upon the significance of sacraments. As the century goes on, another change occurs in that Methodism ceases to be as interested in emphasizing the necessity of personal conversion and commitment to Christ. And so we no longer find the strong root of evangelical, revivalistic appeal for personal conversion and commitment.

### *Baptism in the UMC Today*

This, it seems to me, underlies a great deal of our difficulties as a denomination today. We have taken the two parts of the Wesley synthesis, the sacramentalism and the evangelicalism, we have torn them asunder. We have de-emphasized the sacramental part quite early in our history in this country and later in our history, we

have de-emphasized the evangelical part. And now we wonder why we are losing tens of thousands of members every year. I submit this because we no longer know who we are. We no longer know what we believe. We no longer know what God has called us to do.

It is not that I am foolish enough or naive enough to believe that this document or any document is going to reform and rechannel the church. But I do believe that it does give us the opportunity to recover the authentic identity, and the powerfully important mission, for which God has raised up the people called United Methodists.

As the document goes on, I will only point to the major headings, since time is short. In the second column on 228, and on to the following page, we have simply tried to outline a kind of basic theological understanding that recognizes the reality of human sin and brokenness; recognizes that as human beings we are utterly defendent upon the initiative of God the outreaching love embrace of God, what Wesley called "prevenient grace,"—if that brokenness is to be healed.

Recognizing, on page 229, the absolute necessity of the human response of faith to the gift of God offered to us. And continuing on that page you see a section entitled, "The Means by which God's Grace Comes to Us." We believe, as United Methodists, that God has chosen to work in the church, not just in the church, thank goodness, but God has chosen to work in and through the church for the salvation of the world, and has given to the church certain means through which God's grace can be received.

Then there is the beginning of a lengthy section on page 229 and continuing for some pages there after, talking about the meaning of baptism in the overall understanding of life of faith. And here I simply want to say that the term baptism, as this document uses it is not limited to a particular occasion of administration of water in the name of the triune God with one particular person on one particular morning in one particular worship service. Baptism is seen as part of the process of salvation. For Wesley, unlike for some other traditions, for Wesley salvation is not an event; salvation is a process that works throughout our lives.

And, therefore, baptism is understood correctly only as a part of that process, not in isolation from it. That process calls upon us that every point in our lives as Christians to be open to the working of God's grace and to continue to be nurtured in the faith toward deeper commitment and holiness of life.

In the very last section of the document, prior to the conclusion, page 239, we have carried out the duty with which the General Conference charged us of talking about baptism in relation to other rights of the church. And then finally a concluding statement, in which an attempt has been made to draw together the major emphases of the document. I commend it to you for use in the church, we believe that the experience of creating *By Water and the Spirit* has been an experience of grace for us. Indeed we know that the committee, as individuals and as a group, has been privileged and touched by the love and grace of God in a special way.

We hope and pray that *By Water and the Spirit* will function in the United Methodist Church to remind us in a powerful way of the outreaching love of God in Jesus Christ that claims us in baptism as God's own. And the power of that grace to enable us to make the human response of faith through which we become the people God intends for us to be. Thank you.

PAUL ERVIN: I want to take just a moment to thank both Gail and Dale as well as Mark and Peggy Sewell who were so patient with the Discipleship Legislative Committee. We spent about a day to a day-and-a-half on this matter. Every question was answered. And I think that we all can probably get an extra three hours of credit from some seminary somewhere from that experience.

But would you, as a conference, show your appreciation to this study committee for what they've done for our church?

*(applause)*

Bishop, there are two items, and I would ask you at this time if you would take out your blue book, page 169. There are two consent agenda items: number 419 and 420. And at this time I would like to ask Greg Stover who is from the West Ohio Conference, he chaired our baptism sub-committee, to come forward to present these petitions.

*By Water and the Word*
*Inclusive Language*

GREGORY STOVER (sub-committee chair, Discipleship Committee): Thank you. I'm Greg Stover from the West Ohio Conference, and I would like to direct your attention first of all in the blue book, page 169, to Calendar Item 419. This refers to an item in the red book, Volume One, page 945, petition number 21426. The legislative section amended this petition by deleting the words "age or intellectual ability, race or nationality, gender or sexual identity, class or handicapping conditions" so that the paragraph simply reads, "Therefore, all persons shall be eligible..." The rationale is that this brings the language in the *Discipline* in conformity with the language of *By Water and the Spirit*, which we have already acted upon. It's simplified language that avoids the need to continually be adding lists or items to lists and categories. The Discipleship section recommends concurrence with this item as amended. The vote was 98 for, 16 against, and 1 not voting.

BISHOP GROVE: All right. Calendar Item 419 is before you with a recommendation of concurrence from the committee. Anyone wish to speak to it? Yes, over here, if you'll come to microphone two.

RICHARD PARKER (New York): Bishop, I guess...

I guess the only way to restore that would be a move to amend the committee report to restore that language which says without regard to race, color, etc., to the calendar item, and I would so move, Bishop.

BISHOP GROVE: Well, I think that if you...you can do it that way, or if you vote this petition down, it essentially leaves it that way.

PARKER: Bishop, if we vote the petition down, there are other amendments...

BISHOP GROVE: All right. We'll receive this as an amendment. You would move to restore the stricken lines in the second through about the seventh. Beginning "without regard" and ending with "handicapping conditions."

PARKER: Yes, Bishop.

BISHOP GROVE: Is there a second? There is. You want to speak to it?

PARKER: Please. I wish we had had a chance to consider that item in regard to the baptism study as well. I would have liked to see that language retained there. I believe we do need to specify those persons very, very clearly who are included not only in the total life of the church and the membership of the church but also entitled to receive the sacrament of baptism in our churches. We know from our own experience that there are people who are denied baptism as a result of being a part of some of those groups named there. One is a person who grew up in my church, now attends a different church, and I told her story in a press conference last week when she and her partner, a family with two mothers, brought the child, or asked the pastor to baptize the child and was told that that child could not be baptized because of the lifestyle of her parents. I feel that we need to be very clear about this. We need to name specifically what we mean by inclusion in The United Methodist Church, and I hope we will restore that language.

BISHOP GROVE: All right. The amendment is before you. Anyone want to speak against the amendment? I don't see anyone. Do you wish to speak?

STOVER: Yes I do. Thank you.

BISHOP GROVE: Then we'll vote.

STOVER: We would oppose the amendment that has been proposed on the floor. I would reiterate once again that this brings language and conformity to that which we have already acted upon. It's simpler language. The listing of multiple categories is unnecessary. The word all, indeed, is very inclusive. All means what it says: all persons. By placing these lists of categories in this particular legislation, it also simply raises red flags to a number of persons across our church. So we would urge you to defeat this amendment.

BISHOP GROVE: All right, vote when the light appears on the amendment.

*(voting)*

BISHOP GROVE: The amendment is defeated, and the petition is before you. Anyone else wish to speak to it? I heard a voice. Yes, back here. If you will come to the middle to microphone eight. Please give your name and conference.

LUCILLE VANZANT (Oklahoma Conference): If I was not a member of The United Methodist Church in America, the word "all" might have a different significance. It might mean all men, all women, all white, all black. The United Methodist Church has become known over the world as being an inclusive type of congregation. Whereby, we spell out what we mean. We tell people that we care for women, for men, for ethnics, for handicapping conditions. We tell the world that we love all people, and sometimes people cannot understand that until it's spelled out that we love our neighbors, and we spellout who those neighbors are. Thank you.

BISHOP GROVE: All right. Thank you. I think that speech was on the amendment upon which we had already acted. But the petition is before us. Any other perfection amendments or speeches for or against? Are you ready? I think you are. Vote on the petition 419 when the light appears. [838 approved]

BISHOP GROVE: It is approved.

*Practice of Rebaptism*

STOVER: We would now direct your attention once again in the blue book, same page, 169, just to the top of the second column. Calendar Item 420. This refers to an item in your red volume one on page 1058. Petition number 21457. This amendment comes to...or this petition comes as amended from the legislative section. The amendment which we have made in the legislative section is under paragraph C. To delete the last sentence: "The sacrament of baptism may not be repeated" and to insert these words: "The practice of rebaptism does not conform with God's action in baptism and is not consistent with Wesleyan tradition and the historic teaching of the church. Therefore, the pastor should counsel any persons seeking rebaptism to participate in a rite of re-affirmation of baptismal vows." This amendment was passed in the section upon the recommendation of the Baptismal Study Committee. It was an attempt which would reconcile the concerns of those who want a very firm understanding of our baptismal theology expressed on one hand and those who want to provide room for pastoral conscience on the other. There is a minority report on this item. But our section recommended concurrence: for, 91, against, 11, and 2 not voting.

BISHOP GROVE: All right. The petition is before you. As has been indicated there is a minority report. The way we will handle this will be to hear from a representative of the minority, then we will go to perfect the main motion. After having done that, we will perfect the minority report and then entertain it as a substitute, voting on it as a substitute motion after both have been perfected. Who is here to speak for the minority?

STOVER: The minority report will be presented by Charles Brockwell.

CHARLES BROCKWELL (Louisville Conference): Bishop Grove, sisters- and brothers of the General Conference, the minority simply asks that the original wording proposed by the General Board of Discipleship be retained. The issue is very simple and very clear. We believe that as our doctrine is quite clear on the issue of rebaptism, especially with the study document that we have just adopted, that the *Discipline* should be equally clear, and that the *Discipline* should clearly say there shall not be rebaptism. We do not think this will be administered harshly across the church but administered pastorally by our bishops and our district superintendents. And as one person who teaches our polity to seminarians, I very much need to be able to say to my new pastors in formation: know clearly when you are instructing your people, and when persons come to you asking for rebaptism, that the *Discipline* says that we do not rebaptize. And that's why the minority moves this minority report. Thank you.

BISHOP GROVE: All right. We'll look now at the petition as it comes to us from the majority. Are there any motions to amend? Any perfection? I see no one.

BISHOP GROVE: I see no one. Then we'll go to the minority report, and see if they're any amendments to it. If not, the two issues will be clearly before us as they've been presented by either side. Any amendment? Yes. This is an amendment to the minority report. All right. He yielded. Then what we need is a motion to substitute the minority report for the majority report, and after that motion's is put then the whole issue will be debated. Put that motion. All right, the minority report is before you. Yes over here, come to microphone seven. This is speech for the minority report?

RILEY CASE: No, against.

BISHOP GROVE: Well, all right, you're in order.

RILEY CASE (North Indiana): The minority report proposes something that's never been known in United Methodist history and tradition, mainly that rebaptism, that is baptizing someone a second time, under any circumstances, is not only inappropriate and wrong, but it will not be tolerated, and it is very possibly a chargeable offense. In a day of theological confusion, it's good to see an absolutist stand of some kind. Unfortunately, this is the wrong issue on which to take an absolutist stand. Let us have unity on essentials, but I hope this is not what we as a General Conference affirm as an essential of the faith. It is a non-essential. Let us have liberty.

BISHOP GROVE: All right, now we're ready for a motion in favor of the minority report. Anyone wish to speak in favor of the minority report? All right, are you ready? Yes, down here I see a hand. Microphone four.

JAMES LAWSON (California-Pacific): I want to speak, bishop, I want to speak on behalf of retaining the language that the Board of Discipleship has sent us. It seems to me that there is freedom for us to counsel as pastors diligently with people who have issues of baptism. I've discovered as a pastor across the last thirty/forty years, that by having reaffirmations of baptism by seeing baptism as a sacramental element of the church, as a means of grace, and as encouraging my congregations again and again during the year to reaffirm that baptism both when we're baptizing others, and then through rituals that are available and for which I'm happy. One has been put into the new hymnal. I think that language does leave us where we ought to be so far as our understanding of baptism is concerned. We pastors still have the responsibility of helping people to come to understand this, and therefore applying it in a fashion that indeed represents grace.

BISHOP GROVE: All right, that's two speeches for and one against. Is there another speech against? The minority. Yes, here. Microphone seven.

VICTOR GOLDSCHMIDT (North Indiana): I speak with some fear that I may not be able to control myself through this process. My daughter had a second baptism, and I would have given everything I own for that to have taken place. We are acting here a little bit too legalistically. I would like to ask that pastors present, how many of them have never been involved in a rebaptism? I'd like to ask those that visited the Holy Land, how many of them did not see some evidence of a second baptism? I cannot find anything in the scriptures that guides us to this decision that second baptism is inconsistent with the word. I do agree and I understand our theology is not and the wording now and the petition that was accepted in the *Book of Resolutions* makes that clear. We do not need to make now a dividing line. Please, I plead with you. Thank you.

BISHOP GROVE: All right we've had two speeches on either side. We can have one more on either side, and then the two representatives of the minority and the majority will have an opportunity to speak. Anyone else? Yes, down here. I think what we need now is a speech for the minority. All right, microphone three.

BILL AUVENSHINE (Central Texas):

BISHOP GROVE: Thank you.

BILL AUVENSHINE: I speak for the retention of the language. I'm certainly no theologian, but I think God got it right the first time. I worked on the *Book of Worship* for four years. We have a worship service of reaffirmation in the *Book of Worship*. That should be sufficient to reaffirm our baptism, if we believe, in fact, that God got it right.

BISHOP GROVE: All right, you're entitled to the one more speech against, if there is one. If not we'll go to the representatives. I don't see any hand. Yes. Yes, down here. Microphone five.

EKE HALLOWAY (Sierra Leone): This is on a point of information that I

need from the Chair. In respect of rebaptism, now does this relate to the particular church? Do you have a situation where someone has been baptized in another denomination, and wants to be a Methodist? Those been baptized there, can he not be rebaptized in Methodism?

BISHOP GROVE: You address the question to the Chair. I would love to answer it, but I don't think it's appropriate. We'll ask the representative of the committee to answer the question.

STOVER: It's not only the theological position of the United Methodist Church, but of most churches that there is only one baptism; that God has entered into covenant and grace with us at our baptism, and it does not need to be renewed. It should not be renewed. If someone transfers their membership from one church to another the receiving church recognizes the baptism of the church that performed the baptism originally.

BISHOP GROVE: Thank you for the answer. Now there's the opportunity for another statement against is still here. Yes, back here. Microphone...

MICHAEL B. SLAUGHTER (West Ohio): This is a tremendous study report back to our conference. And it really emphasizes the tension we have in The United Methodist Church, and we live in this tension. My fear with this minority report is that this could become the new fundamentalism in the church. I would encourage us to vote against the minority report.

BISHOP GROVE: All right. Under our rules, we are now under the previous question, three speeches on either side. We'll hear first from the representative of the minority and then from the chair of the committee, and then we'll vote.

BROCKWELL: Thank you, sir. Our *Discipline* will be pastorily administered. And as we know, there are miles to go between a problem and anything like charges being brought. Just last week, one of our probationary members of conference called me long distance with this pastoral question about a potential rebaptism problem. And as we discussed it and she outlined for me what she knew about the situation, it was not clear that there had been baptism in the first instance. And my counsel to her was to do this baptism and to be pastorally sensitive, but the voice of the church in its *Discipline* needs to be as straightforward as is its doctrine. Page 232 of the red *DCA*, column 2, the section in the baptismal study on God's faithfulness to the covenant is the theological foundation. This is the disciplinary doing of that doctrine. Thank you.

BISHOP GROVE: All right. Speaker for the majority.

GREGORY D. STOVER (West Ohio): I think there are two issues that are in tension before us. One is an issue of clarity of understanding. We are clear that we understand that rebaptism is not the normal, nor is not within our theological context. But there is a second issue, and that is the issue of clarity of *application* or *implementation*. What this language seeks to do, which is before you in the majority report, is it seeks to bring those two together in a sensitive and a well thought out way, in a way that helps us to understand that we need to make a firm statement about our theological understanding of baptism, and yet that we need to realize that it is a nonessential though important doctrine and needs to leave room for pastoral conscience. I would reiterate the fact that even though rebaptism was debated all through the 1800's, and even though the position of the Methodist Church throughout the 1800's was always against rebaptism, it was never stated in a way that could be in any way construed as not allowing freedom of conscience and some latitude for pastors. We hope that you will allow that latitude and the freedom to operate pastorally.

BISHOP GROVE: All right. The issue is clear. If you will vote to substitute the minority for the majority report on this issue, you will vote yes. If you want to stay with the majority report as it's stated, you will vote no. Vote when the light appears. [Results: yes, 348; no, 599; abstained, 7] The substitute is defeated, and the petition is before us as it's stated, 419. If you are ready, vote when the light appears. [833 approved] It is supported. Mr. Ervin.

PAUL R. ERVIN JR. (North Georgia): It has been recommended that when Dr. Felton's remarks are printed in the *DCA* that you might want to preserve copies of that for use in your local conferences. I want to thank all of the people, this morning, who have helped us in this process. We're finishing on the button for the day. Thank you, bishop.

BISHOP GROVE: Thank you very much, and thanks again to the study committee. *(applause)* We go now back to the Committee on Conferences. George Hunter is the chairperson to present calendar items.

GEORGE HUNTER (Florida): Like most of you, the Committee on Conferences put in a full month last week, and I was pleased to work with our vice chair, Judith Siaba of the Northern Illinois Conference and our secretary Beth Cook from the North Georgia Conference. Today we bring eleven legislative petitions to your attention. You will find them in the *DCA* for Saturday on pages 167 and 168. They're marked as items 406 through 416. We will commend action on ten of them and will move to defer consideration on one of them.

*Calendar Item 406*
*Petitions Involving Funding Requests*

The first is item 406. The original petition will be found in your red book on page 181. It is petition number 21558. This is its essence: the petition proposes that all petitions to General Conference involving proposals that would require funding, either for new programs or expansions of existing programs, must be accompanied by noting its estimated cost as well as noting what the source of that funding would be; and the petition would be invalid and would not be considered

before the General Conference without that cost estimate and the acknowledged source of funding.

Our committee voted nonconcurrence by 66 to 11, with this rationale. We believe the petition had merit; there's certainly a limit to the number of good ideas that any one denomination can fund and thereby implement. Nevertheless, the majority of our group found the petition unnecessarily restrictive and would be tantamount to saying to most of the church that we don't really want people's contribution to this important process. Bishop, it is appropriately before us.

BISHOP GROVE: All right. It is before you, the recommendation of nonconcurrence. Anyone wish to speak to it? All right. If you want to support the committee, you will vote yes to nonconcur. If you wish to oppose the committee, you will vote no. Vote when the light appears. [818 approved] The committee is supported. We nonconcur with Calendar Item 406.

*Calendar Item 407*
*Annual Conference Flexibility in Mission*

HUNTER: Calendar Item 407 is described in the red book, page 175. It comes from petition 20063. The essence of the petition is to allow annual conferences greater flexibility to organize for their understanding of their distinct mission and their region and culture. Our committee voted concurrence as amended. As I recall, 71 for and 4 against, reminiscent of a University of Kentucky half-time basketball score. *(laughter)* Our vote was accompanied with this rationale. The idea of allowing flexibility in the conferences and in the churches has considerable support in a great many petitions coming before this General Conference, and many conferences are already doing what this petition would give permission for. They've been there. They've done that. It was our reasoning that that is the direction in which this parade of conferences is already marching. Therefore, the General Conference needs to run around and get in front of this parade because we're supposed to be the leaders.

*(applause)*

*Constitutional Amendment*

BISHOP GROVE: This is a constitutional amendment. It will take two-thirds. Anyone wish to speak to it? I see no card. All right. It will take two-thirds vote. Vote yes for concurrence, which is the committees recommendation, no for nonconcurrence. Vote when the light appears. [895 approved] It is supported by more than two-thirds, so it is approved.

HUNTER: Bishop, Calendar Item 408, that petition is found in the red book, page 175. On that page you will find petition 20961. That petition proposes that annual conference delegates to General and Juristictional Conferences be elected out of a calculation that combines the total of church members and clergy, not on the basis of clergy alone as we have it at present.

HUNTER: This is the one upon which I need to ask that we defer consideration on this petition until we take up similar petitions later that deal with more or less the same concern. The rationale for this request is that we initially concurred with this petition as we had amended it some. But the more some of our members thought about this, the more some thought that it required further study. And therefore, when we revisit this, we will propose that, and we would like to defer this now.

BISHOP GROVE: All right, so this one is being deferred by the committee. Ok.

HUNTER: The next item is number 409. You'll find it in the white book.

BISHOP GROVE: George, let me interupt just a moment to remind the house, I think they all know this, but just to be sure, the constitutional amendment we just passed on paragraph 15 will also require a vote in all of the annual conferences, and an aggregate two-thirds vote of all the annual conferences. So we have not actually implemented that. We've taken the first step toward amending the constitution. I just wanted to be clear. OK.

*Publication of Petitions in DCA*

HUNTER: Thank you. In the white book, page 1263, you'll find petition 20783. In its essence, this petition proposes that petitions to the General Conference may come from lay persons or clergy persons or from groups of United Methodists. Our Committee on Conferences voted concurrence to this, by a vote of 45 to 32. I can reflect the discussion on both sides, I think, very briefly. Some folks had some resistance about petitions coming to the General Conference from unrecognized or unofficial groups of United Methodists. But on the other side, the majority seemed to feel that because any United Methodist is free to petition the General Conference, therefore, any group of United Methodists ought to be free to petition General Conference, and in any case, the spirit of this, of any resistance to it, would be unenforceable because individuals of groups would simply petition General Conference as individuals rather than as groups, and would thereby storm General Conference with even more petitions. And we were not in the mood, at that moment at least, to welcome still more petitions.

BISHOP GROVE: So the committee's recommending concurrence?

HUNTER: Yes.

BISHOP GROVE: All right. It's before you. Clear back in the corner, go to microphone six.

DENNY WHITE (Western North Carolina): I believe Dr. Hunter gave the wrong rationale for this petition. This petition, does it not, has to do with publishing petitions from individuals in the *Advance DCA* that we receive in the mail?

HUNTER: Well, I thought I wrote it down right, but, Bishop, what is the procedure for checking the validity of this?

BISHOP GROVE: The suggestion is that we're dealing with a different petition than you thought we were, is that it? I'm not sure. We're on 409, correct?

HUNTER: Yes. I'm on 1263 in the white book.

BISHOP GROVE: Yes, OK, I'm told by my helper that the comment from the floor was correct. The Calendar Item 409 has to do with printing petitions.

HUNTER: Ah, OK, yes, thank you. Then our vote to concurrence would be commended to you as has been corrected.

BISHOP GROVE: All right, it's before you. Question? I heard this, yes, here. Come to number seven.

VICTOR GOLDSCHMIDT (North Indiana): I wonder whether an estimate was made of how many pages this would be if all the petitions that are going to be published submitted by individuals and groups, we're going to have a massive, massive documentation mailed to us. And I'm concerned by this. The principle is good, but the cost may be overwhelming. Also for those receiving it, trying to read it all.

HUNTER: We did not discuss that at great range, but as I recall, we felt like the publishing of petitions from groups would reduce rather than increase the number of petitions we would receive.

BISHOP GROVE: Down here. I'm sorry. Yes. Go ahead.

GOLDSCHMIDT: Is not the petition to publish those submitted by individuals as well?

HUNTER: Yes, that's correct.

GOLDSCHMIDT: Thank you.

BISHOP GROVE: Yes, down here. Microphone three.

DAVE RICHARDSON (California-Pacific): I think the real issue, from our perspective, came down to having them all in one book, so we wouldn't be going back and forth from book to book, and also, simply recognizing that they were of equal weight. And I think that's why we voted in favor; the ones that did.

BISHOP GROVE: All right, as I have it, that's two speeches for and one against. Anyone want to speak against this? Back here. Come to microphone eight.

JUNE McCULLOUGH (Southern New Jersey): Bishop, is an amendment in order?

BISHOP GROVE: Yes.

McCULLOUGH: I would move that following the word "submitted by" we add: "local churches," and then continue on.

BISHOP GROVE: So you would insert between "submitted by an individual member," local churches, and then it would go on individual members, etc.?

McCULLOUGH: It would read, "petitions properly submitted by local churches, (comma), individual members, (comma), and so forth...

BISHOP GROVE: OK, is that amendment seconded? (second from floor) It is.

McCULLOUGH: May I make a statement?

BISHOP GROVE: Yes.

McCULLOGH: It seems to me that we have a large number of petitions also from local churches, and they ought to be given equal consideration as those from individuals or groups. And it's extremely helpful if they're all in one volume.

BISHOP GROVE: All right, that's an amendment to the petition. Does anyone want to speak against it?

HUNTER: I think we'd regard that as a friendly amendment.

BISHOP GROVE: Unless the house objects, it will be included. I see no objection. All right, the petition has been amended. Center aisle, on the right. Yes, back here, come to microphone thirteen.

JAMES PERRY (Troy): James Perry, Troy Conference. I believe that June McCullough's amendment is redundant. Local church groups are already included.

HUNTER: I think that's essentially correct. With her addition, it then permits individuals or groups of people within a church, or the whole church, to submit a petition.

BISHOP GROVE: Well, I think that Jim Perry is suggesting that local churches can submit them for inclusion in the *Advance DCA* under the present rules. We didn't need to amend it, but we have amended it, and unless we move to reconsider it, it stays in. All right. We're not reconsidering unless someone asks to do that. We're on the petition itself. Are you ready? Yes, down here. If you go to microphone nine.

JEFF SITTS (Minnesota): The weight of our white books right now is like a pound. What would the cost be of mailing the white book added to the red *DCA*, and mailing all that to every delegate? We'd add a lot of cost?

BISHOP GROVE: What's your question again?

SITTS: What would be the cost of mailing the white book as inserted into the red *DCA* under the amendment so far?

BISHOP GROVE: What would be the cost if the white book as we now get here was part of the red book? That's a question I can't answer. Anyone want to answer that? We don't have that information. All right. That was a question. Question back here? Yes, go to microphone eight.

JUNE McCULLOUGH (Southern New Jersey): Bishop, I want to be sure I heard your statement correctly. You said that local church petitions are already in the *Advance DCA*? I do not believe that is true.

BISHOP GROVE: I said that that was what Jim Perry said. *(laughter)* I don't know.

McCULLOUGH: Sir, I do not think that's correct.

BISHOP GROVE: All right. It's irrelevant because your amendment prevailed, and nobody moved to reconsider it, so it will be in there the next time. Anyone else? Hand back here. I saw a green card right off this aisle. Yes. Go to microphone nine.

JOE HARRIS (Oklahoma): I move all that is before us.

BISHOP GROVE: All right, is there a second? (second from floor) There is. We've had two speeches, so that's in order. No debate on the call for the previous question. The previous question is on the petition, which is all that is before us. Vote when the light appears. It takes two-thirds. [825 approved]

We're on the previous question and we'll vote. If you support the committee's recommendation on the petition, vote yes. If you do not support the committee, vote no. Vote when the light appears. [843 approved] It is supported.

HUNTER: Bishop, the next petition is Calendar Item 410 found in the red book, page 176.

BISHOP GROVE: Yes, what is your point of order? Come to microphone two.

JINNY GORDON (Central Illinois): Is there a way we can keep that line on the screen giving us the page numbers and things? As we flip back and forth, it would really be helpful if it doesn't keep disappearing. If it's helpful, if you can, we'd like that to happen, I think.

BISHOP GROVE: Well, I'm sure the people heard that, and will do it, if possible. It's technically not a point of order, but it's all right.

HUNTER: In the red book, on page 176. (*point of order from floor*)

BISHOP GROVE: Yes, what's your point of order? Come to microphone, well, I don't see you. Come to microphone nine. Yes.

*Difficulty in Bishops Seeing Speakers*

GRAYSON ATHA (West Ohio): My point of order is not being seen. And the number of people in our delegation and in the back parts are having cards up, and I know it's very difficult for you to see. Perhaps there's some way that could be developed for later sessions, so that you, the person in the chair, can be aware of people trying to get the floor in the back. Thank you.

BISHOP GROVE: Thank you. It is very difficult to see against these lights, and against the back bleachers. Let me ask, while I'm in the chair, if people in the back will stand when you raise your card? I'll do my best.

HUNTER: In Volume One of the advanced copy of the *DCA* on page 176, you'll find petition number 21127, which is Calendar Item 410 in Saturday's *DCA*.

*Constitutional Amendment on Annual Conference College Student Representation*

GEORGE HUNTER: The essence of this proposal would add the chair of the Annual Conference college student organization to the paragraph of the constitution which defines the ex-officio members of the annual conference. Our committee voted concurrence with this 75 to nothing, but it is before us rather than on the consent calendar because this, too, would amend the constitution.

BISHOP GROVE: All right, it's before you. Does anyone in the back want to speak to this? *(laughter)* Or anyone in the front? Or anywhere? Yes, down here. Number eight.

SUSAN RUACH: (South Indiana) I have a question. Is this the same as the young adult council?

BISHOP GROVE: No.

RUACH: Thank you.

BISHOP GROVE: All right, anyone else?

HUNTER: It would be in addition to that person.

BISHOP GROVE: I think you're ready. Vote when the light appears. Yes, two-thirds, this is a constitutional amendment. *(pause)* It is supported subject to ratification in the annual conference. [804 approved]

*Petitions on Bishops Statements that are Inconsistent with Social Principles*

HUNTER: Our next two petitions are petitions upon which our committee voted non-concurrence and it is our judgment that they involve such similar perspectives that we can take them up together. Items 411 and 412, both of which are described in the white book on page 1264. The essence of them is as follows: Item 411 would prohibit bishops, agencies and church officials from publicly supporting positions inconsistent with the Social Principles of the church; item 412 would prohibit similar suppport on matters that contradict official statements of the church. The committee voted nonconcurrence on both by a vote of 68 to 12. There are a great many reasons that were given pro and con and so we commend any necessary discussion of this to the General Conference.

BISHOP GROVE: All right, you're presenting them together?

HUNTER: Yes.

BISHOP GROVE: I think we better take them separately. Calendar Item 411 is before you with a recommendation of nonconcurence. Anyone want to speak to it? All right, vote when the light appears. The committee is supported, and we nonconcur. Calendar Item 412. Vote when the light appears. [698 approved] The committee is supported and we nonconcur.

*Petition Against Printing Unconstitutional Material*

HUNTER: Item 413 is found back in your red book, page 181. Petition number 20202. In its essence, it simply proposes that a new addition of the *Discipline* shall not reprint any clauses from previous editions of the *Discipline* that in the interim have been declared unconstitutional by the judicial council. We voted nonconcurrence of this 64 to 8.

BISHOP GROVE: Want to say why? (*laughter)* The recommendation asks that we not print material that's been declared unconstitutional. Is that right? And you're recommending nonconcurrence.

HUNTER: Let me quickly ask my colleagues. The *DCA* says we recommended nonconcurrence, but that in fact contrasts with my own aging memory. Can the chair or the secretary of that committee help us recall? Or some other member of the committee? I see a hand went up.

BISHOP GROVE: Down here. Microphone two.

MENNO GOODE: (Eastern Pennsylvania): In 1988 the Judicial Council declared paragraph 702f unconstitutional; it was repeated in the 1992 *Discipline* to the great confusion of the church.

BISHOP GROVE: But that is a speech against the committee, the committee recommends nonconcurrence which would continue the material which has been declared unconstitutional, if I understand it right. I may be not understanding it...back here. It has to be only one person, you can't all come to the mike. Microphone 13.

PAUL EXTRUM-FERNANDEZ (California-Nevada): As I recall, George, I serve on the legislative committee and there was another petition that was addressing this and that's why we're voting for nonconcurrence on this particular petition.

HUNTER: That's helpful, thank you.

BISHOP GROVE: I think it would be helpful, not only for now, but for the future, if we know that when we receive it because otherwise it simply confuses the house; it might be better to bring us the position that we concur with, then simply indicate that the other petitions are duplicates. I wonder if it would be the will of the body to refer this one back to the committee until we can get clarity on it. Doesn't seem to me to be wise to continue material in the *Discipline* that's been declared unconstitutional. Can we do that by common consent?

ALL: Yes.

BISHOP GROVE: All right, thank you. George before you go to the next one, I have an appeal from somebody who says they have been sending this by the pages and it isn't working, that it is too cold. How many of you think it's too cold? *(many conflicting voices)* I'm not going to get my dog in that fight. You want to vote when the light appears?

*(laughter)*

HUNTER: For the record, on 413 did we in fact concur by acclamation? Or did we refer back? OK, we referred back.

BISHOP GROVE: We referred back.

*Nominating Process for the Episcopacy*

HUNTER: Number 414 is found in your red book also, number 178. Petition number 20558. The petition proposed in essence that we delete paragraph 506.1 in the *Discipline*, and amend 506.2 in a way that eliminates nominations in the conferences or jurisdictions for episcopal elections. We voted nonconcurrence with this petition, I think largely because a majority of our committee, 59 to 14, like the nominating process.

BISHOP GROVE: All right, the recommendation is for nonconcurrence with this petition which would eliminate nominations for episcopal election. Anyone want to speak to it? Vote when the light appears. [789 approved] The committee is supported, we do not concur with that calendar item.

HUNTER: Number 415 will be found in the red book on page 177. The essence of the petition calls for a reconfiguration of the office of the president of the Council of Bishops in a way that would involve a four-year-termfor the president of the Council of Bishops. It would call for that Bishop who was elected, that Bishop's jurisdiction, electing another Bishop to do the annual conference episcopal duties, freeing the president of the council to lead the whole church full time. The committee voted nonconcurrence with this petition by 64 to 11, largely out of a reluctance to empower any one individual in our church as much as that seemed to suggest.

BISHOP GROVE: All right, it is before you with a recommendation of nonconcurrence. I don't see any... All right, vote when the light appears. [874 approved] The committe is supported, we do not concur.

*Deaconesses Proposed for Annual Conference Membership*

HUNTER: Bishop, Item 416 is found once again in the white book, page 1259, petition 22736. It proposes adding deaconesses as lay members of the annual conference in which they serve. The committee voted concurrence with this petition 74 to 0. It is before us because it also involves an amendment to the constitution.

BISHOP GROVE: All right it's before you, it would be an amendment to the constitution. Anyone wish to speak to it? Yes, back here, microphone seven.

BISHOP GROVE: I saw a card. Oh, you've gone to six. All right. Microphone six.

CHARLES "DENNY" WHITE (Western North Carolina): I couldn't find seven, sir. I'm Denny White, Western North Carolina. It is with greatest reluctance that I rise to oppose this lest I be thought to be against deaconesses somehow. I'm not. I've been given assurance by Global Ministries personnel in New York that the concerns I am about to address would be addressed when this amendment came to the legislative committee. They may have been. I don't know. But, basically, the problem as I see it is two-fold. First, deaconesses, unlike diaconal ministers, are not elected or consecrated by the annual conferences. They are commissioned by the General Board of Global Ministries and the bishops of the church. So that's one sort of difficulty I have. But there's an even more practical consideration, at least for the conference of which I happen to be secretary. In western North Carolina, we are blessed with the presence in Asheville of the Brooks Howell Home in which reside some 40 retired deaconneses. And in my view, this insertion of simply an undefined word, "deaconnesses," does not help me, at least, to understand to which deaconesses it refers.

Does it refer to those who are appointed to serve within the bounds of the annual conference? Or perhaps,

does it refer to any and all who have ever served within that conference and perhaps are now retired? Or perhaps, does it refer to those who hold church membership in the annual conference? Or perhaps, does it refer to those who reside in the annual conference? I don't know that any other conference would have this problem, but as the conference officer responsible for administering the membership equalization provisions of the Constitution, this simple, unmodified word gives me in Western North Carolina infinite problems. And for that reason, I rise to oppose it, not because I'm opposed to deaconesses, necessarily, voting in the annual conference, but because I don't know to which deaconesses it refers.

BISHOP GROVE: Thank you. That's one speech against. Anyone want to speak for this? Yes, back here. If you'll come to microphone nine.

LaVON KINCAID (Western Pennsylvania Conference): I served on the legislative committee that dealt with this concern, and we see deaconesses as servants of the church. And I would speak in favor, because as we discussed it with the information provided to us, we felt that there were not a large number within our denomination, and we felt that those who are currently serving deserve the right and opportunity to be a member of the annual conference. Thank you.

BISHOP GROVE: All right. Is there another speech against, or are you ready? Yes. Speech against. Right here, number nine.

ARMIN BESSERER (German South): We have some 500 deaconesses in hospitals, and if we vote that they be members in the conference, they are twice as much as some conferences. So I don't know what to vote.

BISHOP GROVE: That is a speech against. Speech for. Anyone over here? In the back, yes. Come to microphone seven. I guess I saw a page. Microphone eight.

PAUL DIRDAK (California-Nevada): Yes, here. Bishop, would it be proper to refer this back to the committee so that these questions could be answered by the committee, questions which apparently the committee has not considered?

BISHOP GROVE: That's in order. A motion to refer?

DIRDAK: This is a motion to refer.

BISHOP GROVE: Is there a second? *(second)* If you will refer, vote when the light appears. [780 approved]

BISHOP GROVE: It is referred.

GEORGE HUNTER: Bishop, that concludes the petitions from the Committee on Conferences.

BISHOP GROVE: Thank you George. I'm sure you'll be back. You're not through. You don't mean you're through; you're through for now. OK. Church and Society, Don Pike.

DON PIKE (Central Texas): Don Pike, Central Texas...

BISHOP GROVE: Yes, just a second. A hand down here. Come to the microphone, please. Come down to four.

### *Distribution of Unofficial Materials to Delegates' Desks*

CHARLES LIPPSE (Holston Conference): Bishop Grove, I would like a point of information in regard to Rules and Organizational Rules of the General Conference, page 99, Number 13. I ask for that information at this time while we're still dealing with conferences. This is in regard to distribution of unofficial material. Materials have been distributed to our desk during this session today which I think would be unofficial. I would like for the chair to examine that rule and have some clarity. I could describe this material if you wish. It not only seems to be unofficial, but it carries the United Methodist insignia which is another concern that came before the previous General Conference.

BISHOP GROVE: Rule 12 says that after the first day only the *Daily Christian Advocate* shall be placed on the desks of delegates. So there shouldn't be anything else coming to your desks.

LIPPSE: Sir, may I make a brief comment?

BISHOP GROVE: Sure.

LIPPSE: This paper entitled "Let's Go Forward, Not Backward, Please" carries the United Methodist insignia, and at the bottom it is published by the National Association of Korean-American Clergy Women and other concerned laity at the 1996 General Conference. It would seem that material is out of order, and I would like for the chair to instruct other groups not to distribute such material. It even says that there is a punitive measure to be taken in regard to this.

BISHOP GROVE: I think that your point is well taken, and I am instructing everyone to observe Rule 12 on page 99 of the Plan of Organizations and Rules. After the first day, only the *Daily Christian Advocate* shall be placed on the desks of the delegates, and additional copies for the clergy and first lay reserve delegates.

### *Calendar Item 417 Distribution of Condoms*

PIKE: Don Pike, Central Texas Conference. We are going to begin with the white edition. If you'd please turn to page 1247. White edition, page 1247. Right hand column, second petition from the top. Petition Number 22655, entitled "Regarding Public Funding for Condom Distribution," which is really not an appropriate title for the petition. You will find it Calendar Item 417 on page 168. In turn, this is a resolution. If you want to refer to the ultimate result of the petition, you will want to open your *Book of Resolutions* to pages 375, 376. It is the section of the *Book of Resolutions* entitled "The Status of Women." It will be addressing paragraph eight under roman numeral three. In effect, the committee has amended this petition by substitution. And you will find the text of that substitution beginning at the bottom of page 168 with the word "to support programs" and ending at the top of page 169, "freely available elsewhere." In effect, as the committee examined the existing paragraph

in the *Book of Resolutions*, they felt like that it needed updating. They simply rewrote this particular paragraph, and it was approved by committee action 63 to 24 for concurrence as amended by substitution.

BISHOP GROVE: And it is before us, with a recommendation for concurrence. Anyone want to speak to it? Down here, yes. Come to microphone two. Saw a gentleman with a green card I recognized up front.

BETH CAPEN; (New York Conference): I would urge us to not vote with the committee on this in that the current language in our *Discipline*, I believe, is better and stronger.

BISHOP GROVE: It's a speech against. Anyone want to speak for this? Yes, back here. In the back of the room. The lady. Yes, ma'am. Microphone nine.

ELIZABETH WRIGHT (Virginia Conference): I would like to rise to concurrence with this petition speaking particularly to the matter of abstinence as a method of birth control. This does not mean we are against other means of birth control. In my opinion, we need to speak clearly, especially to our young people, that this is an appropriate stance. Other churches have programs for their young people. I speak particularly of "Love Can Wait." Our young people in our Virginia Conference have endorsed that program as being an appropriate stance for them. I would, therefore, commend this to the entire church. I ask that you will concur with this position. Thank you.

BISHOP GROVE: All right. Is there a speech against? I think you're ready. The committee is recommending concurrence. Vote when the light appears.

*(voting)*

[Results: yes, 737]

BISHOP GROVE: The committee is supported, we have concurred with petition 417.

DON PIKE: Our next item is in the red book, page 128. Petition number 20944, you will find it in the right hand column, the fourth item down. It's entitled "Meetings." The petition requests the deletion of paragraph 1110. This is another one of those items that we dealt with yesterday.

BISHOP GROVE: Let's ask you to go a little slower and let us find it. Give us the number, the page number, and the petition number again, please.

PIKE: All right, page 128. Petition 20944, right hand column, fourth item down, entitled "Meetings," calls for the deletion of paragraph 1110 from the *Discipline*. This another one of those items like we had yesterday, where we're taking things out of the *Discipline* and putting them in the by-laws of the General Board of Church and Society.

BISHOP GROVE: Now this is petition number 418 on page 169, correct?

PIKE: No, *DCA*, petition number 20944, right hand column, fourth item down, entitled "Meetings," delete of paragraph 1110. It's Calendar Item 418.

BISHOP GROVE: That's what I was asking.

PIKE: I'm sorry. Committee approved this concurrence 80 to 10.

BISHOP GROVE: All right, it's before you, the recommendation of concurrence. It's Calendar Item 418. Anyone wish to speak to it? Vote when the light appears. [Results: yes, 887] You have concurred. In support of the committee, we concur with Calendar Item 418.

PIKE: Those are the only two items we have, bishop.

BISHOP GROVE: We have about 10 minutes. Do we have anything from...Okay, Finance and Administration is ready. Cashar Evans.

CASHAR W. EVANS JR. (North Carolina): I'd like to ask Grady Knowles from Cal-Nevada Conference to present Calendar Item 421.

*Calendar Item 421*
*HealthFlex and Domestic Partners*

GRADY KNOWLES (California-Nevada): Thank you Bishop, delegates, guests. For this one item you'll need your blue *DCA* and you'll need volume two, or the white volume of the *Advance DCA*. In the blue *DCA*, please turn to page 169. On page 169, in the center column, at the bottom, is Calendar Item 421. This item deals with the HealthFlex program, which is currently offered to conferences and others by the General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits.

Now with your blue *DCA* opened to that page, please take your white volume two of the *Advance DCA*, and turn to page 1322. On page 1322, in the right hand column, the petition number is 22760. It's entitled, "Expand Options of the HealthFlex Insurance Program." This petition would direct the General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits to offer what is known as "domestic partner coverage" as a part of the HealthFlex program, which is available to conferences now. It further directs annual conferences to notify the present and other eligible employees and other participants in the HealthFlex plan, that this option is being offered.

From the legislative committee on financial administration, this recommendation comes to you. This petition comes to you, with a recommendation for concurrence. The vote of the legislative committee was 87 in favor of concurrence, seven against, four abstentions. Bishop it's before you.

BISHOP GROVE: All right, the recommendation is concurrence. Back here, see a card. Back left, going to microphone 15.

SUE SHERBROOKE (Pacific Northwest): I rise to amend by substitution.

BISHOP GROVE: All right.

SHERBROOKE: The substitution would read, "The General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits is strongly encouraged to offer annual conferences and other participant plann sponsors the option to provide health benefit coverage under the hospitalization and medical expense program to members of participants' non-traditional family. If I have a second I'll speak to it.

BISHOP GROVE: Before you have a second, where are you placing the amendment in the text?

SHERBROOKE: It's by substitution. I would replace it in its entirety.

BISHOP GROVE: All right, so it's an amendment by substitution for all of Calendar Item 420?

SHERBROOKE: Yes.

BISHOP GROVE: Is it seconded? All right you may speak. It's 421, right.

SHERBROOKE: Yes, 421. I believe that our committee opposed this, in part, because it was so directive, and because it focused on domestic partners. Our Social Principles, however, state that we believe the family to be the basic human community through which persons are nurtured; and that we understand the family to encompass options in addition to the nuclear family, including the extended family, adults with adopted children, single parents, etc.

Since health insurance is an important element in maintaining the well-being and stability of families, we believe it is both consistent and necessary for us to make this option available.

You'll note that this substitute is permissive legislation, which allows annual conferences and other planned sponsors the option to make this coverage available. It is not a mandate. It does not require an annual conference or local church to do anything. It simply would make the option available. We believe that's in keeping with the value of local flexibility, expressed so often during this General Conference.

BISHOP GROVE: All right, thank you. Now do you need to have the amendment re-read or do you have a sense that, I'm asking the house, or do you have a sense of what this is? Are you able to proceed, or do you want her to re-read it? I think we should ask you to re-read it. I think it will save us time in the long run.

SHERBROOKE: All right. The General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits is strongly encouraged to offer annual conferences and other participant plan sponsors the option to provide health benefit coverage under the hospital and medical expense program to members of participants' non-traditional family.

BISHOP GROVE: Thank you. Anyone want to speak against that substitution? Yes, back here? Yes, I'm recognizing you. Yes, microphone 12.

DELOS D. CORDERMAN (South Carolina): What Sue is addressing is an eligibility issue; and eligibility should be determined by the planned sponsor. I believe that an annual conference, as a planned sponsor, could entertain what Sue wants to do, but I don't think you put a horse in a doghouse. I think this ought to be left up to annual conferences who are plann sponsors. And for that reason, I speak against Sue's amendment.

BISHOP GROVE: All right, anyone want to speak for it? I just hear, but I don't see where it is. Yes down front, all right, number four.

MERLIN J. ACKERSON (Iowa): I'd like to speak in favor of the substitute. I think the information that came just a moment ago was it's up to the annual conference. And that's true. I think what this legislation, that I hear being proposed, is that it asks the Board of Pensions [and] Health Benefits to provide that option for annual conferences. Now is that...that not possible?

BISHOP GROVE: I believe you are correct, that is the intention of the substitute.

ACKERSON: OK, so that's what we're asking them to do. So it's not up to just annual conferences, it's up to the Board of Pensions and Health Benefits.

BISHOP GROVE: All right. Two speeches for the substitute; anyone want to speak against it? Back here, yes, center. Yes ma'am, come to A.

JUNE D. MCCULLOUGH (Southern New Jersey): Bishop, it would be helpful if someone could inform us if the options for the example she gave are not now available, because they sounded to me like they might be.

KNOWLES: I can respond to that. The option for domestic partner coverage, or in the case of the substitute, for benefit coverage for a participant's non-traditional family, are not presently an election of annual conferences within the health plan, the HealthFlex plan document. They could be added as an annual conference option if the General Conference directed them to; if the General Board of Pensions was able to incorporate that kind of language among the states where HealthFlex is offered; and if the body adopted that change later. This is permissive legislation on the substitution as I understand it.

BISHOP GROVE: Yes, the substitute's before you. Anyone want to speak against it? We've had two speeches for it. Yes, microphone nine.

J. LaVON KINCAID SR. (Western Pennsylvania): Bishop, I move the previous question.

BISHOP GROVE: It's not in order until we've had two speeches on either side. Anyone else? Back here, yes. Microphone 14. That's all right, come to nine. That's all right.

BISHOP GROVE: All right.

*Domestic Partners and Social Principles*

BILL HINES (West Ohio): I have the Social Principles before me, and I have the preface. They're intended to be instructive, persuasive, and the best of prophetic spirit, and to be a prayerful, studied dialogue of faith. Therefore, they cannot be used, in my estimation, to support this kind of an action. So my suggestion is we go back and take the previous question and deal with it.

BISHOP GROVE: All right, that's two speeches against. You can't make a speech and move the previous question. Two speeches against; anyone want to speak for it? Back here, yes. I see you. Number eight. I recognized the gentleman waving the card on this side. That's who I recognized. *(laughter)* Yes, sir. Number eight.

THOMAS BOLLER (Yellowstone): I speak in favor of the substitution. The original petition came from a local church, and as it came before the Financial Administration

legislative committee, it came and went almost without attention. As some of us reviewed that afterwards, we realized that this just might be one of those places where the small voice of God might be trying to speak to us. I believe that, while the Social Principles do not dictate direction that we should take, they certainly are an informative statement on how we should prayerfully consider all of our actions. The insurance industry allows for this type of coverage; and indeed, in private industry, many employers are providing that kind of coverage. It is time for us to be combining the actions of our faith with the words we proclaim. Therefore, I speak in favor of the substitution to make coverage available to those who have, are taking care of dependent parents, those who may have siblings who are their dependents in a variety of ways, those who have domestic partners that are in covenant with them even though society in many other ways may not recognize that covenant. Thank you.

BISHOP GROVE: We're at the time where we're going to have to stop, so we're either going to have to vote on the substitute or hold it over. Are you ready to vote on this? *(yes from floor)* What's the point of inquiry? Number five.

MEL BOWDAN (Kentucky): Bishop, I realize that time is of the essence right now.

BISHOP GROVE: Yes, Mel Bowdan, Kentucky.

BOWDAN: Bishop, all of this sounds very good, but I think we need to hear either from the committee whether they have looked at what the impact of this substitute motion might be or to the Board of Pensions. If they don't have that information, then perhaps this should be referred for that.

BISHOP GROVE: Yes, I'm going to ask the chair to have the last statement.

GRADY KNOWLES (California-Nevada): Yes, the committee has looked at the impact of this. The Health-Flex program is presently offered to annual conferences and other plan sponsors in all fifty states. States have different regulations and, in some cases, mandates that vary regarding health insurance, and so there might be some legal issues that would need to be pursued if the substitute became the main petition and were adopted. There's also the matter of taxability of benefits for those who are what are known as sponsored dependents instead of being what are known as legal dependents. However, even though there are some legal issues and some possibility of taxability of benefit issues, the wording of the substitution would allow the General Board of Pensions, as the administrator of the plan, to carry out the wishes of this body, regardless of which way the body voted, after it adopted the substitution as the main motion.

BISHOP GROVE: All right, we're on the substitute now. If you will substitute, vote yes. If you're in favor of the petition as stated and against the substitute, vote no. Vote when the light appears. [Results: yes, 408 ; no, 516 ; abstained,44] It is not substituted. Now we're ready on Calendar Item 421. The committee recommends concurrence, excuse, me nonconcurrence. If you support the committee on nonconcurrence on Calendar Item 421, vote yes when the light appears. [Results: yes, 673; no, 265; abstained, 14] You have supported the committee and nonconcurred with 421.

KNOWLES: Thank you, Bishop.

BISHOP GROVE: Now, before we recess, I have a point of personal privilege. J. Philip Wogamann, then announcements from the secretary. Phil, if you'll come to microphone six. Or seven. Wherever.

### *Wogaman Speaks About Elizabeth Dole*

J. PHILIP WOGAMAN: Bishop, thank you for this privilege. This has to do with the letter to Elizabeth Dole which we discussed earlier. I have had the privilege of serving as pastor on behalf of Christ and the church to both President and Mrs. Clinton, and to Senator and Mrs. Dole, the presumptive standard bearers of both parties in the forthcoming presidential election. I support both the invitation to the First Lady to speak and the letter to Mrs. Dole. Mrs. Dole is now a member of a Presbyterian church, a denomination with which we have cordial relationships, and she has left us with our prayers and best wishes. So the letter addressed to her may need some editorial revision without diminishing its cordiality and warmth. Bishop, in light of the fact that both candidates and their spouses have been identified with one of our churches, I ask that the conference pause for a moment of prayer for all four of these persons to be led by Bishop Yeakel, in whose area that church is located. Thank you.

BISHOP GROVE: I'm sure you give permission for this privilege. Bishop Yeakel, would you offer prayer?

BISHOP YEAKEL: *(prayer)*

BISHOP GROVE: Thank you. Now the secretary has some announcements.

CAROLYN MARSHALL: The leadership team of Ordained and Diaconal Ministry will please meet immediately after the morning session in A106.

Because there have been referrals, all legislative committees except that for Independent Commissions and the Commission on Central Conference Affairs will need to meet this afternoon at 3:35. Higher Education will meet on the floor near the press table area to the right of the platform.

The Public Service Officer encourages persons to be very careful crossing the tracks to visit the Advance tent. Please watch out for the train.

Another word of caution, delegates and visitors are advised that the areas behind the stage are restricted areas. Only appropriate technical personnel are to be in these areas.

And the final one comes as an invitation to all African American pastors and bishops of Africa inviting you to a lunch at the Marriott Hotel this afternoon at 12:30, Denver Suite Four,

Lower Level Two, to dialogue about the crisis on the continent of Africa.

BISHOP GROVE: All right, we're in recess until two o'clock.

## Monday Afternoon Session April 22, 1996

*Bishop Elias G. Galvan, presiding*

BISHOP ELIAS G. GALVAN: Our Council on Ministries. Bishop Dew. *(laughter)* Will the delegates be in order, please.

BISHOP WILLIAM W. DEW JR.: Good afternoon. The General Council on Ministries comes to you this afternoon to provide two information reports. The first of these information reports is on a shared mission focus on young people, *Walking Together in the Way that Leads to Life*. This calendar item has not yet been printed in the *DCA*, although I have been informed that it passed in the General and Judicial Administration legislative committee by a vote of 82, 0, 2. It can be found in the red book on page 599. Petition number 21678.

The shared mission focus on young people will provide our church with an opportunity to bring together ideas and resources, to address the critical issues facing our youth both inside and outside of the church. You will be hearing of our proposed response to provide assistance and support for our youth. So I invite you to welcome this presentation, which has involved a quadrennium of study by GCOM under the direction and with the leadership of Dr. Peter Weaver who will lead us now in this presentation. Peter.

*(applause)*

*Shared Mission Focus on Young People*

DR. PETER D. WEAVER (General Council on Ministries, Shared Mission Focus on Young People): Thank you Bishop Dew. Good afternoon. Good afternoon! Anyone out there? *(laughter)* The shared mission focus on young people *Walking Together in the Way that Leads to Life*.

His name was Dorian Reed, a 16 year old scholar-athlete from our local high school. By all accounts he was a wonderful young man. He had made the decision to stay out of the warring gangs in our neighborhood, but on the evening of January 31st, 1995, Dorian was gunned down five yards from the back of the First United Methodist Church of Pittsburgh where I am privileged to serve in the struggles of a congregation that deeply feels the hurts of its neighborhood and its neighbors and wants to make a difference for Jesus Christ in the world of that neighborhood and the lives of young people, that is young people who are children and youth and young adults who are all about us. *(visual)*

This picture, taken at Dorian's funeral, invites us to begin to open the doors of the church, its resources, the unconditional love and hope offered in Jesus Christ. How can we really make the world our parish? How can we share with all young people both the celebration of their gifts as well as being with them and for them as they face violence and hopelessness, economic issues, and moral and spiritual dilemmas? Have you been asking these kinds of questions in your congregation and community?

The General Council on Ministries is charged with the duty of recommending to General Conference one issue that, because it is so critical, should become a top priority for all boards and agencies, all conferences and local churches; in short, for all the people called United Methodists. Through GCOM a process of listening took place over the last quadrennium, listening to people in many settings, urban, rural, town, globally. And the one issue that rose above all others as being an urgent need requiring immediate attention is this: the need to open the doors of ministry to and with young people in our communities in new and creative life-changing and world-changing ways.

In drawing our attention to the young, Bishop Craig said to us in the Episcopal Address, "All else we do will be wasted if we do not engage in shaping the future so that it offers life abundant instead of squeezing life out of the next generation."

This statistical chart tells us that the nations in which The United Methodist Church exists—Africa, the Philippines, the United States, and Europe—report that from 40 percent up to 70 percent of their populations are persons under the age of 30. And yet The United Methodist Church itself reports only 6 percent of its membership as being between 12 and 30. Clearly, the call to be more present with young people is upon us.

Therefore, for the sake of all the Dorian Reeds of the world; for the 50 percent of the world's population who are young people, most of whom are outside of the Church; and most of all for the sake of Jesus Christ who loved the world, we are offering to this 1996 General Conference this shared mission focus on young people. It is a new way that the whole church can offer its resources to local churches. Here we can walk together in the way that leads to life.

To present to you the details of this shared mission focus, I'd like to present to you Jeannie Trevino-Teddlie, who gave excellent leadership to the Committee on Missional Priorities that led our missional emphasis division to this shared mission focus. Jeannie.

JEANNIE TREVINO-TEDDLIE (Central Texas): This proposal calls The United Methodist Church to reorder its priorities and focus on the needs of young people. It is to enable young people to be participants in the life and work of the church.

The shared mission focus is *shared* because it comes and it belongs to every part of the church. It is shared because it will take United Methodists working together in task forces, local churches, districts, annual conferences, jurisdictions, central conferences, and the general agencies for the response to cause a real differ-

ence. No one part of the church can do it alone. It is *shared* because this work is done with God. It is *mission* because in the spirit of the Great Commission in Matthew 28, verse 19 it is people to people.

We are being sent in response to a critical need in God's world. It is mission because it is action. It is a primary focus, not a program. This shared mission focus is a way of seeing and focusing on young people in our world. It calls us to turn our heads, open our eyes, feel with the heart, and look deeply into the eyes of young people all around us.

It is this focused theme that then inspires United Methodists to channel its creativity, its energy, and resources that can flow from every part of the Body of Christ. Every area of the church, especially the local church, is being called by God to participate in making a difference—making a difference in the lives of young people around the world through their understanding and response to the gospel.

The shared mission focus initiative has several important components designed to strengthen the local church with support from the annual conference and general agencies in this important ministry. The overall seed money for the next four years for this critical venture is $270,000, or $67,500 per year. The first component is that local churches would be equipped to undertake discovery and theological grounding. It would help United Methodists listen to the voices of young people both inside and outside their congregations and to discover the joys and challenges which young people experience.

Discerning God's call will come through this process of discovering, which will lead us into moving beyond the four walls of the church out into the neighborhood and larger community. Resourcing ministry through action plans will be developed by local churches and will be supported by a comprehensive data bank of successful innovative models of ministry that will be catalogued in a central clearing house. Print media and electronic resources will be available to local churches and communities. They will be developed by the supporting church structures.

*Dynamic Issues Forums With Youth*

An exciting and unique resource will be dynamic issue forums. How can we make ministry with young people come alive? What are the critical elements required to help answer these questions? Ten issue-focused forums will function as creative think tanks to discover and document what works. This think-tank effort will press the ordinary boundaries of ministry and will be designed to take the church to the cutting edge of issues. New concepts of mission will be discovered and shared.

The third component is that of interpreting the mission and inviting the entire congregation to be a part. This process of engaging and training the congregation will enable the local church to do the needed reordering of priorities to make this effort successful. Creative resourcing tools will be developed. And in celebration of this missional journey, a mid-quadrennial celebration for lifting up successful ministries with young people will be designed and, if possible, linked with other general and global celebrative mission events that are occurring within the denomination.

*$270,000 Request For Seed Money*

And finally, this initiative will be guided by a shared mission focus team, a group of 19 persons representing the concerns of young people throughout the world. We ask this General Conference to approve $270,000 of seed money for this shared mission focus. In the spirit of collaboration, this figure is only a beginning portion of resources that will be multiplied—multiplied by the addition of human and financial resources from districts, annual conferences, jurisdictions, central conferences, general agencies, and most of all, local congregations where this mission focus will come alive. We, as United Methodist people and churches around the world, are being called to hear God's voice, a call that is moving us to a new place and a new ministry, a new promised land. We have an opportunity to transform the world.

Stories are a powerful way of sharing the truth of the word, the truth of the world. Let me introduce a young person who has moved from struggle to hope, who is walking in that path that leads to life.

Her name is Cecilia Williamson, a young woman who has walked a road of struggle and challenge, and found solace and support through the ministry of the church. Cecilia is originally from Toledo, Ohio, and is now residing in Indianapolis. Welcome Celia.

*Cecilia William's Personal Story*

CECILIA WILLIAMSON (Indianapolis): Young woman? Gee,I like that. I want to talk to you today about where I am now in my life, and where I've been, and where I plan to go. I'm getting my Ph.D. right now at Indiana University in social work. And I'm focusing my research on youth and children and prevention of violence, substance abuse, teen-age pregnancy, and prostitution. What I've found, and a lot researchers have found, that there are common risks and common protective factors. Risk can be such things as family management problems, family conflict, neighborhood, peers that you hang around, having weak social bonds. Some protective factors could be things such as having a mentor, having a close family.

The reason I want to talk to you about that is because I have experienced close family bond and close family mentoring through a United Methodist mission. I was raised on the north side of Toledo by a working class family. And I played at Friendly Center, which is a United Methodist community center. When I grew up, I moved out of my parent's house, and I was 19 years old. At that time I was forced to go on welfare.

I stayed on welfare for three years, and I can tell you that's probably the most depressing time I've ever spent in my whole life. I decided, well you know, I should go to college. So I went to my case worker at the welfare department. I said, "I'd like to go to college."

And she said, "Well if you can go to college, you can get a job."

I said, "Well, if I go to college, I can get a better job, and I won't be back." [*laughter*]

Well, we differed; and so, three county conferences and two state hearings later, my attorney said, "You can't go."

So I decided, OK, eat now or eat better later...I'll eat better later. So I decided to go to college and I got my associate degree in Social Work.

Now let me tell you about expectation; and what expectation can do for you, or how expectation can fight against you. When I was in high school, my senior year I spent in the HERO Club, which is Home Economic Related Occupations. That's defined as, "Cecilia, we've given up on you, and so we better teach you some home-making skills so that at least you'll be able to keep your house and cook." Expectation can be a wonderful thing and it can be a detrimental thing. I decided to go to school anyway.

I got my associate degree in Social Work, and I decided, "Well, I fooled them. I don't know why they gave me this degree. It can't be because I'm smart." So I decided, "Well, okay, I want to get my bachelor's degree. So I'll go over and do a two plus-two program." And I went over to the main campus at the University of Toledo, and I said I would like to take two more years and get my bachelor's degree in Social Work. And they said, "We don't have that. If you want your bachelor's degree, you'll start over."

So I thought, okay, a genius I am not, but determined, I am. So I started over.

I got my four year degree, started work at Friendly Center as a Social Worker. I developed a program—the first program in Ohio that works with young women who want to get out of prostitution. I got that backing from the United Methodist Women—the only people that trusted in my idea and thought it would work. I have women today... [*applause*] Thank you. I have women today that are starting training programs, that are starting college, that have their apartments for the first time in their lives, that are trying to provide a place for their children, now, so it's working. I'm happy about that. That's my pride and joy.

After that, I decided, "You know, maybe I ought to get my master's degree." And so my boss there at Friendly Center, David Morris, he told me one day, "Guess what? I think you're going to get your master's degree."

And I said, "I don't know about that."

He said, "You're going to do it." And that brings me back to expectation again. See, no one rises to low expectation.

So, I applied to Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, which is a private, prestigious university for social work. Now you have to understand that I didn't graduate magnum cum laude. OK, in my undergrad, I graduated Oh-God-Thank-God-I'm-Done-O'Lordy. [*laughter*] OK? So when I applied at Case Western, I had a 2.69999. You had to have a 2.7 to apply. I don't know why the man called me for an interview. Maybe he thought well, this will be fun; we'll see what happens. So I drove down to Cleveland, 45 minutes late and an $85 speeding ticket. And I walked into the room and he was reading his paper. And he looked up and I said, "I'm sorry, sir, I'm Cecilia Williams. I realize I am 45 minutes late."

He said, "Yes you are." And he went on reading his newspaper.

So I thought, "OK, Lord, be with me today because I'm about to do something crazy." So I walked in and I said, "Excuse me, sir, but you have to hear what I have to say."

He listened to me and said, "Well, let me ask you this, what makes you think you can make it at this university when you had a 2.6 at the other university?"

I said, "Because, sir, I'm not a genius, but determination I have. And I will be famous. And I'm going to do national things, and I'm going to do great things, and I'd just like to have Case Western's name attached to it." [*laughter*]

So he told me, "I will personally walk your file over here and admit you to this university. But," he said, "you better walk across that stage."

I said, "We have deal, sir."

He said, "If I don't see you walk across that stage, I'm going to drag you across that stage."

I said, "OK."

I graduated in 1993. All A's and only two B's. [*applause*] So, I went back to work at Friendly Center. People told me, "Why, with a master's degree from this university, are you working at a small community center?" I said, "Because, you don't understand my mission. You don't understand my determination. You don't understand my focus. See, United Methodists have been taking care of me for a very long time. And now I have to take care of them." [*applause*]

I decided, well, let me just find out what else I can do. So I competed for a national fellowship and I was chosen to go to Indiana University and get my Ph.D. And that's where I am studying today. [*applause*] So, I just want to bring a message of thanks. Every time I'm invited to do anything for the United Methodist Women, I jump to do it. I always say I am partial to United Methodist Women, but I love United Methodist Men as well. [*laughter*]

I want to thank you for allowing me to come here and share my story. And I want to let you know that wherever I'll be or whatever I'll be doing, it will be for The United Methodist Church. It will be God's work. And I'm sure that United Methodist people will continue to take care of me, whether they know me or not. They always have friendly faces. The first group of people I've run into during my life that

were color-blind. [*applause*] And that's, you know, that's God's work in action.

So, I will leave you with the message that no one rises to low expectations. Strong nurturance and high expectations is the key. I thank you. [*applause*]

*(standing applause)*

PETER WEAVER (Western Pennsylvania): As Celia said, God's work in action. Wouldn't it be wonderful if that were multiplied throughout the United Methodist churches around the world with a shared mission focus on young people, so that we could walk together in the way that leads to life? Stephanie Gray is from Los Angeles. She's been on GCOM and has helped us to get the enthusiasm as well as this ministry shaped. Stephanie.

*Shared Mission in Los Angeles*

STEPHANIE GRAY (Los Angeles): Greetings, bishops and friends. I think that the time has come when we, as United Methodists, seriously evaluate how we consider youth and young adults in our conferences and our congregations and our communities. As a young adult who has served on the GCOM this past quadrennium, I am in strong support of the shared mission focus on young people. I believe that the resourcing and networking that will happen as a result of this shared mission focus will enable local churches to reach out to their communities and to the young people within those communities.

As I've learned by my experiences on the GCOM and in the real world, one cannot change an institution from the outside. In order for The United Methodist Church to reach out to young people, doesn't it seem most wise to reach within the institutions of gangs, drug circles, and poverty and to provide the leadership and guidance for young people within those institutions to take the leadership roles of changing their own communities? And also within the institution of our church there is a need for change.

The shared mission focus would enable congregations, conferences, general boards and agencies, and General Conference to consider youth and young adults in a different, new way, one in which young people are not patronized or stuck in token youth/young adult slots to fill disciplinary mandates. *(applause)* A way in which our own individual senses of spirituality, social justice, conviction, and our leadership abilities will be respected and fostered by our church family. For the sake of our church in the present, for the sake of our young brothers and sisters who long to be heard and understood and loved, I urge you to take the shared mission focus in a prayerfully enthusiastic way. Thank you.

*(applause)*

PETER WEAVER: So the question now before us is whether we are willing to be bold disciples and through Jesus Christ to move and walk together with young people in the transformation of the world. Shall we move from apathy to loving concern and unconditional acceptance to be authentically and enthusiastically with and for young people? It is only that kind of movement that will make possible a shared response to the joys and pains of young people around the world through the good news of God's unconditional love in Christ. The names—Dorian Reed, Celia, Stephanie—the names are many yearning to walk in the way that leads to life. We urge you not just to adopt but to implement this shared mission focus on young people.

*(applause)*

*Strengthening the Black Church*

BISHOP DEW: The second item on which we wish to present an information report is "Strengthening the Black Church for the 21st Century." It is Calendar Item 762, found on page 235 of the *Daily Christian Advocate*. In the red book, page 579, petition number 21677. Since the item that was printed in the *Daily Christian Advocate* was printed this morning, and our rules call us to wait 24 hours for action, we urge you to hear this report and be prepared to vote later. We are very happy to present this report as we believe its approval is going to have a tremendous impact on all of our congregations as they benefit from congregational resource centers. And so I invite Bishop Woodie White, who has chaired the task force that has prepared this proposal, I invite him to come and present the report.

BISHOP WOODIE W. WHITE: I remember quite well, as a student in college, watching with considerable interest speakers when they came to visit that tiny college. I watched their mannerisms, listened carefully to their words, studied their motions, and one of my observations was this: I noticed that most of our speakers had a habit of putting their glasses on and taking them off. And I thought they did it for dramatic effect. Now I know why they did it!

*(laughter)*

*Strengthening the Black Church for the 21st Century:* a challenge, a goal, a mission. Through the past three years, we have studied, related to and with, consulted with lay persons and clergy all across the United States. We found exciting, growing, and vital black congregations in a variety of settings, some suburban, some rural, some major metropolitan areas. However, we also found many congregations that were struggling to keep their heads above water, looking for focus and direction and very much wanting to be in mission and wanting to know how they could do that.

Out of our time together, we thought, why not pair, why not match those exciting, vital, growing congregations with those congregations seeking to reach out? Thus, the proposal "Strengthening the black Church" is one such proposal. It is to

bring together those congregations that they might share and they might learn from each other; a focus that is principally laity led as lay persons from vital congregations, growing congregations, missionally-focused congregations can share with those who are intending to be so; vital congregations where there are vital pastors, where there are vital programs.

As we looked at the statistics over the last several years, we noted with dismay that, despite the fact that the United States census revealed an 11 percent increase in the black population between 1980 and 1990, in the course of those years we have seen a decline in Black United Methodist congregations and membership. But there is opportunity to turn that around.

*Proposal for 25 Congregational Resource Centers*

The proposal is a simple one: Have 25 congregational resource centers all across the country in the course of the quadrennium, bringing together lay persons, youth, clergy from congregations all across our denomination, exposing them to other youth, other lay persons, other pastors in settings much like their own, with the one difference being these are settings where the congregations are growing and are vital and are missionally focused. We calculate in the course of that quadrennium we can reach between four and six hundred congregations through such a process. This will involve congregations of every description, every size.

As we worked on this proposal more, we thought, while this program calls for strengthening Black churches, we also observed that there are congregations located in racially transitional communities, some located in predominantly Black communities, who are needing an opportunity and wanting an opportunity to be involved more effectively in those communities. These resource centers will be open to all churches regardless of their ethnic make-up, in order that they might determine and be equipped to be in mission more effectively.

The proposal is before you. You have read it. It is a proposal that we believe has considerable merit and promise. Vital congregations pairing with, partnering with, praying with other congregations seeking to be vital as well. I'd like to call Rev. Walter Kimbrough, who has been a part of this process, to share with you, for he comes from one of those vital congregations. And he will make a statement at this time.

WALTER L. KIMBROUGH (North Georgia): Thank you Bishop White. Sisters and brothers, I take this opportunity to say thank you for being sensitive and caring to a request that we make of this 1996 General Conference. I've thought about this United Methodist Church long and hard and I'm convinced of three principal things about it.

Number one, of the greatness of who we are lies in our connectionalism. It says to me that we are not alone. We don't stand by ourselves. No one congregation is independent of all of the other congregations. And when that power is released, as we reach beyond ourselves across the vastness of this nation, and yea, even and especially globally, joining hands one with the other, the power of God is released in our midst and we rise to new and greater heights. The power of this proposal simply seeks to say in significant ways that first of all we're connected. We're not alone.

The second thing it says is that we are in a significant position to help each other. Those that have grown, those that are made stronger ought to certainly bear the responsibility of reaching back to help those who are still weak. I'm convinced it's like D. T. Niles years ago. In seeking to describe what evangelism was all about he declared, "Evangelism is like one beggar telling another beggar where to find bread." We proposed, sisters and brothers, that each of our congregations that have in fact become vital congregations ought to directly assist other congregations in becoming vital as well. Then we are in a position to be a blessing for the total church.

That leads me to the third point. I call it a blessing for the total church. Some people raise the question about the amount of money that we are requesting, $1,779,400. I thought about it. How much do we pay income from apportionments? And I thought in my own city of Atlanta, in the North Georgia Conference, that two of our congregations in that city, formerly all White, today 99-plus percent Black, will in fact give this amount of money over the quadrennium. And I thought that was exciting. I was applauding it. But there is another Black congregation in Texas giving currently at the level $429,000 annually in conference apportionments. And yet just a few years ago it was nearly dead.

The issue is, sisters and brothers, because something is nearly dead does not mean there isn't the possibility of resuscitating it and bringing it to new and vital life. That's God's will for us. God's will for us. [*applause*] And we're committed to do that. We're simply asking you to help us. We're simply asking you to empower us. We are simply asking for your blessing to be a blessing for others in our denomination with the understanding every Black congregation that we strengthen, every Black congregation that's empowered, becomes a blessing for this United Methodist Church. We can do it. I'm convinced we can do it.

Now what's different about it is that we aren't looking at bringing in consultants from anywhere. Amen. [*applause*] The people with the know-how reside within our congregations. And we're talking about empowering that leadership from within our congregations to help teach, to train, to motivate others so that they will have the desire to become a vital congregation. That's what it's about. And that's our challenge.

Let me see if I can close on this note. There is a song writer who said it much, much better than I could ever say it: "If in the course of my life I can help somebody as I pass along. If I can

cheer somebody with words or a song. If I can show someone he's travelling wrong, then my living shall not be in vain."

We don't want our living to be in vain. Help us members of this 1996 General Conference. And to know full well what will be a blessing to the Black church is also a blessing for the whole church because it is a model that will work anywhere. God bless you. And thank you one and all. [*applause*]

BISHOP WOODIE WHITE: We regret that Dr. Kimbrough does not have more enthusiasm for this proposal. [*laughter*] This is a proposal about mission and persons being in mission. This is a proposal about bringing the good news of Jesus Christ to those who have not heard and not yet responded. This is a proposal about church growth and changing lives. This is a proposal about sharing and vision and futuring.

It is our prayer and our hope that in four years when we return we can give evidence of vital, growing, relevant Black congregations—directly the result of this proposal. Thank you very much. [*applause*]

BISHOP WILLIAM DEW: These comprise the two reports we wanted to bring to you this afternoon and urge your full consideration when they are reported out from the legislative committee.

BISHOP GALVAN: We thank Bishop Dew and Bishop White and all those presenters today for their very fine presentations. Thank you very much. I see a card in the back. Microphone number 6, to the front. Microphone number 6. Your name.

FRANK H. FURMAN JR. (Florida): Two wonderful programs have been presented to us. But in keeping with our Rules on Budget, I bring to the attention of the presenters that GCFA, the General Council on Finance and Administration, will be meeting. The question I have of the presenter, both of these mission statements require additional funding, have they been submitted through the budget process or are they in position to bring us figures so that they may be considered at the appropriate time?

BISHOP GALVAN: Bishop Dew, can you answer the question?

BISHOP DEW: They have been presented through the budget process. And you will hear from the legislative committee later in the conference about that.

FURMAN: Thank you. And, Bishop, if I may, one further statement. I understand there are other fund items that'll be brought to us that have a missional quality about them that have yet to come before General Council on Finance and Administration. And I implore those who may have such items that need to be funded to be sure they get to us so that we can work on the budget at the appropriate time. Thank you, sir.

BISHOP GALVAN: Thank you for your statement. In the back, microphone number 12.

BETTY S. GORDON (West Virginia): Bishop Galvan, I move to suspend the rules to consider voting on Calendar Item 762, page 235 in *DCA* three. And I'll speak to it if I have a second.

BISHOP GALVAN: You can speak to it because it's a suspension of the rules. Yes please state the reason for suspension of rules.

GORDON: OK. The reason is to suspend the rule that states materials must be printed 24 hours before plenary action. This Petition 21677 was approved by a vote of 86 to zero against in the legislative committee.

BISHOP GALVAN: Excuse me. You cannot speak to it. You're just stating the reason why you want to suspend the rules.

GORDON: Okay. Well, it's so we can suspense.

BISHOP GALVAN: The motion is not debatable. Thank you.

GORDON: OK.

BISHOP GALVAN: So the motion is before you. Are you ready to vote on the suspension of the rules? Please indicate when the light appears. It will take two thirds vote. [Results: yes, 614; no, 266; abstained, 19] The rules are suspended so we now turn our attention to Item 762 for consideration.

BISHOP DEW: The legislative committee chair is here.

BISHOP GALVAN: Okay, please.

DAVID SEVERE (Oklahoma): The legislative committee has indeed acted on this as has been stated and we did approve it 86 for the proposal. No voting against it with one abstention. And we would move concurrence on this report with reference to the GCFA.

BISHOP GALVAN: The motion was concurrence with reference to the GCFA. Is there any discussion? Yes, in the back. Microphone number 12.

JAMES D. SWANSON (South Georgia Conference): Bishop Galvan, just one concern that I have about this particular petition, and that is that there is no program indicated for ministerial recruitment. And I would like the GCOM persons to speak to that concern.

BISHOP ELIAS G. GALVAN: Do you want the respond to the concern? It's a question?

BISHOP WOODIE WHITE: This proposal did not deal with ministerial recruitment, and so consequently you did not find a component in it.

SWANSON: May I make another statement here? I feel that, in the midst of us trying to strengthen the Black church, it is so extremely important that we have the engines to try to drive this program. My conference that I come from in South Georgia, we have a tremendous shortage of ministers. And I think that it's probably one of the things that we suffer throughout the whole connection, and not to speak to this, to me, is short-sighted. I think the committee needs to look into this.

BISHOP GALVAN: Thank you very much. You have spoken to it. I consider that a statement is against the motion.

SWANSON: Not really. What I'd like to do, probably, is to go on and offer an amendment to this program.

BISHOP GALVAN: OK, anyone speaking in favor? Microphone number nine.

DAVID L. WHITE (South Indiana): I would like to say that, we as laity, African-American laity, in this church think that we are very capable of giving the leadership necessary. This is not giving any reflection on the pastoral leadership. We want to do this in partnership with our clergy brothers and sisters, so I urge you, my fellow delegates, to vote for this, as has been asked.

BISHOP GALVAN: Thank you. Anyone wishes to speak against the item before you? Yes? Against the item? OK, if no one wants to speak against, now we can accept the speeches for. Here I recognize you, microphone number eight.

TULLALAH F. WILLIAMS (Northern Illinois): I just want to urge your support of this mission. I think often times clergy forget that we were once laity, and that if we strengthen laity in the church, surely we will enhance the recruitment of clergy in the church, so I strongly urge your support. Thank you. [*applause*]

BISHOP GALVAN: Are you ready to vote? All those in favor, please vote as the light appears. It has been approved. [857 approved] [*applause, most are standing*] The chair recognizes Mr. Cashar Evans, chair of finance and administration for some calendar items.

*Calendar Item 422*
*Real Property*

CASHAR W. EVANS JR (North Carolina): In the blue *DCA*, on page 169, Calendar Item 422, can be found on page 382 of the red *DCA*. That petition number is 20020, and it is in the second column at the bottom. The subject is property used as fulfilling the mission of the church. The committee recommended nonconcurrence, 63 for, 34 against, and 0 abstentions. It is before you, bishop.

BISHOP GALVAN: The item is before you. Any discussion? I think we're ready to act. When you're ready to vote, please vote when the light appears. [728 approved] It is approved.

*Calendar Item 423*
*Episcopal Residence*

EVANS: Page 169, blue CDEFA... *DCA*, you can tell where my mind is. Calendar Item 423, that is on page 364 of the red *DCA*. In the second column, in the middle of the page, the petition number is 21627, the subject is the Episcopal Residence Committee. The committee recommends concurrence. The vote was 71 for, 24 against, and 0 abstentions. It is before you.

BISHOP GALVAN: It is now before you. Any discussion? The committee recommends concurrence. Are we ready to vote? Please vote when the light appears. [878 approved] It's been approved.

EVANS: Page 169 of the blue *DCA*, Calendar Item 424 can be found on page 1318 of the white *DCA*. And it is in the first column, in the middle. The petition number is 22251. The subject is establishing a relationship with a major credit card company. The committee's recommendation is referral to GCFA. The vote is 88 for, eight against, and zero abstentions. Bishop.

BISHOP GALVAN: Item 424 is properly before you. Any discussion? Yes, microphone number one, please.

PORTER J. WOMELDORFF (Central Illinois): I want to question the impact of this referral. If the referral is made, does that mean that GCFA would require four more years to undertake such a relationship if they found it desirable?

EVANS: Four years ago they investigated this and determined that it was not desirable, hence they did not do it. But they will be glad to re-study it again.

BISHOP GALVAN: Any other discussion? Anyone else seeking the floor? I see none. So are you ready to vote? Please vote when the light appears.

[651 approved]

BISHOP GALVAN: Item 424 has been referred.

CASHAR EVANS: Page 169 of the blue *DCA*, Calendar Item 425 can be found on page 365 in the red book. That petition number is 20592. It's in the second column in the middle of the page. The subject is the amenability of the General Council on Finance and Administration. The committee recommends nonconcurrence by a vote of 94 for, seven against, and zero abstentions.

BISHOP GALVAN: Item 425 is before you, any discussion? I think we're ready to vote. Please vote when the light appears. [826 approved]

BISHOP GALVAN: You have supported the recommendation of the committee of nonconcurrence.

EVANS: On page 170 of the blue *DCA*, Calendar Item 426, page 370 of the red book, the petition number is 20596. And it's in the second column in the middle of the page, deals with general program agency funds. The committee recommendation is nonconcurrence. The vote was 94 for, nine against, and zero abstentions.

BISHOP GALVAN: Item 426 is now before you, any discussion? I believe you're ready to vote, please vote when the light appears. [837 approved]

BISHOP GALVAN: The recommendation of the committee is sustained.

*Calendar Item 427*
*Support of World Service and Conference Benevolence*

EVANS: On page 170 in the blue *DCA*, Calendar Item 427, page number 372 of the red book. That's in the second column at the bottom, the petition number is 20420. The subject is the support of World Service and Conference Benevolence. The committee's recommendation is nonconcurrence. And the vote was 95 for, eight against, and zero abstentions.

BISHOP GALVAN: Item 427 is now before you. Is there any discussion? I believe you're ready to vote. Please vote when the light appears. [811 approved]

BISHOP GALVAN: The report of the committee is sustained.

EVANS: On page 170 again of the blue *DCA*, Calendar Item 428, page number 373 of the red book. The petition number is 20602, second column at the top. Deals with the subject of elimination of the General Council on Ministries. The committee recommendation is nonconcurrence. And that vote was 94 for, nine against and zero abstentions.

BISHOP GALVAN: Item 428 is before you for action. Any discussion? I believe you're ready to vote. Please vote when the light appears. [718 approved]

BISHOP GALVAN: The recommendation of the committee is sustained.

EVANS: Still on page 170 of the blue *DCA*, the Calendar Item now is 429, page 373 of the red book, first column at the top, the petition number is 20601, the subject? Eliminate General Council on Ministries. The committee's recommendation is nonconcurrence. And the vote was 91 for, 12 against, and zero abstentions.

BISHOP GALVAN: Item 429 is before you. Any discussion? I believe you're ready to vote. Please vote when the light appears. [714 approved]

BISHOP GALVAN: The recommendation of the committee is sustained.

EVANS: Page 170 of the blue *DCA*, Calendar Item 430, page 372 of the red *DCA*. It's in the first column, in the middle. The petition number is 20418. The subject is general policies. The committee's recommendation is nonconcurrence. The vote was 84 for, 19 against and zero abstentions.

BISHOP GALVAN: Item 430 is now before you for action. Is there any discussion? I believe you're ready to vote. Vote when the light appears. [790 approved]

BISHOP GALVAN: The recommendation of the committee is sustained.

*Calendar Item 431*
*Annual Conference Apportionments*

EVANS: Again on page 170 of the blue *DCA*, Calendar Item 431, page 372 of the red book. It's in the first column, the second item. The petition number is 20016. The subject is annual conference apportionments. The committee's recommendation is nonconcurrence. The vote is 80 for, 23 against, zero abstentions.

BISHOP GALVAN: Item 431 is before you. Are there any questions or any discussion? I believe you're ready to vote. Please vote when the light appears. [731 approved]

BISHOP GALVAN: The recommendation of the committee is sustained.

EVANS: Page 170 of the blue *DCA*, Calendar Item 432, page 382 of the red book. It's in the second column, the third one down, the petition number is 20606. The subject is eliminating the General Council on Ministries. The committee's recommendation is nonconcurrence. The vote was 92 for, 10 against, zero abstentions.

BISHOP GALVAN: Item 432 is before you for action. Any discussion? I believe you're ready to vote. Please vote when the light appears. [740 approved]

BISHOP GALVAN: The recommendation of the committee is sustained.

EVANS: Thank you. very much.

BISHOP GALVAN: The chair recognizes David Severe, Oklahoma, of the General Judicial Administration.

DAVID L. SEVERE (Oklahoma): All of ours are on page 170 of the *DCA*, and one of them on page 171.

BISHOP GALVAN: Is there a point of order? Microphone number 9.

*Increasing Minimum Number of Votes for Minority Report*

ROBERT SWEET (New England Conference): It's a parliamentary inquiry, I think. Bishop, I'm concerned about the amount of time that we're taking and I know that our Rules of Order say that all motions must be brought to the floor if they have at least five votes in the legislative committee. At what time is it appropriate to make a motion to suspend the rules to increase that number?

BISHOP GALVAN: That's in order any time.

SWEET: I so move.

BISHOP GALVAN: Will you state your motion again?

SWEET: Yes. I move that the rules be suspended so that a minimum of 10 dissenting votes in any legislative committee report be required to bring it to the floor.

BISHOP GALVAN: Is there a second? OK. I think we are ready to act on this. There's no debate on this motion. If you suspend the rules, it requires two-thirds. Please vote when the light appears. [Results: yes, 650; no, 275; abstain, 10]

BISHOP GALVAN: You've suspended the rules. OK. Go ahead.

SEVERE: All right sir. We are...

BISHOP GALVAN: Point of order. Come to microphone number 8.

THOMAS R. BOLLER (Yellowstone): The inquiry is if we've changed the rules at this point, that's going to put items on consent calendar. At what point then, if someone wants to lift something that is now being shifted, will they need to take care of that matter?

BISHOP GALVAN: This is a very good question. We need to ask the calendar people to, the Committee on Calendars to find a way to do so. And they will have to report to us. Thank you for that question. Point of order. Microphone number 1.

PORTER J. WOMELDORFF (Central Illinois): Bishop, I believe the motion was to suspend the rules. The change in the rules, I believe, must be a separate motion and is debatable.

BISHOP GALVAN: The chair rules that you are correct, so we need to go back and ask for the motions to be placed before us. So will you please come back, the person who moved to suspend the rules? Come back and make the specific motion again.

SWEET: It's my understanding we have now suspended the rules so the motion is in order?

BISHOP GALVAN: That's correct.

SWEET: I move to suspend Rule 28.3a so that it reads, "No more than 10 votes were against the prevailing position in the committee."

BISHOP GALVAN: You need to clarify your motion. We already suspended the rules, so now you just state your motion.

SWEET: I did. Oh I'm sorry, I beg your pardon. I move that Rule 28.3a now read "No more than 10 votes were against the prevailing motion in the committee," substituting 10 for five.

BISHOP GALVAN: Okay. That's the motion. Is there a second? It's been seconded. Is there discussion? Come to microphone number 7. Is that 7?

JONATHAN KEATON (Northern Illinois Conference): Bishop, at what point would this change, if it does get approved by the body, take effect?

BISHOP GALVAN: My understanding is it takes effect immediately. Any discussion on the motion? It takes two thirds because an amendment to the rules. Yes? Microphone number seven.

PAUL ERVIN (North Georgia Conference): Would the person moving on the motion be willing to say effective as of tomorrow? That would allow, I believe, the *DCA* to make the appropriate adjustments.

BISHOP GALVAN: Would you like to amend the amendment?

ERVIN: If that's in order, I would.

BISHOP GALVAN: It's in order.

ERVIN: Then I would like to amend the amendment to make it effective as of tomorrow.

BISHOP GALVAN: OK. Is there a second? *(second)* It's been seconded. We're now on the amendment. Any discussion? Yes, microphone number 13. Twelve. You're closer to 12.

FLO MARTIN (South Georgia): My concern would be that it's after three o'clock, and if this takes effect tomorrow, then what do we do by getting the items we need to pull from today's stuff?

BISHOP GALVAN: So you're speaking against the amendment. Anyone in favor of the amendment? Since there is no one, I think we are ready to vote on the amendment. If you are ready to vote, please vote when the light appears. [Results: yes, 556; no, 342; abstained, 23]

BISHOP GALVAN: OK, it is amended. Now we are back to the motion that was made before, and this will take two thirds. Are we ready to vote? I see a card. Microphone number eight.

JOHN HOPKINS (South Indiana): I would like to amend the motion to exclude any of the, exempt any of the minority reports that are attached to a calendar item so that these would automatically be presented.

BISHOP GALVAN: Is there a second? *(second)* It has been seconded. Do you want to speak to your amendment?

HOPKINS: Yes, I think our Rules allows us to have ten members or ten percent of a committee in order to bring a minority report. A lot of work has gone into those particular calendar items, and I think they ought to be exempt.

BISHOP GALVAN: It is already on the floor, so we need to act on it. It has been seconded. Are we ready to vote on this amendment? Are you ready to vote? Please indicate so when the light appears. [730 approved]

BISHOP GALVAN: It's been amended. Now we are back to the main motion. Are we ready to act on the main motion? I don't see any cards, so I think we are ready to do so. Please vote when the light appears. It will require two thirds.

BISHOP GALVAN: The motion is approved...We only have about three minutes or so.

DAVID SEVERE: All right, these are hopefully quick. Page 170 in the *DCA*. Calendar Item 436. It is on the right hand column toward the lower part. In the *DCA* number two, the white book, it is page 1324. And it is Petition 22707, and it will be found in the upper right hand column. The gist of this is that it would strike the language "without regard to race, color, national origin, or economic condition". The committee voted nonconcurrence: 83 for noncurrence, 8 against, and 1 abstention. Our rationale is that we believe that the present language should be retained in the *Discipline* as it is.

BISHOP GALVAN: Item 436 is before you for action. Is there any discussion? I see a card; right, in the back. Microphone number 13.

GRADY KNOWLES (California-Nevada Conference): This is a point of information, Bishop. I believe we just suspended the rules and acted to move anything with fewer than ten votes onto the Consent Calendar. The amendment is as of tomorrow. Does that mean it doesn't take effect until items are presented tomorrow?

BISHOP GALVAN: That is correct.

KNOWLES: Thank you.

BISHOP GALVAN: We are on the Calendar Item 436. Are you ready to vote? If you are ready to vote please indicate so when the light appears. [762 approved]

BISHOP GALVAN: The committee recommendation has been sustained. I believe this is the last item we have time for.

SEVERE: Thank you, sir. Do you want me to take one more, or was that it?

BISHOP GALVAN: No, that was it.

SEVERE: That's what I thought. Thank you.

BISHOP GALVAN: At this point we are on the Orders of the Day, and we recognize Chita Framo, president of International *Diakonia*, to make a statement.

GLORIA J. BLACKLOCK (Southern Illinois Conference): It is with a great pleasure that as chair of the Committee on Deaconess Service for the National Division I present to you Chita Framo. She is a United Methodist Deaconess from the Philippines. She is attending this conference as a reserve delegate from the Northwest Philippines Annual Conference. Chita

is a graduate of Scarritt College in Nashville, Tennessee, and is presently serving as president of *Diakonia*, World Federation of Diaconal Associations and Diaconal Communities. I present to you Chita Framo.

*Diakonia Explained*

CHITA FRAMO: Bishop, and members and friends of General Conference. This is indeed an honor and a wonderful privilege to be present among you and to greet you in the name of all the deaconesses and diaconal ministers from about 48 associations from many countries around the world that form *Diakonia*, the World Federation of Diaconal Associations and Diaconal Communities. This is an ecumenical federation of women and men who after the end of World War II felt the need for reconciliation between countries and groups that had hurt one another. *Diakonia* will celebrate its 50th founding anniversary in July 3-11, 1996, in Frederic Rhoda in the eastern part of Germany under the theme "Bridges of Reconciliation, Hope, and Mission." There is so much need in our world, and we extend our hands to care for those in need as we stand on our tiptoes to advocate for change, and as we continue to build bridges of friendship and mutual ministries. We are Christ's own persons touching people with love and grace. We all stand in the long line of faithful women and men who follow God's call to service. We are servants, one with another to carry on the mission of Christ wherever we are. Lastly, as a member of The United Methodist Church in the Philippines, I bring you greetings from my 300 active deaconesses who are presently appointed in churches, institutions, and agencies of The United Methodist Church across the Philippines archipelago. Thank you. *(applause)*

BISHOP GALVAN: Will you please give your attention to the secretary of General Conference for announcement? *(Floor Voice)* Is this something very urgent? Come to microphone number 13. Yes. We have reached the Orders of the Day. That's the reason it has to be something of extreme urgency. Will you please state.

BARBARA LEMMEL (Troy Conference): I'm not sure if this is an emergency, but it will be very short.

BISHOP GALVAN: Go ahead.

LEMMEL: I have a motion to present to this body that General Conference recommend to the Commission on General Conference that child care be provided during all scheduled worship and business sessions beginning with the General Conference of 2000. If I have a second, I will speak to it.

BISHOP GALVAN: It is my judgment that this can be referred to the Commission on General Conference since it is dealing with next General Conference. Is that correct?

LEMMEL: Yes.

BISHOP GALVAN: Could that be referred to the Commission on General Conference?

LEMMEL: I didn't know that. That is what I am asking to do.

BISHOP GALVAN: Fine. Then the motion is properly before us. Anyone who wants to speak to it? Any discussion. It's a motion of referral. I believe we are ready to act. If you are ready to act, please indicate so when the light appears. It is a motion of referral.

BISHOP GALVAN: This has been referred. Thank you very much.

CAROLYN MARSHALL: A reminder that the Legislative Committee on Higher Education and Chaplaincy will meet for a brief time at 3:35 upon adjournment just now in the area near the press tables. That's stage left, and for a bit more clarification, it will be near microphone five.

BISHOP GALVAN: The plenary is adjourned at this time, and please go to your legislative committees after your break.

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*Daily Report*

# Daily Christian Advocate

**Denver, Colorado** **Wednesday, April 24, 1996** **Vol. 3 No. 8**

## Conference Celebrates Ecumenism, Africa University Success

In the words of delegates, the April 23 session of the 1996 General Conference took a "giant step" in ecumenism and "one small step for 'Methodistkind'" when it approved joining the "Churches in Covenant Communion" along with two reports leading toward a "vision for global connection."

With Louisville Area Bishop Robert D. Morgan presiding, delegates received a greeting from Bishop Doloksaridu of The Methodist Church of Indonesia. The bishop and 50 church members, including a choir, flew 18 hours to be present. His description of the Indonesian church cited 100,000 members, 500 pastors and 100,000 students at Methodist schools and universities. He presented a flag and a banner to the General Board of Global Ministries and the General Conference.

San Francisco Area Bishop Melvin G. Talbert, Council of Bishops secretary, presented some 20 ecumenical visitors and guests from Catholic, Jewish and Protestant traditions. The bishop said he believed it was the first time an official representative of the American-Jewish Committee was part of the group.

Dr. Joan Brown Campbell, general secretary, National Council of Churches, said: "We must move

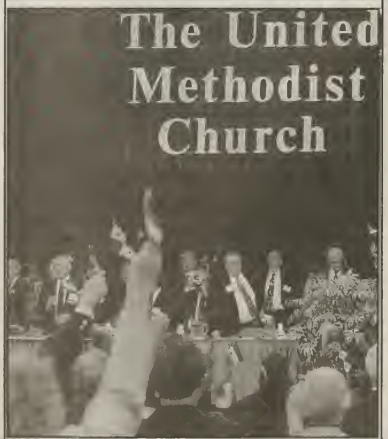
**(continued on page 426)**

### Agenda

**Wednesday, April 24**

| | |
|---|---|
| **8:15 a.m.** | **Choral Music** |
| **8:30 a.m.** | **Worship** |
| **9:00a.m.** | **Call to Order and Discernment** |
| **9:05 a.m.** | **Voting on Nominees to Judicial Council** |
| **9:20 a.m.** | **Ministry Study Calendar Items** |
| **10:30 a.m.** | **Break** |
| **10:45 a.m.** | **Calendar Items** |
| **11:15 a.m.** | **Offering for Pages and Marshals** |
| **11:30 a.m.** | **Lunch Recess** |
| **1:45 p.m.** | **Call to Order** |
| **1:50 p.m.** | **Presentation by William K. Quick** |
| **2:00 p.m.** | **Hillary Rodham Clinton** |
| **2:30 p.m.** | **Shalom Zones** |
| **3:00 p.m.** | **Calendar Items** |
| **3:15 p.m.** | **Break** |
| **3:00 p.m.** | **Discussion of Items Related to Homosexuality** |
| **4:30 p.m.** | **Calendar Items** |
| **5:00 p.m.** | **Dinner Recess** |
| **7:00 p.m.** | **Covenanting Relationship with Spain and West Africa** |
| **7:30 p.m.** | **Abortion Discussion** |
| **8:00 p.m.** | **Calendar Items** |
| **9:50 p.m.** | **Committee on Presiding Officers Report Committee on Agenda and Calendar Report** |
| **10:00 p.m.** | **Adjournment** |

### A Conference Moment




**Delegates celebrate the ministry of the Advance by waving the flags of the 102 countries where United Methodists are in mission. Each raised hand is a response to the theme of Advance "Whom Shall I Send?" The 1996 General Conference responds, "Here I Am, Lord."**

*photo John Goodwin*

(continued from front page)

forward as one to witness as one." She thanked Bishop Talbert for his leadership as NCC president.

Delegates then heard Albany Area Bishop William Boyd Grove, General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns president, describe progress being made by the Consultation on Church Union as a challenge to the church to "move beyond our maps." Division of the church is the major impediment to our task of unity, he said.

### Proposal Overwhelmingly Approved

The proposal for participation in the "Churches in Covenant Communion" was overwhelmingly approved despite strong presentations by minority report representatives who urged a slower ecumenical pace. (See related story.)

The Study Report on Connectional Issues was introduced by Portland Area Bishop William W. Dew Jr., president, General Council on Ministries. The report proposes "significant new formation, anticipating the 21st century," he said. Leading delegates through the report, GCOM member Gordon Goodgame, Holston Conference clergy delegate, described a vision for global connection and a connectional design with interactive connections, based on a pattern of outreach, nurture and ministry. At the heart of the plan is a "Connectional Process Team" which will shepherd the reorganization process on all church levels.


## Daily Christian Advocate

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Debate continued in the afternoon, as a minority report was presented and discussed. The final vote affirmed the committee's report, looking to a future church with greater flexibility at all levels and a one-third reduction in size and cost of general agencies. A preliminary report is to be completed by January 1999, with a final report to the 2000 General Conference.

A closely connected item, coming from the Council of Bishops, was a report on "The Global Nature of The United Methodist Church," presented by Bishop Emerito P. Nacpil of the Philippines. It includes proposals for a Global Conference and a Global Mission Council. A continuing study process will be coordinated with the Connectional Process Team.

### International Concern, Celebration

Bishop Adriel de Souza Maia, Methodist Church of Brazil, asked the General Conference to express concern to the government of Brazil and U.S. officials over what he described as a massacre of innocent people of the "landless movement" in the state of Para. The request was approved.

The afternoon session was concluded with a joyous celebration of Africa University. In eight years the dream has become a reality, with 28 graduates, 300 students, nine buildings, and colleges of agriculture, theology, management and education. A scholarship fund has reached $9.5 million. The Africa University choir inspired delegates to stand, clap, sway and applaud with appreciation.

Western Angola Area Bishop Emilio J. M. de Carvalho, first chancellor of the university, promised an institution with "a continuing commitment to train present and future generations of African leaders."

As the session closed, Illinois Area Bishop David J. Lawson, presiding officer for the afternoon, led delegates in prayer for the students of Africa University and for the victims of tornadoes and storms across the midwestern United States.

Debate on the Connectional Issues Study covered so much time that delegates faced a long evening of other calendar reports. The day before they had voted to place all calendar items coming from committees with 10 or fewer negative votes (up from five) directly to the Consent Calendar. This meant that the next day more than 1,500 items could be passed without floor debate, but the job ahead was still massive.

*—Roger and Donah Burgess*

# *Meet the Authors*

*Wednesday, April 24*

Due to Hillary Clinton's appearance Wednesday, April 24, the entrance to the Cokesbury Autograph area from the Plenary Session hall will be closed from 11:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Signing will be rescheduled. Check the Cokesbury display for new times. Autograph sessions scheduled after 3:00 p.m. will be held as planned.

***Bishop Kenneth Carder***
*12:30 - 1:30 p.m.*
*Sermons on United Methodist Beliefs*

***Tom McAnally***
*12:30 - 1:30*
*Questions and Answers About the United Methodist Church*

***Robert Escamilla***
*12:30-1:30 p.m.*
*Prisioneros De La Experan*

***Bishop Robert Spain***
*1:00 - 1:45 p.m.*
*Getting Ready to Preach*

***Charles Yrigoyen***
*1:30 -2:00*
*Acts for Our Time*
*and*
*John Wesley: Holiness of Heart and Life*

***Will Willimon***
*1:30 -2:00 p.m.*
*A New Connection and Where Resident Aliens Live*

***John Savage***
*1:45 - 2:30 p.m.*
*Listening and Caring Skills*

***William Abraham***
*1:30 - 2:30 p.m.*
*Waking From Doctrinal Amnesia*

***Bishop David Lawson***
*6:15 - 7:00 p.m.*
*Hungering for the Future*

***ST Kimbrough and Cynthia Wilson-Felder***
*6:30 - 7:00 p.m.*
*Spirituals: Songs from the American Experience*
*(Available in CD and Audio Cassette)*

## Hungering for the Future

by David J. Lawson

The way into our future, writes Bishop Lawson, is not clear. The congregation of the future will see itself as a missionary congregation in the mission territory, wherever in the world it is located. Such a congregation must be solid in faith, open to innovation, and responsive to the changing needs of the world. Bishop Lawson calls for a church that "incarnates compassion, peacemaking, and healing, that asks more of [us] than [we] have ever given before, where that deep but vague hunger [for a church] will find a banquet table."

**Available at the Cokesbury Display**

## Special Security Measures for Hillary Clinton Visit

Special security measures are in order this afternoon, when First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton addresses the General Conference. Business manager Roger Kruse said delegates should remove all bags, knapsacks, purses and other containers from the plenary hall by 11:30 a.m. These items may not be brought back into the room during Mrs. Clinton's visit. Items remaining in the plenary hall may be subject to removal. Books may be left on tables.

Mr. Kruse asks delegates and visitors to exit the plenary hall immediately. "The faster delegates get out, the faster we'll get back in," he said.

## Can You Top This?

At Monday noon I quit writing the Tuesday entries for this column because I'd received almost a page's worth! The competition goes on. Keep those "Can You Top This?" contributions coming.

### A FAMILY AFFAIR

Pacific Northwest Conference delegates Roger W. Barr (clergy reserve) and Robin E. Barr (lay) are a father-daughter team from Trinity United Methodist Church, Sequim, Wash.

Two brothers/clergy delegates from the Mississippi Conference, John M. Case and Martin A. Case, are joined by their brother-in-law, J. Anthony "Tony" Holifield, clergy delegate from North Arkansas. Another brother-in-law, Dick Sigler of Alabama-West Florida Conference, was a clergy delegate in 1988 and 1992.

Brothers Charles L. Johnson Sr. and H. Samuel Johnson—both clergy delegates— hail from the South Carolina Conference.

Joanne Montgomery Link, Central Pennsylvania Conference clergy delegate, is wearing the badge her father, F.W. Montgomery, wore to the 1960 General Conference, also in Denver.

### MOST DELEGATES FROM ONE CHURCH

First United Methodist Church, Hendersonville, Tenn., is well-represented at General Conference. Attending from that congregation are spouses Ben Alexander, a visitor, and Betty M. Alexander, Tennessee Conference lay delegate; spouses Ben R. Alford, clergy delegate, and Sheri Alford, news-room staff; Roy Lightner, lay delegate; and spouses Elijah E. McGee, clergy delegate, and Sheila McGee, *DCA* staff.

From St. Andrew United Methodist Church, West Lafayette, Ind., delegates include former pastors Jacob C. Williams Jr. and Brian Witwer, and current members Victor W. Goldschmidt and Carolyn E. Johnson. All represent the North Indiana Conference.

Christ United Methodist Church, Erie, Pa., has three delegates, representing the Western Pennsylvania Conference: James L. Donner, lay reserve; Jeffrey E. Greenway, clergy; and Harold Yannayon, lay. They brought their spouses, bringing the total number of persons from that congregation to six.

First United Methodist Church, Stillwater, Okla., is home to three delegates representing the Oklahoma Conference: Theodore L. "Ted" Agnew (lay), James P. "Jim" Gragg (clergy reserve) and Frieda K. Peters (lay reserve).

Two members of First United Methodist Church, Tupelo, Miss., are attending General Conference: Dot Harrelson, who serves as a marshal, and Stephen L. McAlilly, Mississippi Conference lay delegate. In addition, quilter Susan Lucky, whose beautiful memorial quilts were displayed in the conference center lobby last week, is a First Church member.

### WHAT GOES AROUND COMES AROUND

Elaine J. (Woodworth) Stanovsky, Pacific Northwest Conference clergy and head of her delegation, first attended General Conference 20 years ago, as a lay person and head of her delegation (at age 22).

### ELECTIONS PARALLEL JOURNEY

Darlene T. Montgomery, Kansas East Conference lay delegate, is attending her third General Conference. In 1987 she was approved by her annual conference into candidacy for the diaconal ministry and elected a delegate to the 1988 General Conference. In 1991 she was consecrated as a diaconal minister, certified in social work and elected a 1992 General Conference delegate. In 1995, she retired and was elected a delegate to this General Conference.

### SIXTEEN CANDLES

Lay delegates Amy L. Spachman, West Michigan Conference; Jennifer Weigle, Central Pennsylvania; and Chris White, Western Pennsylvania, are all 16 years old.

*—Barbara Dunlap-Berg*

## How Much Is He Getting?

A rather clean-cut, young man is in trouble! His pickup has broken down, and he must get it towed before his tools are ripped off. He only needs $22 or any amount you can give to help pay the tow charge. If you'll help him out, he will send you twice the amount as soon as his truck is fixed and he gets his pay check. He only needs $22; he's got the rest. He has never asked anyone for money before, and begging makes him feel like dirt.

Walking to his pickup where we could meet the tow truck and where we could combine our money wasn't good enough. He needed the cash right now.

Wouldn't you want to help? Maybe you did! Some on Sunday night, others on Monday night, and still others on Tuesday night. Some have been approached more than once. Maybe we'll all get our chance before the week is over.

## Joys and Concerns

Congratulations to new officers of the United Methodist Association of Communicators (UMAC), elected April 23: Alvin J. Horton, president; Lynne DeMichele, vice president; Cheryl Hahs Edwards, secretary; Darrell Bryant, treasurer; Shirley Whipple Struchen, United Methodist Communications liaison; Victoria Shearin, membership secretary; and Marilyn J. Kasperek, awards program. The UMAC annual meeting is set for Nov. 21-23 at the Renaissance Hotel, Washington, D.C.

The staff and employees of Duffy's Restaurant and Tavern, near the Adam's Mark Hotel, expressed appreciation for the visiting United Methodists. "They are a pleasure to wait on and have as customers," they told Pam and Dan Horner, spouses who serve as General Conference pages.

Sympathy is extended to Robert L. Powell, Alabama-West Florida lay delegate, whose 20-year-old grandson was killed in an auto accident.

## A Night With Yellowstone



**Members of the Blackfeet Native American community from Montana opened the "Night with Yellowstone" local program Sunday evening with traditional music and dance from their heritage.**

*photo by John C. Goodwin*



**The Montana Logging and Ballet Company, four talented performers from the Yellowstone Conference, brought a message that was both spiritual and humorous.**

*photo by John C. Goodwin*

# Ecumenical Guests Visit General Conference

**African Methodist Episcopal Church**
Bishop H. Hartford Brookins

**African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church**
Bishop Joseph Johnson

**American Baptist Churches in the USA**
Dr. Louise B. Burger

**American Jewish Committee**
Ms. Anita Fricklas

**Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)**
The Rev. William C. Crowl

**Christian Methodist Episcopal Church**
Bishop Thomas L. Hoyt Jr.

**Consultation on Church Union**
Dr. Vivian U. Robinson, president
Dr. Daniell C. Hamby, general secretary

**The Episcopal Church**
The Right Rev. Edwin F. Gulick Jr.

**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**
Bishop Ralph Kempski

**Free Methodist Church of North America**
The Rev. Dr. Richard Maurer

**International Councils of Community Churches**
Dr. Michael J. Owens

**National Baptist Convention of America**
Dr. James Diehl

**National Conference of Catholic Bishops**
The Most Rev. William S. Skylstad

**National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA**
The Rev. Dr. Joan Brown Campbell, general secretary

**The Orthodox Church in America**
The Very Rev. William Leonid Kinhkovsky

**The Reformed Church in America**
The Rev. David Dutchmas

**The United Church of Christ**
The Rev. William F. Dark

**The Wesleyan Church**
The Rev. Phillip L. Harris and Mrs. Betty Lou Harris

**The World Council of Churches**
Mr. Phillip E. Jakes

## Announcements

Germany annual conferences delegates and friends will honor Bishops Walter & Annegret Klaiber, Rudiger & Gerlinde Minor and Hermann & Lisa Sticher with a dinner, Wednesday, April 24, 5:30 p.m. at Adam's Mark Hotel Parlor. Contact Armin Besserer for information.

The General Council on Finance and Administration will meet Wednesday, April 24, 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., Room A-105/107. A light supper will be provided.

Change: The Boston Area dinner has been changed to 5:30 p.m. tonight, April 24.

The bishops' secretaries luncheon will be held Wednesday, April 24, at Trinity UMC. Bus will depart from the Convention Center, front door, at 12 noon.

All African and African-American clergywomen are invited to a luncheon and fellowship on April 24, 12:30 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. in Room A-207, Cost $6. Please RSVP by 10:30 a.m. Thursday, to Violet Fisher (B7) or Gennifer Brooks (page).

Delegates and friends of the Western New York Annual Conference will sponsor a dinner in celebration of Bishop and Mrs. Hae Jong Kim, on April 25 at the Beacon Grill, 303 16th St., 5:30 p.m. Contact Cathy Hall Stengel by noon today.

Holston conference delegates and friends will honor Bishop & Mrs. Clay Lee with dinner at Marlowe's on Thursday, April 25, 5:45 p.m.

Volunteers in Mission work teams are needed to help build faculty housing for Africa University. Contact Walter A. Whitehurst, coordinator, United Methodist Volunteers in Mission, 159 Ralph McGill Blvd., NE #305, Atlanta, GA 30308. (404) 659-5060. Email: 102024.1276@compuserve.com.

Come preview the first segment of an exciting new video on social justice ministries from local congregations across the country. The video, jointly produced by the General Boards of Church and Society and Global Ministries, will feature three churches in mission. The first segment is approximately 15 minutes and will run continuously for one hour.

When: Wednesday and Thursday 12:00pm-1pm
Where: Room A111
Sponsored by the General Boards of Church and Society land Global Ministries.

## Carolyn Marshall Enjoys 'Meeting People Where They Are'

If General Conference were a party, Carolyn Marshall would have to be considered the party planner. As General Conference secretary, she is responsible for knowing who is invited to this "party" (the certification of nearly 1,000 delegates from around the world). She puts out all the "place cards" (oversees the seating arrangement) and directs "party games" (makes sure legislative committees consider their share of more than 3,000 petitions).

A laywoman from Veedersburg, Md., Ms. Marshall is completing her second quadrennium in her post. While the job is demanding, she relishes it as her contribution to the church she loves.

"The job is really meeting people where they are," she said. "It's explaining rules and changes and dealing with people one-on-one. . . . People want someone to talk to them, to walk them through a situation; then they are happy."

The job of secretary is the only elected position of the General Conference organizational team. *Disciplinary* paragraph 608 details a host of "shalls" for the conference secretary.

Ms. Marshall said one of the toughest parts of her assignment is gathering necessary data about delegates from regional and Central Conferences. "It takes forever and ever and ever to get all that in," she said. An entire room in her home is dedicated to General Conference work. It's filled with bulging files, a well-used copy machine, and a fax machine that has beeped and buzzed for months on end. And, after receiving faxes at 3 a.m. from Bali where it's midday, and attempting to make connections late at night from other time zones, Ms. Marshall at last installed a separate fax line in order to simplify her life and retain her sanity.

"I really enjoy my job," she said, admitting it has some frustrating moments. "I enjoy . . . relating to people. I love the church. The church has been my world for more years than I'd like to admit."

Beginning with her first local church Women's Society of Christian Service meeting some 30 years ago, Ms. Marshall has served as conference United Methodist Women (UMW) treasurer and president, jurisdictional UMW core planning group president, General Board of Global Ministries director and Women's Division president. She was the first woman to serve on the South Indiana Conference Council on Finance and Administration (CFA) and the North Central Jurisdiction CFA.

Currently, by virtue of her position as conference secretary, Ms. Marshall serves on the Committee on Plan of Organization and Rules of Order, the Committee on General Conference, and the Committee on Correlation and Editorial Revision for the *Book of Discipline*. She is completing her second quadrennium as South Indiana Conference lay leader.

When she's not immersed in church work, Ms. Marshall serves as executive director of the Lucille Raines Residence in Indianapolis, a continuing-care facility for persons completing substance-abuse programs or undergoing mobility training.

The most exciting development Ms. Marshall has seen during her service to the conference has been the refinement of computerization. "When conference actions are put on the World Wide Web, we are literally connected around the world," she said.

One benefit of computerization, she said, is "the speed of getting through the petition process, transmitting it to the *DCA* and seeing how it will affect the *Discipline*. We can share this information, and people don't even have to be at the site of General Conference to know what's going on."

Ms. Marshall was quick to credit her "extraordinary staff" for their support and dedication. "Nobody operates in a vacuum," she remarked. The secretary has a staff of about 10 persons plus some volunteers. "They have been immensely helpful," she added.

*—Jane Dennis*

## Lizards in Denver?

Not everyone at General Conference is here to follow legislation. There are some quiet rooms where participants can leave their coats and extra books, kick off their shoes, munch cookies, and read or visit. One such room is the pages and marshals' lounge which is staff by volunteer "lounge lizards"!

These members of Rocky Mountain Conference churches spend four-hour shifts extolling the beauties of Colorado, refilling the ice water, checking on the cookie supply and offering hospitality to other volunteers who serve as pages and marshals. Although most lounge lizards are from the Denver area, the "longest distance traveled" award would go to George Cannon, Casper, Wyo.

Lounge lizards watch proceedings on a monitor in the room. Many said they had no concept of how big The United Methodist Church is until they came to the convention center and visited with volunteer pages and marshals.

*—Clara Lou Humphrey, lounge lizard coordinator/page*

# Cokesbury Display Proves Popular

The Cokesbury display area has been busy since the first moments of registration. As the primary resource supplier for United Methodist local churches, Cokesbury went to great lengths to display a wide variety of products.

According to the Cokesbury staff, gifts are on the minds of delegates and visitors. Commemorative hymnals, tote bags and mugs are big hits for people to take home. Customers also enjoy the hand-painted, signed African prints.

Bill Turner, general manager of the General Conference display, and Mary Turner, field sales director, who are responsible for the area, note that people seem to read a wide variety of books, with high interest in the "Preaching/Worship/Lectionary" area. The "Self-Help" area also has a lot of traffic (that makes you think, doesn't it?). The "Devotional and Inspirational Books" section is busy, too, with many people looking at new selections.

Delegates must have felt musical on Friday and Saturday. Many customers inquired about "Africa Praise" CDs; *MIL VOCES*, the Hispanic hymnal; and song books.

While some people come to Cokesbury to browse, others arrive with a particular area of interest. The chalices and patens from the opening Communion service were sold within 24 hours. Another area that receives considerable attention is clergy apparel.

Neil Alexander, president and publisher of The United Methodist Publishing House, recommends that laity look at the wide variety of biblical references and commentaries that are available. He encourages lay persons in particular to explore resources that some people think are mostly for clergy.



Visitors have shown interest in new curriculum resources and enjoy talking with editors and developers. Both clergy and lay persons show interest in computer technology now available to the church. "Cokesbury Online" and United Methodist Resources available on the Internet are demonstrated at the rear section of the display.

One of the most magnificent parts of the display area is the set designed and used in the videos for "Disciple: Remember Who You Are." It includes all Disciple resources and a beautiful commemorative plaque that declares the theme verse of Disciple, "If you make my Word your home, you will be my disciples."

One way to take the General Conference home with you is to carry resources and ideas that will be useful to the local church. The United Methodist Publishing House has certainly made that easier.

*—Bradford L. Motta*





**Left; Mary Turner and Bill Turner greet and assist customers. Below; Aida Fernandez admires the handmade stoles created by Brenda Graver of "In Stitches."**

***photos by Brad Motta***

## Menace to Society or Economic Development?

Gambling is a "menace to society," according to the *Discipline;* yet it is a growing industry for a number of Native American tribes. The Rev. Thom White Wolf Fassett, general secretary of the General Board of Church and Society, shared his concern about the increasing number of gambling casinos on reservations. At a luncheon meeting dealing with gambling, Mr Fassett said, "I am caught between a rock and a hard place." Mr Fassett, a member of the Seneca tribe, noted that reservations on which Native Americans live are recognized as sovereign states by The United Methodist Church. At the same time, the church's Social Principles prohibit gambling.

Mr. Fassett likened a Native American sovereign state to Monaco, which bases its economy on gambling. "Monaco has the right to do whatever it needs to create an economy," he said, "but as United Methodists, we can tell Monaco's Prince Rainier we do not support his way of doing it."

Persons from both sides of the issue attended the luncheon. Some presented the rights of Native Americans, while others expressed their opposition to gambling. "Those of us who support Native American sovereignty and anti-gambling must urge the church to enter into partnership with Native American nations to explore economic-development alternatives," said Mr. Fassett.

The Rev. Alvin Deer, Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference, said, "Every time Native Americans threaten to become economically independent, society comes up with laws and provisions that say 'we want you to stay dependent.' We are not dealing with a society that really wants Native Americans to be self-sufficient."

"Our group has no official standing on gambling," said the Rev. Sam Wynn, head of the Native American International Caucus (NAIC). He added: "Our big concern is that we want the church to speak up about it, but The United Methodist Church is not doing it. Many of us are struggling against gambling, but there is no one to help us."

The General Board of Church and Society is launching an "Enough is Enough" campaign to educate people about the moral implications of legalizing gaming. The board is also scheduling a consultation with United Methodist Native Americans in December to discuss the gaming issue and alternative forms of economic development.

*—Carolyn Simms and Ginny Underwood*

## Raising the Unconscious to Consciousness

Monitoring the policies, programs and practices of The United Methodist Church is a major responsibility of the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women (COSROW). As evidenced by the "Blessed Be the Women: Be Counted!" information boxes featured in the *DCA*, COSROW is monitoring activities here. Some delegates and visitors have wondered why.

We all say and do things that convey unconscious biases and stereotypes. In a parliamentary setting such as General Conference, the following should be considered. With whom do we talk? With whom do we share information? Who is called on to speak? What inclusive or exclusive language do we use? Who is elected to a leadership position? All of these factors indicate how bound we may be—consciously or unconsciously—by these biases.

Research on such unconscious biases has been done with teachers and students in elementary and secondary classrooms showing how biases affect our behavior. Adapted to the decision-making arena, such research helps us analyze our interactions.

COSROW monitors observe interaction in committees and other groups. When someone is recognized to speak, ask a question, or make a point of order or a motion, the monitor records data on lay/clergy, racial/ethnic minority and male/female categories. Percentages of participation are then calculated, based on the number present and the number speaking.

The commission is grateful for the support of each committee.

*—Pat Callbeck Harper*

### ♀♀ *Blessed Be the Women: Be Counted!* ♀♀

- Observation: There are 3 women among the 26 nominees for Judicial Council (10%; 13% of lay & 9% of clergy nominees).
- Tue Plenary-Connectional Issues & Africa Univ Report: Men are 65% of the group & made 71% of the comments; clergy made 58% of comments (50% representation in the body). Male speakers and presenters are not only speaking more, but at greater length than female speakers/presenters. Bishop Lawson recognized speakers from all mikes #1-14.
- GJ on judicial adm items: Males make up 59% of group & made 55% of comments. Clergy are 51% of group & made 70% of comments.
- FI on budget (Mon): Women are 22% of group and made 16% of comments.
- CS on abortion issues (Mon eve): Women are 32% of group and made 26% of comments.
- DI on mission statement & UMMen: Men are 64% of group and made 81% of comments.
- We commend the Connectional Issues Presentation for gender, race, age, lay/clergy, and central conference inclusion.

Information by the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women

## UMPH President Responds With a Mission Opportunity

The United Methodist Publishing House is encouraged by and grateful for the enthusiasm the General Conference has expressed for *Mil Voces Para Celebrar*. I am aware that a number of delegates wish to obtain copies of the new Spanish-language hymnal to share with folks back home in their annual conferences and congregations.

In light of the discussion on the floor Monday night, The United Methodist Publishing House wants to emphasize our commitment and hope for vibrant ministry with Spanish-speaking persons through the use of the new hymnal. The UMPH will give one hymnal at no charge to Hispanic ministries for every copy of *Mil Voces Para Celebrar* purchased during General Conference. Delegates may purchase one or more copies of *Mil Voces Para Celebrar* to take home or they may designate them for use in Hispanic ministries (as determined by the Committee on Hispanic Ministries). The committee directing the National Hispanic Plan will be asked to designate faith communities or congregations to receive all hymnals made available through this mission effort.

The United Methodist Publishing House decided four years ago to make a major investment to support development of an outstanding resource for extending ministry with and by Spanish-speaking persons. More than $600,000 has been spent to undergird the work of the editorial committee and editor for planning and pre-production steps. The $600,000 figure does not include the actual costs of manufacturing and shipping printed copies of the new hymnal. The sale of copies of the hymnal is not—and was never—expected to recoup the missional investment necessary to assure a high quality and useful aid for the worship life of Spanish-speaking communities. The $9.50 price for the new hymnals at this General Conference is roughly one-fifth of the actual cost of each copy when development expenses are considered. In making a decision about distributing copies of the hymnal at General Conference, The United Methodist Publishing House opted instead to make the sampler available and use the roughly $10,000 needed to pay for delegate copies to invest in additional resources for Spanish-speaking ministries such as the new bilingual curriculum for children, *Adventuras*.

You can pick up *Mil Voces Para Celebrar* "matching gift" forms in the Cokesbury display area. This opportunity is available until the close of General Conference.

*—Neil Alexander, president and publisher, UMPH*

## Bishops' Report: The Global Nature of the Church

Philippines Bishop Emerito P. Nacpil, speaking on behalf of the Council of Bishops, presented the report on "The Global Nature of The United Methodist Church" Tuesday. Bishop Nacpil called for the study in 1988 in order that "our vision could match the reality of our church." He said that if we do not catch the vision, "our church could be in danger of becoming fragmented."

The report outlines the global existence of United Methodism. Our membership is global, our self-understanding is universal (catholic), our fellowship inclusive, our heritage stretches beyond borders, and our mission covers the entire world. Our vision needs only to be faithful to who we are.

The report contains proposals of regional and global conferences of United Methodism, along with a Global Mission Council. Bishops would be charged with providing "visionary spiritual leadership." The report also calls for a 30-member task force that would develop in greater detail the global connectionalism broadly described by the bishops. A comprehensive proposal would be brought before the 2000 General Conference. (See pp. 168-74, *DCA Advance Editon I*.

Veteran General Conference delegates and visitors can't help but notice the greater participation of Central Conference delegates in legislative committee discussions and floor debates from one conference to another. David Lundquist, general secretary, General Council on Ministries, told delegates four years ago that it simply is impossible to think of The United Methodist Church in national terms, as only an American Christian community.

*—Keith Pohl*

### Corrections

P. 89 *DCA*, list of guest preachers: Bishop Aldo Etchegoyen spoke at St. Luke's, Denver, rather than Trinity, Colorado Springs.

P. 400 *DCA,, 1st column, 3rd paragraph:* Peggy Sewall should be Peggy Sewell.

# GRACIAS! OBRIGADO!
# THANK YOU!



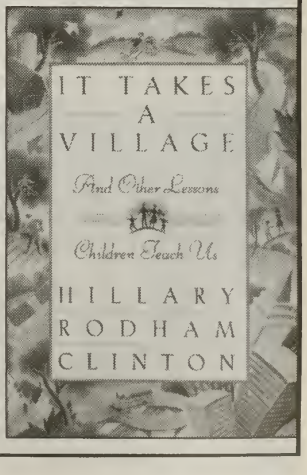
*The Council of Evangelical Methodist Churches of Latin America and the Caribbean (CIEMAL), its Bishops, Presidents, and Delegates*

Express gratitude to the General Conference for affirming "Encounter with Christ in Latin America and the Caribbean" (Petition #229).

We honor the 34 Annual Conferences whose actions on behalf of "Encounter" have brought this initiative supporting evangelism and mission outreach to the attention of the whole church.


## LEARNING LESSONS FROM OUR NATION'S CHILDREN

**It Takes a Village: And Other Lessons Children Teach Us,** *by Hillary Rodham Clinton.* America's First Lady chronicles her quest to discover how we can make our society into the kind of village that enables children to grow into able, caring, resilient adults. By looking honestly at the condition of our children, by understanding the wealth of new information research offers us about them, and most importantly, by listening to the children themselves, we can achieve a more fruitful discussion about their needs. Ideal for anyone concerned with the welfare of our nation's children.
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# 'Whom Shall I Send?' Video Celebrates Missionaries

The work of United Methodist missionaries around the world was highlighted in a new 20-minute video "Whom Shall I Send?" premiered at Monday evening's plenary session as part of a celebration of the Advance for Christ and His Church.

The celebration ended with delegates standing and singing the popular hymn, "Here I Am, Lord" as they waved flags from the 102 countries where The United Methodist Church, through the General Board of Global Ministries, is in mission.

Bishop Woodie W. White, General Council on Ministries Advance Committee chair, and song leaders Cynthia Wilson-Felder and ST Kimbrough Jr. waved flags from Brazil, Germany, Mozambique, the Philippines and the United States.

The United Methodist Church has more personnel and programs in Brazil than in any other Latin American country. Germany, Mozambique and the Philippines represented Central Conferences in Europe, Africa and Asia.

Bishop White told delegates and visitors that there is "no program more exciting, no program that touches more places in the world on behalf of United Methodism, than the Advance."

The video, which will be included in an Advance "Tool Kit" mailed this fall to every local church in the United States, features missionaries in action. It celebrates "the thousands of missionaries . . . all across the world who are in mission," Bishop White said.

Featured are Mario Rodriguez, who nurtures new Hispanic communities of faith in Scottsbluff, Neb.; Don Wilson, a community developer whose ministry is part of the outreach of Theressa Hoover United Methodist Church in Little Rock, Ark.; and Sun Lae Kim, Young Chuel Cho and Susannah Cho who work with fledgling United Methodist churches in Moscow, Russia. Also featured are three missionary couples: Glenn and Darla Rowley, Bill and Roberta Smith, and Al and Mavis Streyffeler, who are working to establish a United Methodist presence in Senegal, West Africa, a predominately Muslim country.

The video also celebrates the work of short-term missionaries working on projects worldwide through Volunteers in Mission.

The video theme is based on Isaiah 6:8: "Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I; send me!'"

Choirs from five Northern Illinois Conference congregations sang "Here I Am, Lord" for the video: Community, Naperville; El Mesias, Elgin; St. John, Oak Park; and St. Mark, Chicago.

The video is available in English, Korean and Spanish, according to Barbara Dunlap-Berg, United Methodist Communications senior account executive for the Advance. She said each bishop was given a copy of the video on Monday. Churches or individuals wishing to receive the video prior to the fall mailing can order advance copies at the Advance tent (open until 2 p.m. today) across the street from the convention center.

*—Linda Rhodes*




**The choir of The Methodist Church of Indonesia filled the morning session with song and color.**

*photo by Mike DuBose*

# Prayer Requests

Please raise these persons in prayer:

- People of Liberia
- Lamark J. Cox Sr., lay leader of Liberia
- Arthur F. Kulah, bishop in Liberia
- Henry Greene
- Walter Carpenter - recovering from brain tumor surgery
- O'Dell Thompson and family - daughter-in-law died unexpectedly
- David Sakers - lung transplant surgery in Pennsylvania
- Andre' Pieters of Belgium - critical condition
- Nathaniel T. Grady - 10th year of imprisonment, awaiting appeal
- Alexandra - 4 years old, undergoing treatment
- Karen and Bob - Karen is pregnant, and undergoing chemotherapy

** Please stop by the *DCA* booth and the *DCA* to leave your prayer concerns to be included in tomorrow's *DCA*.

# Africa University Teaches Students How to Flex Their 'Spiritual Muscles'

Of 28 graduates in 1994, one is a beloved grade-school teacher, another is helping people feed themselves and their communities in southern Africa, and one is a pastor whose congregation has grown from 750 to 1,600 in two short years.

Not bad for a university that, seven years ago, was a vacant field and a fervent dream.

Today, Africa University, the first United Methodist university in southern Africa, is 300 students strong, with colleges of theology, education (beginning this fall), agriculture and business.

A celebration of Africa University, including a performance by the university's choir, capped the Tuesday afternoon session. The choir sang their thanks in a song, "The Dream is Alive," written by the university's music instructor and choir master, Patrick Matsikenyiri. The rhythmic anthem brought delegates and conference observers to their feet.

(A recording of songs by the Africa University choir, available on CD and cassette, is available for sale at the Cokesbury sales center).

In hailing the growth of Africa University, assistant vice chancellor James Salley praised annual conferences and other groups for their financial support of the university.

He introduced Korean Methodist Bishop Sun-Doh Kim. Kwan-Lin Methodist Church in Seoul, reportedly one of the largest Methodist congregations in the world, recently donated $1 million for the construction of a chapel on the Africa University campus.

Two graduates of Africa University also thanked United Methodists for supporting education of young people from across the African continent. Paulo Filipe Bunga of Angola, now with the United Nations food development office in Mozambique, said his education by the church-related college taught him the importance of helping people find "food for the body as well as the soul."

The Rev. Tsitsi Moyo, also a 1994 graduate, now pastor of St. Andrew United Methodist Church, Harare, Zimbabwe, recounted her journey from a girl denied the prospect of a formal education, to a trained pastor serving a fast-growing, urban church. "At Africa University I learned to flex my spiritual muscles," she said. "For that, and for my ministry, I am grateful."

The United Methodist Church is related to more than 120 schools, colleges and universities in the United States, Europe, Asia and Africa.

*—M. Garlinda Burton*

# University Senate Nominations

*Chief Executive Officers of U.M.-Related Educational Institutions:*

## *Wanda Bigham*

Wanda Bigham is president of Huntington College, Montgomery, Ala. Previously she served as president of Marycrest College, Davenport, Iowa, and led that institution through a time of reorganization and redirection. She also has been vice president of development and college relations and executive assistant to the president at Emerson College and associate dean of academic programs at Morehead University. Dr. Bigham is a member of the American Council on Education (ACE), the American Association for Higher Education (AAHE) and the International Association of University Presidents. She is a member of the National Association of Schools and Colleges of The United Methodist Church and has served as a member of visiting teams for the University Senate.

## *Ann H. Die*

Ann H. Die is president of Hendrix College, Conway, Ark. She has brought a heightened level of enthusiasm to the campus and to the relationship between the church and the college. Dr. Die has served as a member of the University Senate during the current quadrennium. She is president of the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (NAICU) and a member of the National Association of Schools and Colleges of The United Methodist Church and serves as the association's vice president. A United Methodist, she previously served in the administration of Tulane University.

## *Ellen Hurwitz*

Ellen Hurwitz is president of Albright College, Reading, Pa. During her three years as president, she has developed a new sense of leadership and cooperation among the entire college community. Dr. Hurwitz led the college through a study of new understandings of what it means to be church related and how that relationship is expressed in the work of the college. She is a former dean and professor at Illinois Wesleyan University and a member of the National Association of Schools and Colleges of The United Methodist Church.

## *G. Douglass Lewis*

G. Douglass Lewis has been president of Wesley Theological Seminary, Washington, D.C., for 14 years. Dr. Lewis has strong experience in the ministry of higher education. He served as chaplain and professor at Tennessee Wesleyan College and directed parish development and the doctor of ministry program at Hartford Theological Seminary. He also served on the staff of the National Council of Churches Department of Ministry and developed an enlistment program in partnership with 10 denominations. He has published several books and articles in the area of the church's mission and ministry. He is the president of the Association of United Methodist Theological Schools (AUMTS) and previously served as the AUMTS representative to the Senate's Commission on Theological Education.

## *Donald E. Messer*

Donald E. Messer has served as a United Methodist seminary and college president for 25 years. Since 1991 he has been president and professor at Iliff School of Theology, Denver. Dr. Messer served as president of Dakota Wesleyan College in Mitchell, S.D. (1971-81). The author of seven books, he serves on accrediting teams of the North Central Association of Colleges and Universities, and has served as president of the Association of United Methodist Theological Schools. A delegate to the 1996 General Conference, he has been a delegate to four previous General Conferences. He has also served the church as a director of the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) and the General Board of Global Ministries.

## *Wesley Poling*

Wesley Poling is president of Kentucky-Wesleyan College in Owensboro, Ky. Previously, he served as vice president for development and alumni relations at Gaucher College. He also has been a member of the administrative team at Yale University. Dr. Poling has been active in the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) and is a member of the Committee on Public Policy of the National Association of Schools and Colleges of The United Methodist Church. A United Methodist clergyman, he is a member of the Wisconsin Annual Conference.

## *Roy B. Shilling Jr.*

Roy B. Shilling Jr. is president of United Methodist-related Southwestern University, Georgetown, Texas. Prior to his move to Southwestern, he was president of Hendrix College, Conway, Ark. Dr. Shilling is a 1992-96 member of the University Senate, and he has served as chair of the senate's task force on church relationships. He is a member of the Texas United Methodist College Association and works for strong relations between the denomination and its colleges. He is a member and former president of the National Association of Schools and Colleges of The United Methodist Church and is active in the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities.

## *Lovett H. Weems Jr.*

Lovett H. Weems Jr. was appointed to the University Senate in 1994 following a resignation. A local church pastor in Mississippi for many years, he became president of St. Paul School of Theology in 1985. A 1996 General Conference delegate from Missouri West, he was elected

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in 1980 as a delegate from Mississippi. He holds degrees from Millsaps College, Perkins School of Theology and Wesley Theological Seminary. He has served on two boards of ordained ministry and chaired a conference council on ministries. He is author of *Church Leadership* and *John Wesley's Message Today*. He and his spouse, Emily, are parents of four children.

### *John W. White Jr.*

John W. White Jr. serves as president of Nebraska Wesleyan University, Lincoln, Neb. His leadership has brought the university to new heights of academic excellence. Dr. White previously was academic dean at Oklahoma City University. He is a member and former president of the National Association of Schools and Colleges of The United Methodist Church. From 1988-92 he served as president of the University Senate. He is also active in the leadership of the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities and is a member of their board of directors.

*Persons Holding Other Positions Relevant to Academic or Financial Affairs or Church Relationships:*

### *Willa Bing-Harris*

For the past 20 years Willa Bing-Harris has been a professor and a coordinator for special education at Alabama State University, Montgomery. Her responsibilities include teaching graduate and undergraduate courses, writing curriculum, writing and grading comprehensive examinations, and securing placement for practicum students. She serves on the accreditation review committee for the state department of education. She is an active member of Metropolitan United Methodist Church, in the Alabama-West Florida Conference. She has served on the board of directors of the United Methodist Children's Home. She has received numerous awards, including Outstanding Educator, Ford Foundation Fellowship and Consortium of Doctors. She has been recognized in *Who's Who in the South and Southwest*. She received her Ed.D. in education administration and special education administration from the University of Illinois.

### *Frederick Blumer*

Frederick Blumer is currently president of the University Senate, completing his first four-year term. He is currently Moll Professor of Faith and Life at Baldwin-Wallace College, Berea, Ohio. Prior to his position, he distinguished himself as president of Lycoming College and professor and dean at Nebraska Wesleyan University.

### *Dennis M. Campbell*

Dennis M. Campbell is dean of the Divinity School at Duke University and has been active in the life and ministry of the church. A United Methodist clergyman, he has been a pastor, a chaplain, a faculty member and the author of books and articles about theological education and the ministry of the church. He has been a delegate to four General Conferences, as well as the World Methodist Council. He is a member of the Association of United Methodist Theological Schools. Under his leadership, and in cooperation with the Lilly Foundation, the divinity school has developed the highly regarded "United Methodism and American Culture" program.

### *Maxie Dunnam*

Maxie Dunnam is a clergy member of the Kentucky Conference and president of Asbury Theological Seminary He has served on the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry and is chair of world evangelism and on the executive committee of the World Methodist Council. He is former world editor of *The Upper Room*, and for 12 years he was senior minister of Christ United Methodist Church, Memphis, Tenn. He is a presenter on *Disciple Bible Study*, was involved in beginning the Emmaus movement and the Academy of Spiritual Formation, and is the author of 31 books.

### *Justo L. Gonzalez*

Justo L. Gonzalez holds a Ph.D. in historical theology from Yale University. He has served as professor and dean of the Evangelical Seminary of Puerto Rico and as professor at Candler School of Theology. He is now adjunct professor at the Interdenominational Theological Center, Atlanta, and at Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, Ga. He is a well-known preacher, lecturer and prolific writer. He is the author of more than 50 books on theology, preaching, ministry and leadership, published in English and other languages. He is a native Cuban, author of the "Hispanic Creed" and an elder in the Rio Grande Conference.

### *Aubrey K. Lucas*

Aubrey K. Lucas, Ph.D., has been president and professor of higher education, University of Southern Mississippi, for 21 years. As a lifelong United Methodist, he has served the local church as chair of the administrative board, staff-parish relations committee and council on ministries, and as lay leader. He has been his conference lay leader, and chair of the committees on episcopacy and finance and administration. A delegate to the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference from 1984 to 1996, he served on its episcopacy committee. As a delegate to General Conferences, 1984 to 1996, he has also served on the General Board of Global Ministries and the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. He is chair of the American Association of Colleges and Universities and on the board of the American Council on Education

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*David Moldonado*

David Moldonado is an assistant dean of academic affairs at Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University. He has been at Perkins since 1984. Prior to becoming assistant dean, Dr. Moldonado served as professor of church and society. His teaching has been in the area of ministry to older adults, Hispanic ministries, and race relations and the church. A United Methodist clergyman, he has written extensively in the area of aging as well as Hispanic concerns. He has served as a member of the University Senate and its Commission on Theological Schools.

**Top 10 Things to Do During Plenary to Keep from Being Bored**

10. Make paper airplanes out of your *DCA* and launch them.
9. Send a note to your bishop.
8. Sneak liquid onto the plenary floor.
7. Have your delegation sign your hymnal.
6. Count the number of people wearing suits.
5. Rise to a point of personal privilege.
4. Pretend your voting box is a telephone and dial home.
3. Draw a picture of the presiding bishop.
2. Pretend you are in deep prayer and take a nap.
1. Thumb wrestle with the person next to you.

—*Cathy N. Stedman, lay delegate, Central Illinois*

## General Conference Outside the United States?

Because of the nature of United Methodism as a global church, the Northern Europe Executive Committee invited the 2000 General Conference to come to Copenhagen, said Henning Bjerno, committee chair. Following a decision to go to Cleveland, however, the Commission on the General Conference decided to urge the new commission to prepare guidelines for planning a General Conference outside the United States. If the conference were to meet in Europe, the following current attendees to General Conference might be the organizing committee, Mr. Bjerno added.



United Methodism in Northern Europe and Russia is represented by (front row, from left): Rolf Lindell and Berit Carlstroem, Sweden; Bishop Hans Vaexby, Northern Europe Area; Gerlinde Minor; Bishop Ruediger Minor, Eurasia Area; Andrei Kim and Anton Zakharchenko, Russia; (second row) Oyvind Helliesen and Anders Isnes, Norway; Tapani Rajamaa and Iris Rajamaa, Finland; Olav Paernamets and Tarmo Lilleoja, Estonia; Tobias F. Dietze and Elena Stepanova, Russia; (third row) Frederik Wegelius and Markus Soederstroem, Finland-Sweden; Bent Fredsby and Henning Bjerno, Denmark. Not present for the photo: Christian Alsted, Denmark.

*Mike DuBose photo*

# A Windshield Tour of the Consent Calendar

Each morning in the *DCA*, delegates face an increasingly longer list of Consent Calendar items. Items which come out of committees with no more than five dissenting votes are automatically placed on the Consent Calendar and in one fell swoop, delegates vote on these items as a block without further discussion on the floor. Already, the fate of more than 1,000 petitions has been decided in this manner. Hardworking *DCA* staffers have sifted through this daunting pile of legislation and offer the following as actions which may hold particular interest.

April 19
Calendar Item 26
Baptism is the doorway to the sanctified life. There are no conditions of human life that exclude persons from the sacrament of baptism. Baptism is fulfilled only when the believer and the church are wholly conformed to the image of Christ.

April 20
Calendar Item
Annual Conference Accessibility
The annual conference sessions shall be held in places which are accessible to persons with disabilities.

Calendar Item
Membership of a local United Methodist church shall include all baptized persons who have received Christian baptism in the local congregation or whose membership has been transferred to the local United Methodist church subsequent to baptism in some other congregation. *The professing membership of a local United Methodist church shall include all baptized persons* who have come into membership by profession of faith *as expressed in services of baptism,* confirmation, profession of Christian reaffirmation of baptismal vows or transfer.

Calendar Item 249
Care of the Elderly
Whereas, all elderly persons, no matter how frail in body and mind, are persons of sacred worth to whom we owe a duty of care and respect, therefore, be it resolved, that The United Methodist Church will endeavor to identify and publicize programs and institutions that seem to be meeting the needs of elderly individuals; focus locally upon the spiritual, physical and emotional needs of the elderly; explore the need for and development of new approaches in health and social-care delivery; and mobilize the appropriate financial and personnel resources of the boards, agencies and institutions of the church to address this pressing concern.

April 22
Calendar Item 466
The Social Community
We believe that organ transplantation and organ donation are acts of humanity, agape love and self-sacrifice. We recognize the life-giving benefits of organ and other tissue donation and encourage all people of faith to become organ and tissue donors as a part of their love and ministry to others in need.

Calendar Item 467
Family Violence and Abuse
We recognize that family violence/abuse in all its forms—verbal, psychological, physical, sexual—is detrimental to the covenant of the human community. We encourage the church to provide a safe environment, counsel and support for the victim. While we deplore the actions of the abuser, we affirm that person to be *in need* of God's redeeming love.

Calendar Item 579
Reducing the Risk of Child Sexual Abuse in the Church
God calls us to make our churches safe places, protecting children and other vulnerable persons from sexual and ritual abuse. God calls us to create communities where children and adults grow safe and strong. In response to this churchwide challenge, a variety of steps should be taken to reduce the risk of child sexual abuse.

Calendar Item 583
Affirm Purpose of United Methodist Women and Continue Giving Through the Proper Channels
Be it resolved that The United Methodist Church reaffirm the reason for which United Methodist Women came into existence over 100 years ago: to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ through mission outreach of the church, especially to women, children and youth throughout the world. We are, therefore, committed as United Methodists and United Methodist Women to continue our giving through the proper channels of our organization. Acting upon its purpose, United Methodist Women will follow the *Discipline* on the social principles of The United Methodist Church.

April 23
Calendar Item 250
The Sand Creek Apology
Whereas one of the blights on America's past that happened on Nov. 29, 1864, was the predawn attack on Chief Black Kettle's Cheyenne village by Col. Chivington, killing and mutilating many, including helpless and unarmed women and children, and whereas The United Methodist Church has held itself up as a champion of ethnic minority causes and prides itself in its ethnically diverse membership; be it resolved, that this body of the 1996 General Conference extend to all Cheyenne and Arapaho a hand of reconciliation and ask forgiveness for the death of over 200 persons. . . . Let us heal the past and offer to one another the gifts with which God has blessed each of us, acknowledging that racism is a sin, but also seeing one another as whole people who need one another, as we acknowledge that we also need God.

*—Pep Cooke and Linda Patzke*

## March Beyond Our Maps

If you are going to be a leader in the Christian church, there are three things that you must have: a screw loose, a death wish and a sense of humor. That's what Christian Methodist Episcopal (CME) Bishop Thomas Hoyt said at the ecumenical worship service Tuesday morning.

The bishop quoted former World Council of Churches General Secretary Phillip Potter, explaining that to have a screw loose is to be open to the movement of the Spirit. To have a death wish is to choose to be a shepherd, rejecting the crown for a cross. And to have a sense of humor is an absolute necessity to ward off the devil, for the devil never laughs.

His sermon brought delegates to their feet as he urged the conference to march beyond our maps, to take a step of faith where there is no light. He urged the conference to move together in faith into new ecumenical territory.

"We are going through an ecumenical winter," Bishop Hoyt said. "some churches seeking an isolationism into the cocoon of their own self-indulgence." To prevent this, he urged delegates to dream and venture by faith into the ecumenical future.

He asked that delegates dream of a church that has not become one with the world, where God is known; a church truly inclusive and caring, working to meet human needs. In such a manner, United Methodists become risk-takers, willing to march off our maps.

Introduced by songs of praise from the colorfully garbed choir of the Methodist Church of Indonesia, other service participants represented the United Methodist commitment to the ecumenical movement. They included Bruce Robbins, general secretary, General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns; Sheila Greeve Devaney, Roman Catholic professor at Iliff School of Theology; and Leonid Kishkovsky, secretary for ecumenical and external affairs, Orthodox Church in America, and former president, National Council of Churches.

*—Dick Thornburg*

# Legislative Committee Reports

**Church and Society** — (4/22/96, 12 midnight)

*The committee recommended concurrence:*

- Adding a new resolution on abortion clinic violence, which calls the UMC
- to "repent of violence" and "condemn the use of violence against providers of legal services related to productive health";
- Amending the resolution on "Responsible Parenthood";
- Adding two new resolutions on "A Dioxin Free Future" and urging the UMC to "stand against" any political or physical act that denies human and civil rights.

*The committee recommended nonconcurrence:*

- Withdrawing membership in the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice (a minority report was filed).

*—Shanta M. Bryant and Lee Ranck*

**Financial Administration** —(4/22/96)

*The committee recommended concurrence:*

- Formulating a method of determining apportionments;
- Setting the number of special Sundays;
- Maintaining the current language in P906.12 dealing with funding for homosexual advocacy. A substitute motion from Wisconsin failed by three votes, and a minority report is forthcoming;
- Defining General Funds;
- Listing COCU in the Interdenominational Cooperation Funds;
- Continuing to fund the area of Abuse and/or Misuse of Drugs and Alcohol;
- Adding internal auditing function across agencies receiving general church funds.

*The committee referred:*

To GCFA to study a proposal to delete membership from formula for determining apportionments.

*—Joretta Purdue and Erik Alsgaard*

# Delegates Adopt COCU Covenanting Document

The historic adoption yesterday of the Consultation on Church Union (COCU) covenanting document, "Churches in Covenant Communion," is the "first, unique opportunity for the ecumenical movement of the church and grass-roots congregations to meet," said Byrd L. Bonner, lay delegate, Southwest Texas Conference. He joined Albany Area Bishop William Boyd Grove to present the covenant proposal to the General Conference.

In his introductory remarks, Bishop Grove described the division of the church as a "major impediment to our evangelical task." He continued by saying, "We will experience the life of the one church in a new and dynamic way .... The division of the church confuses and repels people," he said.

Bishop Grove said five of the nine COCU churches have already adopted the covenant: the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, the International Council of Community Churches, the Presbyterian Church USA, the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church—Disciples of Christ. Two other historically African-American Methodist denominations will consider it this summer at their General Conferences: the African Methodist Episcopal Church and the African Methodist Episcopal Church Zion. He said no COCU member church has rejected the covenant. The Episcopal Church is still studying the covenant.

Bruce Robbins, general secretary, General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns, said ecumenism welcomes diversity. "Ecumenism is like the Body of Christ. There are so many parts to it. It is not an either/or proposition to build unity that exists among us.

"The church we are called to be is a church welcoming to all," he continued, "with different traditions and perspectives. [The covenant] offers opportunities for churches to grow and be nurtured by one another."

The United Methodist Church has been an active participant in COCU since the early 1960s and part of the eight-year development and study of the covenant document.

What is covenant communion? The proposal cites Scripture highlighting God's call for unity in the church, including the well-known passage in the 17th chapter of John's Gospel—Jesus praying that "they may all be one"—and then describes covenanting as "both an act and a process."

Acknowledging that the covenant process is not designed to eliminate diversity, the document says: "In covenant communion the churches may maintain, for so long as each may determine, their own church structures and traditions, including present forms of worship, systems of ministerial selection, training, and placement, their international confession, and communion relationships, and their mission programs. What covenanting means is that these now separated churches will resolve to live as one in the most basic things—in faith, sacrament, ministry, and mission. Uniformity in structure is not essential to covenant communion."

The move toward union will grow out of the covenant process. For now, there are eight elements of covenanting:

1. claiming unity in faith;
2. commitment to seek unity with wholeness;
3. mutual recognition of members in one baptism;
4. mutual recognition of each other as churches;
5. mutual recognition and reconciliation of ordained ministry;
6. celebrating the Eucharist together;
7. engaging together in Christ's mission;
8. formation of covenanting councils.

One concern surfaced by some United Methodists about ministerial standards in the covenant document is related to denominations that ordain openly gay men and lesbians. The legislative committee that acted on the covenanting proposal reinforced the ability of The United Methodist Church to "maintain its own standards for ministerial training and the ordination of ministers which shall also apply to our reception or transfer of ministers of other denominations, including any prohibitions set by General Conference."

The covenant urges local churches to worship and celebrate the Eucharist together, as well as work together locally in mission. Nearly 70 percent of the delegates voted to adopt "Churches in Covenant Communion."

*—Ann Whiting*

# Additional Petitions

## ¶35

Petition Number 23079-CO-35-C

This petition was referred back to committee and amended as follows under new petition number 23079-CO-35-C. Text in bold italics indicates additions to the original petition.

Amend ¶35:

...the diaconal ministers, **the** *active* **deaconesses** *under episcopal appointment,* the conference president...

## ¶70(e)

Referral from Plenary Session

Petition Number: 23081-CS-70.e-D

Delete ¶70(e) and substitute:

We recognize science as a legitimate interpretation of God's natural world. We affirm the validity of the claims of science in describing the natural world, although we preclude science from making authoritative claims about theological issues. We recognize technology as a legitimate use of God's natural world when such use enhances human life and enables all of God's children to develop their God-given creative potential without violating our ethical convictions about the relationship of humanity to the natural world.

In acknowledging the important roles of science and technology, however, we also believe that theological understandings of human experience are crucial to a full understanding of the place of humanity in the universe. Science and theology echnology are complementary rather than mutually incompatible. We therefore encourage dialogue between the scientific and theological communities, and seek the kind of participation that will enable humanity to sustain life on earth, and by God's grace, increase the quality of our common lives together.

## ¶101

Petition Number: 23080-LC-101-D

Mission of the Church (Referral from Plenary Session)

Delete ¶101 and replace as follows:

I. The Mission

The mission of the Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ.

Rationale for Our Mission

The mission of the Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ by proclaiming the good news of God's grace and thus seeking the fulfillment of God's reign and realm in the world. The fulfillment of God's reign and realm in the world is the vision which Scripture holds before us.

Jesus' words in Matthew 28:19-20 provide the Church with our mission: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you."

This mission is our grace-filled response to the Reign of God in the world announced by Jesus. God's grace is active everywhere, at all times, carrying out this purpose as revealed in the Bible. It is *expressed* in God's covenant with Abraham and Sarah, in the Exodus of Israel from Egypt, and in the ministry of the prophets. It is fully *embodied* in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is *experienced* in the ongoing creation of a new people by the Holy Spirit.

John Wesley and our other spiritual forebears understood this mission in this way. Whenever United Methodism has had a clear sense of mission, God has used our Church to save persons, heal relationships, and transform social structures, and spread scriptural holiness, thereby changing the world. In order to be truly alive, we embrace Jesus' mandate to make disciple of all peoples.

The Process for Carrying Out Our Mission

We make disciples as we:

— proclaim the gospel, seek, welcome and gather persons into the Body of Christ;

— lead persons to commit their lives to God through Jesus Christ;

— nurture persons in Christian living through worship, baptism, communion, Bible and other studies, prayer, and other means of grace;

— send persons into the world to live lovingly and justly as servants of Christ by healing the sick, feeding the hungry, caring for the stranger, and freeing the oppressed; and working to have social structures consistent with the gospel; and

— continue the mission of seeking, welcoming and gathering persons into the community of the Body of Christ.

The Global Nature of Our Mission

The Church seeks to fulfill its global mission through the Spirit-given servant ministries of all Christians, both lay and clergy. Faithfulness and effectiveness demand that all ministries in the Church be shaped by the mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ.

Corrections:

Petition Number: 2 0229-CS-NonDis-O

This petition has been changed and no longer addresses ¶70.1. It has been recoded as non-disciplinary.

**1695**-NonDis-!

Calendar item 1695 was reported with an incorrect vote. The vote should have been For: 51; Against: 4; Not Voting 2.

## Consent Calendar Explanation

There are three consent calendars: A) concurrence with proposed changes to the *Discipline*. B) concurrence with petitions on non-Disciplinary matters. C) non-concurrence on Disciplinary and non-Disciplinary items. The first day items will be listed as **01**. The second day will be listed **02**, and so forth. Items can be placed on the consent calendar if: 1) no more than five votes were cast against the prevailing position; 2) it has no financial implications; 3) the proposal does not require a constitutional amendment. Any five delegates may have a consent calendar item removed by signing the appropriate form found in Room 204. This form must be returned to the secretary by 3 p.m. on the day it appears in the *DCA*.

# Consent Calendar A05

### Correction

**1561**-433
MN307

The recommendation on this calendar item was incorrectly reported and should have been concurrence. It has been removed from consent calendar C04 and added to A05 by the Coordinator of the Calendar.

**1702**-505
**Subject: Bishops in Jurisdictions**
Committee Item: CO177-505-A
Petition:
21720-CO-505-D, Pg. 178
Membership: 86; Present: 70;
For: 66; Against: 1; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

In Paragraph 505.1:

Line 3: Change 325,000" to 320,000"

Line 6: Change 75,000" to 55,000"

Line 6: Beginning with the words one additional bishop for each additional.... delete the remainder of the sentence and insert in lieu thereof: six bishops for the first 400,000 church members or less, and for each additional 290,000 church members or two-thirds thereof shall be entitled to one additional bishop.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1703**-752
**Subject: District Council on Ministries**
Committee Item: CO196-752-A
Petition:
20069-CO-752-D, Pg. 201
Membership: 86; Present: 70;
For: 67; Against: 3; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Amend ¶752:

Each district of an Annual Conference may **organize to develop, administer, and evaluate the missional life, advocacy needs and ministries of the church in and through the district. It shall maintain connectional relationships, organize to develop and strengthen ethnic ministries, including ethnic local churches and concerns, and provide encouragement, coordination and support for local churches in their ministries of nurture, outreach and witness in accordance with the mission of The United Methodist Church.** ~~a district Council on Ministries or alternate structure hereafter referred to as district Council.~~

Delete the remainder of paragraph 752.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1704**-1307
**Subject: National Youth Ministry Organization Steering Committee**
Committee Item: DI52-1307-A
Petition:
21419-DI-1307-D, Pg. 256
Membership: 112; Present: 68;
For: 68; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Amend ¶ 1307:

1. *Membership.*The National Youth Ministry Organization Steering Committee shall consist of youth **and adults** who are **baptized and professing** members ~~(full or preparatory)~~ of The United Methodist Church. **All youth elected to the steering committee shall be at the time of their election entering into the eleventh grade or under or their age shall be sixteen or younger.** It is strongly recommended that at least one-half of these youth shall be from these ~~racial/ethnic groups: Pacific and Asian Americans,~~ racial/~~and~~ethnic minority groups: Asian Americans, Black Americans, Hispanic Americans, ~~and~~ Native Americans, **and Pacific Islanders,** so elected that each ~~racial/ethnic~~ **racial and ethnic minority** group is represented. **It is strongly recommended that at least one youth with a disability be elected.** In addition,...a bishop chosen by the Council of Bishops, ~~an~~ two elected members **(one youth and one adult),** and a staff member related to youth ministry of the General Board of Discipleship, **a General Board of Discipleship/Church School Publications youth editor,** ~~and~~ one ~~board or staff~~ **elected youth** member ~~with voice but not vote,~~ from each of the **three additional program-related general agencies (¶ 803.5), the General Council on Ministries, the General Commission of Religion and Race, the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women, and the General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns, each chosen by their respective agencies. All will serve with voice and vote.** ~~following agencies (to be selected at a regular meeting of the agency): the General Board of Church and Society, the General Board of Global Ministries, the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, the General Board of Discipleship, the Curriculum Resources Committee, the General Council on Ministries, the General Commission of Religion and Race, the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women, and the General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns.~~ Additional board or staff representatives may be added at the discretion of the steering committee. ~~All youth elected to the steering committee shall be at the time of their election entering into the eleventh grade or under or their age shall be sixteen or younger.~~

2. *Election.a)* Each jurisdiction shall elect ~~two~~ **three** youth and one adult worker with youth to the National Youth Ministry Organization Steering Committee, **with at least one youth being a racial and ethnic minority youth (¶ 632)** ~~at the National Youth Ministry Organization Legislative Assembly~~. It is strongly recommended that the legislative assembly ~~shall~~ elect members at large so that **youth with disabilities and** all

~~four~~ five racial and ethnic minority groups are represented on the ~~National Youth Ministry Organization~~ Steering Committee. It is strongly recommended that if no ~~racial/ethnic~~ racial and ethnic minority group adult is elected to the ~~National Youth Ministry Organization~~ Steering Committee, the ~~National Youth Ministry Organization~~ Legislative Assembly ~~shall~~ may elect a ~~racial/ethnic~~ racial and ethnic minority adult at large to be a National Youth Ministry Organization Steering Committee member. ~~Ten youth (two from each jurisdiction; it is strongly recommended that at least one of whom must be a racial/ethnic group member) shall be elected in the alternate years at the Jurisdictional Youth Ministry Convocation (¶ 632).~~ It is strongly recommended that if all ~~four racial/ethnic~~ five racial and ethnic minority groups are not represented, the National Youth Ministry Organization Steering Committee ~~shall~~ may elect additional members at large so that all five groups are represented ~~on the National Youth Ministry Organization Steering Committee~~.

*b)*(2) The ~~National Youth Ministry Organization~~ Steering Committee shall fill vacancies to maintain ~~racial/ethnic~~ racial and ethnic minority representation as required by §2*a* above...

3. *Term.*The term for ~~National Youth Ministry Organization~~ Steering Committee members...

*a)* Members cannot serve two consecutive terms,~~.~~

~~*b) Members*~~ and shall begin their term immediately upon adjournment of the jurisdictional convocation or ~~National Youth Ministry Organization~~ Legislative Assembly at which they were elected and shall conclude upon the adjournment of the next respective jurisdictional convocation or ~~National Youth Ministry Organization~~ Legislative Assembly.

~~*c)b)* The term for board...concludes at the end of the National Youth Ministry Organization~~ Steering Committee meeting...

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1705-1217

**Subject: Leadership and Ministry Development Responsibilities**
Committee Item: DI71-1217-A
Petition:
22205-DI-1217-D, Pg. 1283
Membership: 112; Present: 70;
For: 69; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Add a new sentence at the end of ¶ 1217.9:

**This distribution also may apply to ~~certified lay speakers~~lay persons who have been assigned pastoral roles in a church or in more than one church by the district superintendent.**

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1706-1218

**Subject: Christian Discipleship Formation Responsibilities**
Committee Item: DI72-1218-A
Petition:
21409-DI-1218-D, Pg. 252
Membership: 112; Present: 70;
For: 66; Against: 4; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Amend ¶ 1218:

*Christian Discipleship Formation Responsibilities.*—**The board shall:** 1. ~~To i~~**Interpret the basics of Christian ~~living~~ discipleship ~~in accordance with the general rule of discipleship; To~~ through groups that** witness to Jesus Christ in the world and ~~to~~ follow his teachings through acts of compassion, ~~faith sharing,~~ justice, worship, ~~and~~ devotion, **faith-sharing, study, and contemplation,** under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

2. ~~To p~~**Provide resources, training, and support services...**

3. ~~To p~~**Provide resources, training, and support services for revitalizing the role of Class Leaders (¶269), so that they may interpret the general rule of discipleship (acts of compassion, ~~faith sharing,~~ justice, worship, ~~and~~ devotion and faith-sharing) to all church members, and thereby nurture congregations through such means of grace as prayer and Bible study in the privileges and obligations of their discipleship.**

**4. Provide resources, training, and support services for leaders in various small groups that emerge to meet the needs of people in congregations.**

**45.** ~~To p~~**Provide interpretative resources and training for the grounding of Covenant Discipleship Groups, Class Leaders, and ~~other forms of congregational leadership~~ small group leadership, in the richness of ~~the Methodist~~ our Wesleyan traditions.**

**56.** ~~To p~~**Provide resources and support services ~~which link the basic guidelines of the general rule of discipleship (acts of compassion, faith sharing, justice, worship, and devotion) with more particular dimensions of~~ that equip persons for faithful Christian living in the world, and especially those ~~program~~ areas for which the General Board of Discipleship has responsibility.**

**67.** ~~To p~~**Provide consultative services to jurisdictions, conferences, and districts, in the introduction and development of Covenant Discipleship Groups, ~~and~~ Class Leaders, and small group ministries in congregations.**

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1707-1218.5

**Subject: Christian Formation Responsibilities**
Committee Item: DI74-1218.5-C
Petition:
22206-DI-1218.5-D, Pg. 1283
Membership: 112; Present: 70;
For: 67; Against: 3; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1708-1220

**Subject: Committee on Family Life**
Committee Item: DI77-1220-C
Petition:
21412-DI-1220-D, Pg. 253
Membership: 112; Present: 104;
For: 100; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1709-1221.4

**Subject: Membership of the Committee on Older Adult Ministries,**
Committee Item: DI78-1221.4-C
Petition:
20317-DI-1221.4-D, Pg. 254
Membership: 112; Present: 101;
For: 100; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1710-1224.2

**Subject: Curriculum Resources Committee**
Committee Item: DI79-1224.2-C
Petition:
21414-DI-1224.2-D, Pg. 254
Membership: 112; Present: 43;

For: 93; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1711-1225
**Subject: Curriculum Resources**
Committee Item: DI80-1225-C
Petition:
22745-DI-1225-D, Pg. 1284
Membership: 112; Present: 68;
For: 61; Against: 7; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1712-730.1
**Subject: Conference Board of Laity**
Committee Item: DI82-730.1-A
Petition:
21631-DI-730.1-D, Pg. 243
Membership: 112; Present: 104;
For: 102; Against: 1; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Amend ¶ 730.1:

1. *Conference Board of Laity.* There shall be in every Annual Conference a conference Board of the Laity **or other equivalent structure to provide for these functions and maintain the connectional relationship.** ~~which~~ It shall provide...

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1713-730.3
**Subject: Membership of the Conference Board of Laity**
Committee Item: DI91-730.3-C
Petition:
20313-DI-730.3-D, Pg. 243
Membership: 112; Present: 101;
For: 100; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1714-729.2
**Subject: Responsibilities in the Area of Christian Education and Age Level Ministries**
Committee Item: DI106-729.2-C
Petition:
21388-DI-729.2-D, Pg. 242
Membership: 112; Present: 101;
For: 100; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1715-757.2
**Subject: District Board of Laity**
Committee Item: DI107-757.2-A
Petition:
22512-DI-757.2-D, Pg. 1282
Membership: 112; Present: 70;
For: 68; Against: 1; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Amend ¶ 757.2:

2. The membership of the board shall include district lay leader, associate district lay leader(s), ~~and~~ district director of lay speaking, **and may include the district superintendent,** ~~and may include~~....

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1716-757.2
**Subject: Membership of the District Board of Laity**
Committee Item: DI109-757.2-C
Petition:
20314-DI-757.2-D, Pg. 245
Membership: 112; Present: 101;
For: 100; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1717-757
**Subject: District Board of Laity**
Committee Item: DI113-757-C
Petition:
22405-DI-757-D, Pg. 1282
Membership: 112; Present: 98;
For: 96; Against: 0; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1718-226
**Subject: Care of Members**
Committee Item: DI117-226-C
Petition:
21438-DI-226-D, Pg. 948
Membership: 112; Present: 86;
For: 85; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1719-227
**Subject: Affiliate and Associate Members**
Committee Item: DI118-227-C
Petition:
21439-DI-227-D, Pg. 949
Membership: 112; Present: 86;
For: 85; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1720-228.1
**Subject: To Affirm the Task of Continuous Nurture of Children**
Committee Item: DI119-228.1-C
Petition:
21517-DI-228.1-D, Pg. 949
Membership: 112; Present: 87;
For: 86; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1721-229
**Subject: Care of Professing Members**
Committee Item: DI120-229-C
Petition:
21440-DI-229-D, Pg. 949
Membership: 112; Present: 86;
For: 85; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1722-264.1
**Subject: The Church School**
Committee Item: DI121-264.1-C
Petition:
21451-DI-264.1-D, Pg. 962
Membership: 112; Present: 86;
For: 85; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1723-729.1
**Subject: General Responsibilities**
Committee Item: DI133-729.1-C
Petition:
21385-DI-729.1-D, Pg. 241
Membership: 112; Present: 94;
For: 93; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1724-729.4
**Subject: Responsibilities in the Area of Worship**
Committee Item: DI134-729.4-C
Petition:
21390-DI-729.4-D, Pg. 242
Membership: 112; Present: 93;
For: 93; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1725-729.6
**Subject: Responsibilities in the Area of Devotional Life**
Committee Item: DI135-729.6-C
Petition:
21393-DI-729.6-D, Pg. 242
Membership: 112; Present: 93;
For: 93; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1726-729.3
**Subject: Responsibilities in the Area of Evangelism**
Committee Item: DI136-729.3-C
Petition:
21389-DI-729.3-D, Pg. 242
Membership: 112; Present: 93;
For: 93; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1727-729.3
**Subject: Board of Discipleship "Area on Evangelism" for Ministries of Criminal Justice and Mercy Ministry**
Committee Item: DI137-729.3-A
Petition:
22201-DI-729.3-D, Pg. 1281
Membership: 112; Present: 96;
For: 95; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Amend ¶ 729.3*e*:

3. *e)* To give particular emphasis to the promotion of programs of evangelism, which ~~shall~~ may include ~~Criminal Justice and Mercy M~~ministries in jails and prisons with offenders, victims, and their families, in order that all persons....

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1728-729.6
**Subject: Responsibilities in the Area of Spiritual Formation**
Committee Item: DI140-729.6-C
Petition:
21392-DI-729.6-D, Pg. 242
Membership: 112; Present: 93;
For: 93; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1729-729.6
**Subject: Responsibilities in the Area of Spiritual Formation**
Committee Item: DI141-729.6-C
Petition:
21391-DI-729.6-D, Pg. 242
Membership: 112; Present: 101;
For: 100; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1730-1223
**Subject: Men's Division**
Committee Item: DI153-1223-A
Petition:
20881-DI-1223-D, Pg. 254
Membership: 112; Present: 96;
For: 92; Against: 1; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Add number 7 which reads:

**Membership-The GBOD will assign one Bishop, the National President of United Methodist Men, the 5 Jurisdictional Presidents of United Methodist Men, the Central Conference President of United Methodist Men and 5 additional GBOD members to include one woman and ethnic representation to the Division. In addition the National Association of Conference Presidents of United Methodist Men (NACPUMM) may provide 5 at large members to the Mens Division with voice and vote in the Mens Division. The NACPUMM will be responsible for expenses of the at large members.**

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1731-282
**Subject: Lay Missioners**
Committee Item: DI162-282-A
Petition:
21619-DI-282-D, Pg. 239
Membership: 112; Present: 76;
For: 74; Against: 0; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Add a new ¶ after existing ¶ 281:

**Lay Missioners are committed lay persons, mostly volunteers, who are willing to be trained and work in a team with a pastor-mentor to develop faith communities, establish community ministries, develop church school extension programs and engage in congregational development. ~~All Lay Missioners must be certified by their Annual Conference according to guidelines established.~~ All lay missioners must follow the guidelines established by the National Committee on Hispanic Ministries of the National Plan for Hispanic Ministries, and may be certified by their Annual Conference. If Annual Conferences choose to certify lay missioners, they must do so according to the guidelines. They are accountable to their pastor-mentor as a member of the ministry team. The ministry team is accountable to the local congregation or sponsoring body that established the goals for the ministry and assigned the ministry team. The Lay Missioner is accountable to the policies and procedures of the Annual Conference where assigned. The concept of lay missioners is theologically based in the ministry of the laity. While lay missioners are engaged in a variety of ministries, their purpose is to complement, not replace pastors.**

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1732**-1222
**Subject: Comprehensive Youth Ministry**
Committee Item: DI192-1222-C
Petition:
21413-DI-1222-D, Pg. 254
Membership: 112; Present: 100;
For: 100; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1733**-1304
**Subject: Structure of the National Youth Ministry Organization**
Committee Item: DI193-1304-C
Petition:
21415-DI-1304-D, Pg. 254
Membership: 112; Present: 100;
For: 100; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1734**-1209
**Subject: Educational Standards**
Committee Item: DI194-1209-C
Petition:
21403-DI-1209-D, Pg. 249
Membership: 112; Present: 101;
For: 100; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1735**-69
**Subject: Mission Statement**
Committee Item: DI195-69-A
Petition:
20371-DI-69-D, Pg. 236
Membership: 112; Present: 73;
For: 71; Against: 0; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Delete ¶ 69, *Book of Discipline*.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1736**-906.10
**Subject: Fiscal Responsibilities**
Committee Item: FA96-906.10-C
Petition:
21576-FA-906.10-D, Pg. 368
Membership: 113; Present: 80;
For: 80; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1737**-910
**Subject: Definition of "General Funds"**
Committee Item: FA98-910-A
Petition:
21584-FA-910-D, Pg. 371
Membership: 113; Present: 92;
For: 92; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

References to paragraph 901 should be paragraph 801.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1738**-906.6
**Subject: Fiscal Responsibilities**
Committee Item: FA129-906.6-C
Petition:
21575-FA-906.6-D, Pg. 368
Membership: 113; Present: 80;
For: 80; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1739**-906.5
**Subject: Fiscal Responsibilities**
Committee Item: FA130-906.5-A
Petition:
21574-FA-906.5-D, Pg. 368
Membership: 113; Present: 80;
For: 77; Against: 3; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Para. 906.5

Following ~~and~~ budget control insert **and internal auditing. . . The council shall establish and conduct the internal auditing functions for all agencies receiving general church funds.**

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1740**-906.4
**Subject: Fiscal Responsibilities**
Committee Item: FA131-906.4-C
Petition:
21573-FA-906.4-D, Pg. 368
Membership: 113; Present: 80;
For: 80; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1741**-906.3
**Subject: Fiscal Responsibilities**
Committee Item: FA132-906.3-C
Petition:
21572-FA-906.3-D, Pg. 368
Membership: 113; Present: 80;
For: 80; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1742**-911.3
**Subject: General Policies**
Committee Item: FA134-911.3-C
Petition:
21587-FA-911.3-D, Pg. 372
Membership: 113; Present: 80;
For: 80; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1743**-911.2
**Subject: General Policies**
Committee Item: FA135-911.2-C
Petition:
21586-FA-911.2-D, Pg. 371
Membership: 113; Present: 80;
For: 80; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1744**-918.2
**Subject: The Church of Christ Uniting in the Interdenominational Cooperation Fund**
Committee Item: FA146-918.2-C
Petition:
20018-FA-918.2-D, Pg. 373
Membership: 113; Present: 90;
For: 90; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence **contingent upon approval by General Conference of COCU.**

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1745-905.1
**Subject: Organization**
Committee Item: FA229-905.1-C
Petition:
21569-FA-905.1-D, Pg. 366
Membership: 113; Present: 80;
For: 80; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1746-1412.7
**Subject: Membership of the General Board of Global Ministries**
Committee Item: GJ59-1412.7-C
Petition:
21330-GJ-1412.7-D, Pg. 755
Membership: 98; Present: 55;
For: 55; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1747-1412
**Subject: Membership of the General Board of Global Ministries**
Committee Item: GJ60-1412-C
Petition:
21325-GJ-1412-D, Pg. 754
Membership: 98; Present: 55;
For: 55; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1748-2006.1
**Subject: Composition of the General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns**
Committee Item: GJ61-2006.1-C
Petition:
21070-GJ-2006.1-D, Pg. 911
Membership: 98; Present: 55;
For: 55; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1749-810.5
**Subject: General Agency Members on Annual Conference Agencies**
Committee Item: GJ84-810.5-C
Petition:
20615-GJ-810.5-D, Pg. 701
Membership: 98; Present: 55;
For: 55; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1750-812
**Subject: Vacancies**
Committee Item: GJ87-812-C
Petition:
21656-GJ-812-D, Pg. 701
Membership: 98; Present: 55;
For: 55; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1751-812
**Subject: Board and agency membership changes**
Committee Item: GJ151-812-C
Petition:
20073-GJ-812-D, Pg. 701
Membership: 98; Present: 55;
For: 55; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1752-1007
**Subject: Membership of the General Council on Ministries**
Committee Item: GJ189-1007-A
Petition:
21659-GJ-1007-D, Pg. 708
Membership: 98; Present: 86;
For: 86; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/21

The Committee recommends concurrence by substitution as amended as follows:

Amend Paragraph 1007 as follows:

¶ 1007. Organization.1. Membership.a) The membership of the council shall consist of ~~:~~ **sixty-four (64) members constituted in accordance with (¶ 805.3a) of the General Provisions. The membership shall be constituted as follows:**

**(1) Jurisdictional members-Clergy, laywomen and laymen shall be elected to the council by the jurisdictional conference upon nomination from the annual conference in accordance with ¶ 805.3b, based on the following formula: North Central - 6, Northeastern - 7, South Central -8, Southeastern - 11 and Western - 3.**

(a) ~~(1) One member from each Annual Conference and Missionary Conference within the United States and Puerto Rico~~ **These members shall be** elected by the jurisdictional conference from a list of nominees submitted by each annual conference and each Missionary Conference which shall include at least one laywoman, one layman, and one from the clergy, with special attention to the inclusion of clergywomen ~~,~~ **and racial ethnic persons.** The nominations from the ~~Annual Conference~~ **Jurisdictions** shall be made from the General Conference delegates. If there is not an adequate number of persons from the nominees, additional nominees may be selected from the jurisdictional delegates, and if additional nominees are further required, they may be selected from the membership of the **Jurisdiction** ~~Annual Conference~~. The above members shall consist, so far as possible, of one-third laywomen, one-third laymen, and one-third clergy.

**(2) Supplemental Members One central conference member from the North Shaba Annual Conference and one member from the Nigeria Annual Conference as supplemental members according to the provisions of ¶805.2c.**

**(3)** ~~(7) Three~~ **Five (5)** persons from Central Conferences, **at least two** ~~one~~ clergy, **two laywomen** ~~one laywoman~~, **one laymen** ~~one layman~~, and one alternate for each (who may attend if the elected member for whom he/she is the alternate cannot attend) nominated by the Council of Bishops and elected by the General Council on Ministries~~;~~.

**(4)** ~~(2)~~ A bishop from each jurisdiction and one bishop from the Central Conferences selected by the Council of Bishops (see ¶ 810.10);

**(5)** ~~(3)~~ One **additional** youth from ~~each~~ **the Northeastern and Western J**jurisdictions under the age of eighteen at the time of their election, nominated by the Jurisdictional Youth Ministry Organization and elected by the jurisdictional conference ;

**(6)** ~~(4)~~ One young adult under age thirty at the time of their election from ~~each~~ **the North Central, South Central and Southeastern J**jurisdictions elected by the jurisdictional conference;

**(7)** ~~(6) Fifteen~~ **Ten (10)** additional members to be elected by the council;

(a) ~~c~~ Of the additional members elected by the council, in order to ensure that one-fourth of the council's member-

ship may represent racial and ethnic groups, it is recommended that there shall be not less than two representatives from each of the following groups: Asian Americans, Black Americans, Hispanic Americans, ~~and~~ Native Americans **and Pacific Islanders**. (The council shall receive nominations from the racial and ethnic caucuses and ethnic annual conferences of these respective groups prior to the report of their nominating committee.) Insofar as possible, these additional members should be one-third laywomen, one-third laymen, and one-third clergy, with special attention to the inclusion of at least one clergywoman from each jurisdiction. **Insofar as possible, these additional members will come from annual conferences not currently represented.**

**(b) It is further recommended that the council elect at least one member without vote from among the member churches of the Consultation on Church Union other than The United Methodist Church as an additional member.**

**(8) One member elected by the Iglesia Metodista Autónoma Afiliada de Puerto Rico.**

**(9) The Council shall also include** ~~T~~ the general secretaries who serve as the chief executive officers of the general program agencies; the publisher and a representative of the General Board of Publication; the general secretary ~~and a representative~~ of the General Commission on Archives and History; the general secretary ~~and a representative~~ of the General Commission on Communication; ~~and the director of the Advance shall be members~~ with voice but without vote.[25] **The agency may provide additional representatives with voice at the expense of the agency.**

**(10) The Chairperson of the National Association of Conference Council Directors.**

**(11) If not otherwise provided at the beginning of the quadrennium, one Conference Council Director per jurisdiction shall be elected as a voting member of the council.**

**(12) The elected staff shall sit with the council with voice but without vote.**

b) No member ~~s~~ of the council ~~representing Annual Conferences, members at large, and bishops, except the bishop from the Western Jurisdiction,~~ shall ~~not~~ serve on any boards or commissions or the divisions thereof having representation on the General Council on Ministries.

c) ~~d)~~ In order to ensure representation of older adults, it is recommended that at least one clergy member, one layman member, and one laywoman member be over sixty-five years of age.

**d) In order to ensure representation of youth and young adults, it is recommended that the total membership be constituted by at least 5% youth and 5% young adults.**

e) It is recommended that each jurisdictional conference give consideration to electing to membership on the council at least one-third of the same persons elected to the council by the preceding jurisdictional conference.

f) When the committee selected to nominate the additional members of the General Council on Ministries meets prior to the organizational meeting, it shall determine the number of persons nominated by the annual conference and elected by the jurisdictional conference who were members of the council the previous quadrennium. If the number is less than ten ~~twenty~~, the Nominating Committee is encouraged to ~~shall~~ nominate enough persons from the eligible membership of the council in the previous quadrennium to bring this number to ten. ~~twenty. These persons shall be in addition to the fifteen additional members.~~

g) The members of the council shall serve for four years or until the convening of the organizational meeting. No voting member shall be eligible to serve for more than two consecutive four-year terms.

h) If a bishop is unable to attend a meeting of the council, that bishop may designate an alternate bishop from the same jurisdiction.

Amend para 1007.5d as follows:

d) Administering Agencies.Agencies authorized to recommend projects and receive and administer funds for general Advance special projects shall be ~~the World and National Divisions and~~ the **following designated programmatic units of the General Board of Global Ministries: Evangelization and Church Growth Program Area, Community and Institutional Ministries Program Area, Mission Contexts and Relationships Program Area, Mission Personnel Program Area,** United Methodist Committee on Relief, ~~Department of the General Board of Global Ministries,~~ and such other agencies as are designated by the General Council on Ministries. The administering agencies shall report annually to the Advance Committee on the financial progress of projects and assist in providing programmatic information as requested.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1753-1106

**Subject: Organization of the General Board of Church and Society**

Committee Item: GJ190-1106-A

Petition:
21647-GJ-1106-D, Pg. 128

Membership: 98; Present: 86;
For: 86; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/21

The Committee recommends concurrence by substitution as amended as follows:

Amend Paragraph 1106 as follows:

¶ 1106. Organization.**1.** The General Board of Church and Society shall **have sixty-three (63) members constituted in accordance with ¶ 805.3a and be** ~~composed according to the instructions defined for all program boards in~~ **organized as specified in its By-Laws and in harmony with** ¶802-810 of the General Provisions. ~~with the addition of three Central conference members one clergy, one layman and one laywoman to be elected by the Council of Bishops upon nomination by the Central Conference College of Bishops.~~

**The membership shall be constituted as follows:**

**a) Jurisdictional membersClergy, laywomen and laymen shall be elected to the board by the Jurisdictional conference upon nomination from the Annual Conference in accordance with ¶ 805.3b, based on the following formula: North Central - 7, Northeastern - 8, South Central - 10, Southeastern - 13 and Western - 3.**

**b) Supplemental Members One member from Central Zaire Annual Conference and one member from North Shaba Annual Conference.**

**c) Central Conference members-Four Central Conference members shall be elected to the board on nomination by the Council of Bishops, according to the provisions in ¶805.3c.**

**d) Episcopal membersSix (6) episcopal members, including at least one (1) from the Central Conferences, shall be named by the Council of Bishops.**

**e) One member elected by Iglesia Metodista Autónoma Afiliada de Puerto Rico.**

**f) Additional members(1) United MethodistAdditional members are**

nominated by a committee composed of three persons from each jurisdiction (one clergy, one laywomen and one layman) elected by the jurisdictional conference. They shall elect up to nine (9) additional members to ensure inclusivity and expertise.

(2) It is recommended that the board elect at least one of the additional members without vote, from among the other churches of the Consultation on Church Union.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1754-1204

**Subject: Organization of the General Board of Discipleship**
Committee Item: GJ192-1204-A
Petition:
21648-GJ-1204-D, Pg. 247
Membership: 98; Present: 86;
For: 86; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence by substitution as amended as follows:

Amend Paragraph 1204 as follows:

1204. Organization.1. The board shall consist of **sixty-three (63) members constituted in accordance with ¶ 805.3a of the General Provisions.** ~~the number of members as defined in ¶ 805 of the general provisions with the addition of these Central Conference persons (one of whom shall be a woman): one bishop or an alternate bishop (¶ 810.10), one clergy, and one layperson, to be elected by the Council of Bishops. In addition there shall be one layman from each jurisdiction who shall be the president of the Jurisdictional Committee of United Methodist Men or, because of the inability of the president to serve, another elected by and from the Jurisdictional Committee on United Methodist Men (¶ 635) and two laymen, one of which shall be the president of the National Association of Conference Presidents United Methodist Men or, because of the inability of the president to serve, the elected first vice president, and one elected president from a national organization of United Methodist Men of a Central Conference or conferences who shall be selected by the Commission on Central Conference Affairs.~~ It shall be organized to accomplish its work through elected officers as prescribed in ¶ 808.

**The Membership shall be constituted as follows:**

**a. Jurisdictional membersClergy, laywomen and laymen shall be elected to the board by the Jurisdictional Conference upon nomination from the annual conference in accordance with ¶805.3b, based on the following formula: North Central - 7, Northeastern - 8, South Central - 10, Southeastern - 13 and Western - 3, provided however that** ~~In addition~~ there shall be one layman from each jurisdiction who shall be the president of the Jurisdictional Committee of United Methodist Men or, because of the inability of the president to serve, another elected by and from the Jurisdictional Committee on United Methodist Men (¶ 635).

**b. Supplemental Members One member from the South Shaba Annual Conference and one member from the Nigeria Annual Conference as supplemental members according to the provisions of ¶805.2c.**

**c. Central Conference members-Five (5) Central Conference members shall be elected to the board on nomination by the Council of Bishops, according to the provisions in para. 805.3c, including** one elected president from a national organization of United Methodist Men of a Central Conference or conferences who shall be selected by the Commission on Central Conference Affairs.

**d. Episcopal memberssix (6) episcopal members, including at least one (1) from the Central Conferences, shall be named by the Council of Bishops.**

**e. One member elected by Iglesia Metodista Autónoma Afiliada de Puerto Rico.**

**f. Additional members—(1) United Methodist- Additional members are nominated by a committee composed of three persons from each jurisdiction (one clergy, one laywoman and one layman) elected by the Jurisdictional Conference. They shall elect up to eight (8) additional members to assure inclusivity and expertise. (2) It is recommended that the board elect at least one of the additional members without vote, from among the other churches of the Consultation on Church Union.**

**g. The membership shall also include the president of the National Association of Conference Presidents of United Methodist Men or, because of the inability of the president to serve, the elected first vice-president.**

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1755-1204

**Subject: Organization**
Committee Item: GJ193-1204-C
Petition:
21399-GJ-1204-D, Pg. 247
Membership: 98; Present: 56;
For: 56; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1756-1412.1

**Subject: Membership of the General Board of Global Ministries**
Committee Item: GJ194-1412.1-C
Petition:
21326-GJ-1412.1-D, Pg. 754
Membership: 98; Present: 56;
For: 56; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1757-1429

**Subject: Membership of the Women's Division**
Committee Item: GJ199-1429-C
Petition:
21336-GJ-1429-D, Pg. 759
Membership: 98; Present: 56;
For: 56; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1758-1507

**Subject: Organization of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry**
Committee Item: GJ200-1507-A
Petition:
21663-GJ-1507-D, Pg. 822
Membership: 98; Present: 86;
For: 86; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/21

The Committee recommends concurrence by substitution as amended as follows:

Amend Paragraph 1507 as follows:

¶ 1507. Organization.**1.** The membership ~~of this board~~ shall be **sixty-four (64) persons constituted in accordance with ¶805.3a of the General Provisions.** ~~and with the addition of these Central Conference members: Six persons~~

~~and one alternate for each who may attend if the elected member cannot attend. In the election of the delegates by the Commission on Central Conference Affairs, two shall be clergy, two laymen, and two laywomen. This provision shall take effect immediately after the conclusion of General Conference. If a vacancy occurs in the board, it shall be filled in accordance with ¶ 812.~~

**The membership shall be constituted as follows:**

**a. Jurisdictional membersClergy, laywomen and laymen shall be elected to the board by the jurisdictional conference upon nomination from the annual conference in accordance with ¶805.3b, based on the following formula: North Central - 8, Northeastern - 8, South Central - 10, Southeastern - 13 and Western - 3.**

**b. Supplemental membersOne member from North Shaba Annual Conference and one member from South Shaba Annual Conference shall be elected as supplemental members according to the provisions of ¶805.2c.**

**c. Central Conference members-Four (4) Central Conference members shall be elected to the board on nomination by the Council of Bishops, according to the provisions in ¶ 805.3c.**

**d. Episcopal membersSix (6) episcopal members, shall be named by the Council of Bishops, including at least one (1) from the Central Conferences (see ¶ 810.10).**

**e. One member elected by Iglesia Metodista Autónoma Afiliada de Puerto Rico.**

**f. Additional members(1) United MethodistAdditional members are nominated by a committee composed of three persons from each jurisdiction (one clergy, one laywomen and one layman) elected by the jurisdictional conference. They shall elect up to nine (9) additional members to assure inclusivity and expertise. (2) It is recommended that the board elect at least one of the additional members without vote from among the other churches of the Consultation on Church Union.**

g. If a vacancy occurs in the board, it shall be filled in accordance with ¶ 812.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1759-1804.2

**Subject: Membership of the General Commission on Archives and History**

Committee Item: GJ202-1804.2-C
Petition:
20766-GJ-1804.2-D, Pg. 906
Membership: 98; Present: 56;
For: 56; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1760-1907.1

**Subject: Membership of the General Commission on Communications**

Committee Item: GJ205-1907.1-A
Petition:
21668-GJ-1907.1-D, Pg. 909
Membership: 98; Present: 86;
For: 86; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/21

The Committee recommends concurrence by substitution as follows:

Amend Paragraph 1907.1 as follows:

¶ 1907. Organization.1. Membership.The **membership** ~~affairs~~ of the General Commission on Communication shall be ~~governed by a commission~~ composed of **twenty-six (26) members as follows:**

**a. Two** ~~t~~hree bishops elected ~~selected~~ by the Council of Bishops ~~;~~ **.**

**b.** ~~four persons (it is recommended that there be two men and two women including at least one clergy, one laywoman, and one layman) elected by each Jurisdictional Conference,~~ **sixteen members elected by the jurisdictional conferences based on the following formula: North Central- 3, Northeastern- 3, South Central- 4, Southeastern-4 and Western- 2. It is recommended that at least one of the persons elected by the jurisdictional conferences be a racial/ethnic minority person.**

**c. One member of the Central Conferences elected by the Council of Bishops.**

**d.** ~~fifteen~~ **Seven** additional members elected by the commission to ensure membership of persons with expertise in the field of communication ~~; . and two members of the General Council on Ministries, selected by the council. It is recommended that each of the following groups be represented in the commission: Asian Americans, Black Americans, Hispanic Americans, Native Americans, clergywomen, youth, young adults, and persons over sixty five.~~

**e.** The additional members shall be nominated by a committee composed of one commission member designated from each jurisdiction and one of the member bishops. ~~Members from the General Council on Ministries shall be assigned to the Division of Program and Benevolence Interpretation. It is recommended that all slots be filled with an eye to racial, gender and age level inclusiveness.~~

**f. In order to ensure inclusiveness, the composition of the commission shall reflect the major recognized categories of church members (see ¶ 805.1 and**

**¶ 805.2a).**

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1761-2006

**Subject: Membership of the General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns**

Committee Item: GJ208-2006-A
Petition:
21669-GJ-2006-D, Pg. 910
Membership: 98; Present: 86;
For: 86; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/21

The Committee recommends concurrence by substitution as follows:

¶ 2006. 1. The General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns shall be composed of **thirty-eight (38)** United Methodists as follows:

**a. F** four (4) bishops appointed by the Council of Bishops, one of whom shall be the ~~secretary~~ **ecumenical officer** of the Council of Bishops and one of whom shall be from a Central Conference;

**b.** ~~four~~ **P** persons from each jurisdiction **based on the following formula: ; North Central- 5, Northeastern- 4, South Central- 6, Southeastern- 5 and Western- 2** and elected by the Jurisdictional Conferences (see ¶ 805);

**c. One (1) person from the Central Conferences elected by the Council of Bishops;**

**d.** ~~fourteen~~ **Nine (9) additional members** ~~other persons~~ with vote selected by the elected commission at the organizational meeting. It is recommended that persons elected by each jurisdiction and by the General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns be inclusive of ethnic representation -Asian American, Black American, Hispanic American, ~~and~~ Native American, **and youth and young adults.**

**e.** Two (2) additional members with vote may include persons from the other churches in the Consultation on Church Union.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1762-2103

**Subject: Membership of the Commission on Religion and Race**
Committee Item: GJ210-2103-A
Petition:
21670-GJ-2103-D, Pg. 912
Membership: 98; Present: 86;
For: 86; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/21

The Committee recommends concurrence by substitution as follows:

Amend Paragraph 2103 as follows:

¶ 2103. Membership.1. The total membership of the commission shall be **forty-three** (43), ~~eight~~, composed of

**a) T** ~~t~~wo bishops appointed by the Council of Bishops,

**b)** ~~six~~ **Twenty-seven (27)** persons elected by **the** ~~each~~ jurisdictions from the annual conference nominations, **based on the following formula: North Central- 5, Northeastern- 6, South Central- 6, Southeastern- 6 and Western- 4.** ~~and~~

**(1)** It is recommended that ~~at least four of the six~~ persons elected by each jurisdiction ~~be~~ **include persons** from each ethnic group~~s~~ (Asian American, Black American, Hispanic American, ~~and~~ Native American **and Pacific Islanders**). At least two ~~of the six~~ shall be women, and at least one under the age of thirty.

**c)** ~~sixteen~~ **Thirteen (13)** additional members to be elected by the commission.

**d) One member elected by Iglesia Metodista Autónoma Afiliada de Puerto Rico.**

Further, it is recommended that of the **additional** members ~~at large~~, **at least two** ~~four~~ members shall be elected from each of the five ~~four~~ racial and ethnic groups (Asian American, Black American, Hispanic American, ~~and~~ Native American **and Pacific Islanders**). Of the ~~sixteen~~ **thirteen** additional members there shall be two young adults between the ages of nineteen and thirty and two youth under nineteen.[59]

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1763-2204

**Subject: Membership of the Commission on the Status and Role of Women**
Committee Item: GJ212-2204-A
Petition:
21671-GJ-2204-D, Pg. 913
Membership: 98; Present: 86;
For: 86; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/21

The Committee recommends concurrence by substitution as follows:

Amend Paragraph 2204 as follows:

¶ 2204. Membership.1. The policies, plans, and administration of the work of the general commission shall be determined by its membership which shall be composed **of forty-three (43) persons** in accord with the following guidelines:

**a.** ~~1. The basic~~ **Jurisdictional** membership shall be nominated and elected by the Jurisdictional Conferences, assuring that the pluralism and diversity of the Church's membership is reflected in the representation of racial and ethnic minorities and various age categories. Each jurisdiction shall elect ~~six~~ persons for membership **based on the following formula: North Central- 5, Northeastern- 5, South Central- 7, Southeastern- 7, Western- 3.** It is recommended that ~~of the six there be two~~ **where possible the members include at least one** laywoman, ~~two~~ **one** layman, one clergywoman, and one clergyman. Of the persons elected by each Jurisdictional Conference, at least one should be from a racial and ethnic group and at least one shall be under thirty-one years of age at the time of election.

**b.** ~~2.~~ There shall be ~~thirteen~~ **ten** additional members elected by the general commission, in accord with the provisions of ¶ 805. ~~3~~ 4b. The election of the additional members shall take into account the need to provide adequate representation of racial and ethnic groups and of the various age categories, and to include persons of special competence. It is recommended that the addition of the at-large membership assure that the total membership maintain the one-third laymen, one-third laywomen, one-third clergy balance as well as majority membership of women. **It is further recommended that such additional members shall maintain a membership total of at least 10% youth and/or young adults.**

**c.** ~~3.~~ There shall be three women named by the Women's Division from its members or staff to serve as ex officio members with vote.

**d.** ~~4.~~ There shall be two bishops named by the Council of Bishops.

**e. There shall be one member elected by Iglesia Metodista Autónoma Afiliada de Puerto Rico.**

**f.** ~~5.~~ In the total membership: **1)** ~~a)~~ Persons over sixty-five years of age shall be included. **2)** ~~b)~~ There should be no less than four persons (two women and two men) from each of these **five** ~~four~~ racial and ethnic groups: ~~Pacific and~~ Asian Americans, Black Americans, Hispanic Americans, ~~and~~ Native Americans **and Pacific Islanders. 3)** ~~c)~~ There shall be at least one member who is a diaconal minister.

~~6.~~ **g.**

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1764-805.1

**Subject: General Agency Membership**
Committee Item: GJ216-805.1-C
Petition:
22361-GJ-805.1-D, Pg. 1329
Membership: 98; Present: 49;
For: 49; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1765-805.1

**Subject: General Agency Membership**
Committee Item: GJ220-805.1-A
Petition:
20320-GJ-805.1-D, Pg. 699
Membership: 98; Present: 50;
For: 50; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Amend ¶ 805:

1.*b)* [Second sentence] ...and (8) ~~persons with a handicapping condition~~ **persons with disabilities**.

2.*a)* [Second sentence] ...~~persons with handicapping conditions~~ **persons with disabilities,...**

*c)*(1) *United Methodist.*——Additional members...~~persons with a handicapping condition~~ **persons with disabilities,...**

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1766-2626

**Subject: Trial Procedures**
Committee Item: GJ226-2626-C
Petition:
21270-GJ-2626-D, Pg. 1095
Membership: 98; Present: 86;
For: 86; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1767-2616
**Subject: Omission of unconstitutional clauses: Notification**
Committee Item: GJ230-2616-C
Petition:
20211-GJ-2616-D, Pg. 1091
Membership: 98; Present: 69;
For: 69; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1768-2625.3
**Subject: Investigation Procedures**
Committee Item: GJ253-2625.3-C
Petition:
22855-GJ-2625.3-D, Pg. 1492
Membership: 98; Present: 86;
For: 86; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1769-261
**Subject: Work Areas**
Committee Item: LC17-261-A
Petition:
20352-LC-261-D, Pg. 959
Membership: 89; Present: 68;
For: 58; Against: 9; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows: Replace P. 261 as follows: In order to fulfill the mission of the local church, the charge conference may elect annually a coordinator or ministry group chairperson for any or all of these areas, including: Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns, Church and Society, community volunteers, education, evangelism, higher education and campus ministry, missions, prayer advocacy, religion and race, status and role of women, stewardship, and worship.

Where desirable, the charge conference may combine coordinators or ministry group chairpersons assignments. Each coordinator or ministry group chairperson, if elected, shall work with the Church Council (or other appropriate body), pastor(s), and other church leaders to address the needs and opportunities of the particular area, utilizing all appropriate resources and relationships of the district, annual conference, and/or general church.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1770-270.1
**Subject: Representation on the Local Church Committee on Nominations and Personnel**
Committee Item: LC42-270.1-C
Petition:
22135-LC-270.1-D, Pg. 1417
Membership: 89; Present: 70;
For: 70; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1771-264.1
**Subject: The Church School and Non-Violence**
Committee Item: LC46-264.1-C
Petition:
22130-LC-264.1-D, Pg. 1416
Membership: 89; Present: 35;
For: 29; Against: 0; Not Voting: 6;
Date: 4/23

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1772-270.1
**Subject: Administrative Committees**
Committee Item: LC47-270.1-A
Petition:
22133-LC-270.1-D, Pg. 1417
Membership: 89; Present: 67;
For: 64; Against: 0; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows: Add: This committee shall choose a lay person from the membership of the committee as co-chairperson with the pastor.

Delete: The chairperson shall be elected from the committee by its membership.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1773-270.4
**Subject: Committee on Finance**
Committee Item: LC204-270.4-A
Petition:
21455-LC-270.4-D, Pg. 964
Membership: 89; Present: 61;
For: 61; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows: 1. Substitute the words ministry group for work area.

2. Delete P. 262.10

3. Substitute Church Council for Administrative Council. The new sentence will read, Where there is no stewardship ministry group, such responsibilities shall be the responsibility of a sub-group of the Committee on Finance or shall be assigned to a task group that shall report to the Church Council.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1774-266
**Subject: Eliminate Local Church Age-Level and Family Councils**
Committee Item: LC228-266-A
Petition:
20356-LC-266-D, Pg. 962
Membership: 89; Present: 69;
For: 69; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows: Para. 266 is amended to read:

Where the size of the church and the extent of the program indicate the need, the work of the Church Council (or other appropriate body) may be facilitated by one or more age-level councils and/or a family council, or such other means as fit the needs of the congregation. The membership of these councils shall be elected by the Church Council (or other appropriate body).

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1775-270.1
**Subject: Mandated Youth Member on the Committee on Nominations and Personnel**
Committee Item: LC229-270.1-C
Petition:
22577-LC-270.1-D, Pg. 1418
Membership: 89; Present: 64;
For: 63; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1776-248.9
**Subject: Powers and Duties of the Charge Conference**
Committee Item: LC230-248.9-C
Petition:
22114-LC-248.9-D, Pg. 1411
Membership: 89; Present: 74;
For: 74; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1777-208

**Subject: Study of Local Church Potential**
Committee Item: LC232-208-A
Petition:
22437-LC-208-D, Pg. 1406
Membership: 89; Present: 62;
For: 62; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows: Within the parenthesis at the end of sub-paragraph 2, insert and 2551.

Change the title of the paragraph. Delete Study of Local Church Potential and replace with A Process for Assessment of Local Church Potential.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1778-247

**Subject: Charge Conference Membership and Honorary Council Members**
Committee Item: LC233-247-A
Petition:
20657-LC-247-D, Pg. 954
Membership: 89; Present: 77;
For: 77; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Delete everything except the words Church Council in line 2. Amend to read Church Council (or other appropriate body). This phrase will be inserted at all places in the Discipline where the language, Administrative Board/Council on Ministries or Administrative Council now appears.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1779-253.1

**Subject: The Church Council**
Committee Item: LC235-253.1-A
Petition:
20664-LC-253.1-D, Pg. 958
Membership: 89; Present: 73;
For: 69; Against: 3; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

**The new paragraph will read as follows:**

**#253.1 The Church Council shall provide for the planning and implementing of a program of nurture, outreach, witness, and resources in the local church, and for the administration of its organizational and temporal life. The Church Council shall be amenable to and function as the executive agency of the Charge Conference (P.248). Its membership shall include the chairperson of the Church Council; the pastor(s); the lay leader; the lay member(s) of the Annual Conference; the chairperson of the Committee on Finance; the chairperson (or representative, if the chairperson is from another church on a multi-church charge ) of the Committee on Pastor-Parish Relations; the chair person of the Board of Trustees; representatives of the nurturing, outreach, and witness ministries of the church; and such other persons as the Charge Conference may determine. The employed professional staff who are members of the church Council shall not vote on matters pertaining to their employee relationship.**

**2 a. The nurturing ministries of the church shall give attention to the educational, worship, and stewardship components of ministry.**

**b. The outreach ministries of the church shall give attention to local and larger community ministries of compassion and advocacy, church and societal issues, global ministries concerns, health and welfare ministries, Christian unity and interreligious concerns, religion and race, and status and role of women.**

**c. The witness ministries of the church shall give attention to evangelistic outreach to persons, membership care, spiritual formation, communications, lay speaking ministries, and witnessing through the sharing of personal and congregational stories of Christian experience, faith, and service.**

**3. Meetings**

**a. The Council shall meet at least quarterly. Special meetings may be called by the chairperson or the pastor.**

**b. In order that the Council may give adequate consideration to the missional purpose of the local church, it is recommended that the first agenda item at each of its meetings shall be related to its ministries of nurture, outreach, and witness. It is also recommended that the Council use a consensus/discernment decision-making style. The administrative and supportive responsibilities of the church will then be given attention.**

**c. The Council shall annually plan for the congregations future mission and ministry.**

**4. If a church chooses to have an Administrative Council or Administrative Board, it shall provide for the planning and implementing of the mission and ministry of the local church, and for the administration and organization of its temporal life. It shall initiate planning, establish objectives, adopt goals, authorize action, determine policy, receive reports, evaluate the church's ministries, and review the mission and ministry of the church.**

**a. The Administrative Council or Administrative Board shall be amenable to and function as the administrative agency of the Charge Conference.**

**b. The Administrative Council or Administrative Board shall:**

**1. review the membership of the local church,**

**2. fill vacancies occurring among the lay officers of the church**

**3. establish the budget on recommendation of the Committee on Finance and ensure adequate provision for the financial needs of the church.**

**4. recommend to the Charge Conference the salary and other remuneration of the pastor(s) and staff persons after receiving recommendations from the Committee on Pastor-Parish Relations.**

**c. *Membership*——The Charge Conference will determine the size of the Administrative Council or Administrative Board. The membership of the Council or Board may consist of as few as eight persons or as large as the Charge Conference deems appropriate. The Council or Board shall include persons who represent the program ministries of the Church as outlined in ¶ 244. The membership shall include but not be limited to the following:**

**1. the chairperson of the Administrative Council or Administrative Board**

**2. the Lay Leader**

**3. the chairperson of the Pastor-Parish Relations Committee**

**4. the chairperson of the Committee on Finance**

**5. the chairperson of the Board of Trustees**

**6. the church treasurer**

7. a lay member to annual conference

8. the pastor.

d. *Meetings*——The Administrative Council or Administrative Board shall meet at least annually, or as determined in its policies. Special meetings may be called by the chairperson or the pastor.

e. *Quorum*——The members present and voting at any duly announced meeting shall constitute a quorum.

5. The members present and voting at any duly announced meeting shall constitute a quorum.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1780-212

**Subject: The Meaning of Membership**
Committee Item: LC243-212-C
Petition:
20957-LC-212-D, Pg. 946
Membership: 89; Present: 28;
For: 28; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/23

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1781-234.1

**Subject: The Permanent Church Register**
Committee Item: LC244-234.1-C
Petition:
20729-LC-234.1-D, Pg. 952
Membership: 89; Present: 30;
For: 30; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/23

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1782-101

**Subject: Mission of the Church (Referal from Plenary Session)**
Committee Item: LC245-101-C
Petition:
23080-LC-101-D
Membership: 89; Present: 80;
For: 78; Against: 2; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/23

The Committee recommends concurrence with the following:

**I. The Mission**

**The mission of the Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ.**

Rationale for Our Mission

The mission of the Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ by proclaiming the good news of Gods grace and thus seeking the fulfillment of Gods reign and realm in the world. The fulfillment of Gods reign and realm in the world is the vision which Scripture holds before us.

Jesus' words in Matthew 28:19-20 provide the Church with our mission: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you."

This mission is our grace-filled response to the Reign of God in the world announced by Jesus. God's grace is active everywhere, at all times, carrying out this purpose as revealed in the Bible. It is *expressed* in God's covenant with Abraham and Sarah, in the Exodus of Israel from Egypt, and in the ministry of the prophets. It is fully *embodied* in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is *experienced* in the ongoing creation of a new people by the Holy Spirit.

John Wesley and our other spiritual forebears understood this mission in this way. Whenever United Methodism has had a clear sense of mission, God has used our Church to save persons, heal relationships, and transform social structures, and spread scriptural holiness, thereby changing the world. In order to be truly alive, we embrace Jesus' mandate to make disciples of all peoples.

The Process for Carrying Out Our Mission

We make disciples as we:

— proclaim the gospel, seek, welcome and gather persons into the Body of Christ;

— lead persons to commit their lives to God through Jesus Christ;

— nurture persons in Christian living through worship, baptism, communion, Bible and other studies, prayer, and other means of grace;

— send persons into the world to live lovingly and justly as servants of Christ by healing the sick, feeding the hungry, caring for the stranger, and freeing the oppressed; and working to have social structures consistent with the Gospel; and

— continue the mission of seeking, welcoming and gathering persons into the community of the Body of Christ.

The Global Nature of Our Mission

The Church seeks to fulfill its global mission through the Spirit-given servant ministries of all Christians, both lay and clergy. Faithfulness and effectiveness demand that all ministries in the Church be shaped by the mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1783-411

**Subject: Mentors**
Committee Item: MN53-411-A
Petition:
21866-MN-411-D, Pg. 1009
Membership: 113; Present: 67;
For: 67; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Paragraph 345.3 - Add the word in after the word counsel

Amend end of first sentence to read, **and probationary members of the annual conference**

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1784-307

**Subject: Continuation of Candidacy**
Committee Item: MN61-307-A
Petition:
21822-MN-307-D, Pg. 994
Membership: 113; Present: 99;
For: 97; Against: 1; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Amend the first sentence of proposed new ¶ 307.1 in the Study on the Ministry, page 994:

1. A candidate preparing for ~~ordination as deacon~~ **ordained ministry** who is enrolled...

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1785-519

**Subject: Special responsibilities of District Superintendent**
Committee Item: MN165-519-A
Petition:
20426-MN-519-D, Pg. 1079
Membership: 113; Present: 76;
For: 74; Against: 2; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Amend addition after effort for - **spiritual leadership**

Amend pastors to **clergy**

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1786-523.4
**Subject: Administration**
Committee Item: MN219-523.4-A
Petition:
21284-MN-523.4-D, Pg. 1080
Membership: 113; Present: 76;
For: 76; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Delete when an elder is appointed as a district superintendent

Add The bishop shall be the superintendent of record for the district superintendents.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1787-408.1
**Subject: Full-Time Local Pastor**
Committee Item: MN251-408.1-C
Petition:
21163-MN-408.1-D, Pg. 1049
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1788-407.5
**Subject: Local Pastor - Physical Evaluation**
Committee Item: MN259-407.5-C
Petition:
22050-MN-407.5-D, Pg. 1448
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1789-522
**Subject: Pastoral Responsibilities of District Superintendent**
Committee Item: MN277-522-A
Petition:
21985-MN-522-D, Pg. 1021
Membership: 113; Present: 93;
For: 93; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

In the second sentence, numbered 2., do not delete the word concerning or the words matters affecting their ministry and personal life.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1790-364
**Subject: Transitional Provisions**
Committee Item: MN316-364-A
Petition:
21892-MN-364-D, Pg. 1012
Membership: 113; Present: 101;
For: 100; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Replace item 4 with **The work of the former conference boards of diaconal ministry will be cared for by the conference boards of ordained ministry effective January 1, 1997.**

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1791-440
**Subject: Special Provisions**
Committee Item: MN387-440-A
Petition:
21852-MN-440-D, Pg. 1005
Membership: 113; Present: 99;
For: 99; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

In Special Provisions.—1.: Delete the words an ordained minister and insert a clergy member

Line 2 change conference approved evangelist to general evangelist

In —4. Delete the words ordained minister and insert clergy member

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1792-451.1
**Subject: Disability Leave**
Committee Item: MN390-451.1-C
Petition:
21221-MN-451.1-D, Pg. 1067
Membership: 113; Present: 94;
For: 93; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1793-532
**Subject: Community Context in Appointment Making**
Committee Item: MN444-532-A
Petition:
20916-MN-532-D, Pg. 1083
Membership: 113; Present: 76;
For: 74; Against: 1; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Accept requirement down to d

Add **d**

Delete everything after family situation

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1794-519
**Subject: Council on Ministries and District Superintendents**
Committee Item: MN449-519-C
Petition:
20688-MN-519-D, Pg. 1079
Membership: 113; Present: 100;
For: 89; Against: 8; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1795-1527.2
**Subject: Responsibilities of the Board of Ordained Ministry**
Committee Item: MN464-1527.2-C
Petition:
21292-MN-1527.2-D, Pg. 1090
Membership: 113; Present: 75;
For: 73; Against: 0; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1796-1529.14
**Subject: Responsibilities of the Division of Ordained Ministry**
Committee Item: MN465-1529.14-C
Petition:
21295-MN-1529.14-D, Pg. 1090
Membership: 113; Present: 86;
For: 86; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1797-414.4
**Subject: Qualification for Election to Probationary Membership**
Committee Item: MN531-414.4-C
Petition:
20337-MN-414.4-D, Pg. 1052
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1798-454.1
**Subject: Supervisory Response**
Committee Item: MN647-454.1-A
Petition:
21234-MN-454.1-D, Pg. 1073
Membership: 113; Present: 98;
For: 98; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Amend by renumbering 454.1c as 454.1b

Amend by deleting the proposed DCA text and substitute the following:

The supervisory response is pastoral and administrative and shall be directed toward a just resolution and/or reconciliation among all parties. It is not part of any judicial process. At any meetings no verbatim record shall be made; no legal counsel shall be present; the person against whom the complaint was made may choose another person to accompany him/her with the right to voice; the person making the complaint shall have the right to choose a person to accompany him/her with the right to voice.

The supervisory response should be carried out by the bishop and district superintendent in a confidential and timely manner with attention to communication to all parties regarding the complaint and the process. At the determination of the bishop, persons with qualifications and experience in assessment, intervention, or healing may be selected to assist in the supervisory response. The bishop also may consult with the Committee on Pastor-Parish Relations for pastors, the district Committee on Superintendency for the district superintendents, appropriate personnel committee or other persons who may be helpful. The supervisory response also may include mediation in which the parties are assisted in reaching a settlement or agreement satisfactory to all parties by a trained, neutral third party mediator or mediation team.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1799-501
**Subject: The Task of Superintendency**
Committee Item: MN718-501-C
Petition:
20117-MN-501-D, Pg. 1076
Membership: 113; Present: 105;
For: 104; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

# Consent Calendar B05

## 1410-R245
**IC120**

This calendar item should have been reported as concurrence and has been removed from consent calendar C03 and placed on B04 by the Coordinator of the Calendar

## 1582-448
**MN361**

This calendar item should have been reported as concurrence and has been removed from consent calendar C03 and placed on B04 by the Coordinator of the Calendar

## 1800-NonDis
**Subject: Rights of all persons**
Committee Item: CS54-NonDis-A
Petition:
20260-CS-NonDis-O, Pg. 138
Membership: 102; Present: 76;
For: 71; Against: 3; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Delete the sentence beginning with This process and ending with Holocaust so that the text reads:

It is particularly disturbing when religious values are used as a foundation for persecution of select groups of people. ~~This process has characterized some of the churchs bleakest history: the Crusades, Inquisition, Pogroms, Slavery, and the Holocaust.~~ It is crucially important that Christians insist that all people are Gods children who deserve the protection of their human and civil rights. ...

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1801-NonDis
**Subject: Comprehensive Health Care**
Committee Item: CS121-NonDis-A
Petition:
22342-CS-NonDis-O, Pg. 1237
Membership: 102; Present: 83;
For: 82; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Amend the fifth para. by inserting the word some between in and minority so that the text reads:

Whereas, certain illnesses present themselves at an alarming rate in some minority communities, especially in the Black community; and

Amend the sixth para. by inserting the word often between church and enjoys and by replacing the words possible to initiate change through the church with a prophetic catalyst for change so that the text reads:

Whereas, the church **often** enjoys a presence in the minority community that makes it ~~possible to initiate change through the church~~ **a prophetic catalyst for change**; and

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1802-NonDis
**Subject: Clinic Violence**
Committee Item: CS180-NonDis-A
Petition:
20857-CS-NonDis-O, Pg. 139
Membership: 102; Present: 87;
For: 86; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Add reject and condemn the use of violence against those peacefully assembled to protest abortion; after themselves pro-

choice; and before reject and condemn so that the text reads:

...Therefore, be it resolved, that The United Methodist Church:

repent of violence, turn toward attitudes of respect, and seek areas of common ground between those who call themselves pro-life and those who call themselves pro-choice;

**reject and condemn the use of violence against those peacefully assembled to protest abortion;**

reject and condemn the use of violence against providers of legal services related to productive health;

encourage local churches, annual conferences, and General Conference agencies to speak out whenever such violence occurs.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1803-NonDis

**Subject: Responsible Parenthood**
Committee Item: CS185-NonDis-A
Petition:
22887-CS-NonDis-O, Pg. 1239
Membership: 102; Present: 87;
For: 84; Against: 2; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Retain Responsible Parenthood, pages 125-128 in the *Book of Resolutions*., except change venereal diseases to sexually transmitted diseases so that the text reads:

9. Assist the states to make provisions in law and practice for treating as adults minors who have or think they have, ~~venereal diseases~~ **sexually transmitted diseases**, or female minors who are, ...

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1804-NonDis

**Subject: A Dioxin-free future**
Committee Item: CS190-NonDis-A
Petition:
20229-CS-NonDis-D, Pg. 117
Membership: 102; Present: 75;
For: 70; Against: 2; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Change the petition so that it is **Non-Disciplinary** from being paragraph 70.1 in the Discipline.

Restore original wording, with some editorial changes, of the original petition which was edited by DCA and not printed in the ADCA.

Add a new paragraph at the end which reads:

**We direct the General Board of Church and Society to cooperate with the Health and Welfare Ministries Unit of the General Board of Global Ministries to work with companies, governments, and medical institutions to implement the above recommendations.**

Note: the original petition on page 117 also called for the amendment of Paragraph 70A. This committee has already amended that paragraph to include the concerns of this petition.

The full petition now reads:

~~Amend ¶70A:~~

~~*A) Water, Air, Soil, Minerals, Plants.* — We support and encourage social policies that serve to reduce and control the creation of industrial by-products and waste; facilitate the safe processing and disposal of toxic and nuclear waste and that move toward the elimination of both;...We support policies that retard the indiscriminate use of chemicals, including those used for growing, processing, and preserving food, and encourage strongly urge adequate research...~~

**A Dioxin Free Future**

**The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) 1994 report entitled The Scientific Reassessment of Dioxin affirmed health warnings made 20 years ago—that the "background" levels of dioxin, a deadly chlorine-based chemical, pose a serious threat to the health of the general U.S. population.**

**The EPA concluded that dioxin compounds cause several types of cancer. Exposure to toxic chemicals such as dioxin is widely suspected to be related to the increasing rates of cancer in the United States. The rate of testicular cancer has tripled in the past thirty years and the rate of prostate cancer has doubled in the past ten years, and the rate of breast cancer in the United States has risen from one in every 20 women in the 1960s to one in every eight women today. More women have died of breast cancer in the last two decades than U.S. soldiers killed in World War I, World War II, and the Korean and Vietnam wars.**

**The EPA report stated that there is reason to believe that dioxins at extremely low levels cause a wide range of other serious health effects including reproductive impairment, learning disabilities, developmental injuries, and the increased risk of diabetes and endometriosis. Furthermore, even low levels of dioxin impairs the ability of the immune system to fight infectious disease. The EPA report says that there is no level of dioxin below which the immune system is not affected.**

**The EPA concluded that the levels of dioxins already lodged in human bodies are already close to levels known to cause serious health problems. According to the EPA, the average person is exposed to dioxin levels 50 to 100 times greater than the maximum allowable amounts designated by the federal government in 1985.**

**Some persons have what the EPA calls "special" exposures, including certain occupational groups, people living near dioxin emitters, and people who consume higher than average levels of meat, fish, and dairy products. Human exposure to dioxins begins early in life, since dioxin crosses the placenta. Nursing infants take in four to twelve percent of their lifetime dose of dioxin within the first year of their lives, a period during which they are most susceptible to the effects of such toxins.**

**Toxic pollution costs society hundreds of billions of dollars each year in expenses for health care, diminished productivity, waste disposal, and remediation of contaminated sites and ground water.**

**A healthy population, a clean environment, and efficient non-polluting technologies are essential to a sound economy. With a single program—dioxin phaseout—much of the world's most severe toxic pollution could be stopped.**

**The United Methodist Church calls on cancer research organizations to move to a prevention based approach to cancer research and funding, including more studies on the relationship between cancer and chlorine based toxins in the environment.**

**We support a phase out of the production of dioxin, beginning with the immediate action on the three largest sources of dioxin: incineration of chlorine containing wastes, bleaching of pulp and paper with chlorine, and the entire life cycle of polyvinyl chloride (PVC) plastic.**

**We support worker protection programs for people working in in-**

**dustries that make toxic chemicals or result in toxic by-product and related chemicals, who may lose their jobs with a phase out of these chemicals. Such programs could include a "Workers Superfund" program.**

**We direct the General Board of Church and Society to cooperate with the Health and Welfare Ministries unit of the General Board of Global Ministries to work with companies, governments, and medical institutions to implement the above recommendations.**

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1805-NonDis
**Subject: Affirm the Council of Bishop's statement on Wisdom,Doctrinal Standards and Theological Task**
Committee Item: DI22-NonDis-A
Petition:
20107-DI-NonDis-O, Pg. 259
Membership: 112; Present: 84;
For: 83; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Delete last paragraph including the preceding and.

Amend sixth paragraph, third sentence to read:

Whereas, our doctrinal standards affirm that God is everlasting, without body or parts (Articles of Religion). Anthropomorphic language, therefore, cannot be applied literally to God. God is beyond gender, and language about God always falls short of adequately revealing the fullness of God. Jesus normative use of Father (Abba) for God is not an affirmation of Gods gender. Feminine images for the expression of the fullness of God have both biblical and historical precedent and appropriateness; and

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1806-NonDis
**Subject: Care of Members**
Committee Item: DI54-NonDis-A
Petition:
21434-DI-222-D, Pg. 948
Membership: 112; Present: 87;
For: 86; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Renumber ¶ 222 as ¶228.1*b* and amend as follows:

1.*b)* The pastor of the church shall, at the time of administering the Sacrament of Baptism, furnish the parent(s), ~~or~~ guardian(s), **sponsor(s) or godparent(s)** of the child who is baptized with a certificate of Baptism, which shall also clearly state that the child is now ~~enrolled as a preparatory member~~ **on the roll of baptized members** in The United Methodist Church. The pastor shall also admonish members of the congregation **at the time of baptism and at appropriate stages in the newly baptized members** life of their responsibility for the Christian nurture of the child. The pastor shall be responsible for seeing that the membership secretary adds the full name of the baptized child to the **churchs roll of baptized members** ~~preparatory membership roll of the church.~~ When the baptized child lives in a community not served by the pastor who administers the Sacrament of Baptism, the pastor is responsible for **contacting in advance (where possible) and** reporting the baptism to a pastor ~~or~~ **and** district superintendent who serves in the area where the baptized child lives in order that the childs name might be properly entered on the ~~preparatory membership~~ roll of **baptized members in that location.** ~~(See ¶ 223.)~~ **The information given shall include the full name of the child, the date of birth, the date and place of Baptism, and the full names of the parent(s), guardian(s), sponsor(s) or (godparent(s) and their place of residence and phone number.**

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1807-NonDis
**Subject: General Responsibilities**
Committee Item: DI56-NonDis-C
Petition:
21386-DI-729.1-D, Pg. 241
Membership: 112; Present: 94;
For: 93; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1808-NonDis
**Subject: National Day of Prayer**
Committee Item: DI143-NonDis-A
Petition:
22749-DI-NonDis-O, Pg. 1305
Membership: 112; Present: 96;
For: 90; Against: 4; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Delete third paragraph.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1809-NonDis
**Subject: Camping for Persons with Developmental Disabilities**
Committee Item: DI205-NonDis-C
Petition:
22218-DI-NonDis-O, Pg. 1294
Membership: 112; Present: 75;
For: 73; Against: 0; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1810-NonDis
**Subject: World Service Fund**
Committee Item: FA207-NonDis-A
Petition:
21111-FA-NonDis-O, Pg. 286
Membership: 113; Present: 81;
For: 81; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended:

The committee proposes an amendment by substituting the figures on pages 462 and 463 for the World Service budget, found on page 290 of the Advanced DCA:

**GCFA is authorized to round to the nearest thousand and to make such editorial changes in text of report that may be required by the changes in these budgeted amounts.**

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1811-NonDis
**Subject: Other Reports and Recommendations**
Committee Item: FA221-NonDis-A
Petition:
21123-FA-NonDis-O, Pg. 321
Membership: 113; Present: 93;
For: 93; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Report No. 13, *Study of Connectional Ministry Funding Patterns*, Delete second paragraph beginning It is GCFAs intent . . . And insert **The Task Force will be staffed by the General Secretary and a staff person of GCFA and the membership will be composed of the following: three members of GCFA; one member of GCOM; one bishop serving on GCFA; a layperson and a clergy from each Jurisdiction; three addi-**

REV E

## APPORTIONED GENERAL FUNDS AS RECOMMENDED BY FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

| | 1996 Annual Apportionment | 1997 | % change | 1998 | % change | 1999 | % change | 2000 | % change | AMENDED REPORT | GCFA REPORT | CHANGE FROM GCFA REPORT | TOTAL FOUR TIMES 1996 BASE | AMEND REPOR % Change | GCFA REPORT % Change |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| World Service | $62,583,000 | $62,587,000 | 0.0% | $62,629,000 | 0.1% | $63,590,000 | 1.5% | $64,833,000 | 2.0% | $253,639,000 | $254,650,000 | ($1,011,000) | $250,332,000 * | 1.3% | 1.7% |
| Ministerial Educatioo | 27,035,933 | 27,036,000 | 0.0% | 27,036,000 | 0.0% | 27,477,000 | 1.6% | 28,001,000 | 1.9% | $109,550,000 | $108,618,000 | $932,000 | $108,143,732 | 1.3% | 0.4% |
| Black College | 10,780,000 | 10,780,000 | 0.0% | 10,780,000 | 0.0% | 10,952,000 | 1.6% | 11,170,000 | 2.0% | $43,682,000 | $43,309,000 | $373,000 | $43,120,000 | 1.3% | 0.4% |
| Episcopal | 14,836,628 | 15,059,000 | 1.5% | 14,945,000 | -0.8% | 15,699,000 | 5.0% | 16,003,000 | 1.9% | $61,706,000 | $62,000,000 | ($294,000) | $59,346,512 | 4.0% | 4.5% |
| General Admin | 4,569,000 | 4,465,000 | -2.3% | 4,515,000 | 1.1% | 4,657,000 | 3.1% | 4,829,000 | 3.7% | $18,466,000 | $18,466,000 | $0 | $18,276,000 | 1.0% | 1.0% |
| Interdenominational Cooperation | 1,601,000 | 1,573,000 | -1.7% | 1,595,000 | 1.4% | 1,625,000 | 1.9% | 1,664,000 | 2.4% | $6,457,000 | $6,457,000 | $0 | $6,404,000 | 0.8% | 0.8% |
| Africa University | 2,500,000 | 2,500,000 | 0.0% | 2,500,000 | 0.0% | 2,500,000 | 0.0% | 2,500,000 | 0.0% | $10,000,000 | $10,000,000 | $0 | $10,000,000 | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| | 123,905,561 | 124,000,000 | 0.1% | 124,000,000 | 0.0% | 126,500,000 | 2.0% | 129,000,000 | 2.0% | 503,500,000 | 503,500,000 | 0 | 495,622,244 | 1.6% | 1.6% |

*Includes 1993-1996 Mission Initiatives Fund

WORLD SERVICE FUND AS RECOMMENDED
BY FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

| | 1996 Budget | 1997 | % Incr | 1998 | % Incr | 1999 | % Incr | 2000 | % Incr | Total 1997-2000 Quadrennium |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Prior Claim:** | | | | | | | | | | |
| GCOM | $960,000 | $960,000 | 0.00% | $960,000 | 0.00% | $969,000 | 0.94% | $978,000 | 0.93% | $3,867,000 |
| JNT TR | | | | | | | | $235,000 | | $235,000 |
| INTERP | 391,000 | 415,000 | 6.14% | 377,000 | -9.16% | 377,000 | 0.00% | 375,000 | -0.53% | 1,544,000 |
| GCFA | 1,300,000 | 1,517,000 | 16.69% | 1,575,000 | 3.82% | 1,656,000 | 5.14% | 1,845,000 | 11.41% | 6,593,000 |
| **Total Prior Claim** | 2,651,000 | 2,892,000 | 9.09% | 2,912,000 | 0.69% | 3,002,000 | 3.09% | 3,433,000 | 14.36% | 12,239,000 |
| **On-Ratio:** | | | | | | | | | | |
| Program Agencies | | | | | | | | | | |
| GBCS | 2,484,998 | 2,485,000 | 0.00% | 2,485,000 | 0.00% | 2,485,000 | 0.00% | 2,485,000 | 0.00% | 9,940,000 |
| GBOD | 7,132,118 | 7,178,000 | 0.64% | 7,178,000 | 0.00% | 7,178,000 | 0.00% | 7,178,000 | 0.00% | 28,712,000 |
| GBGM | 26,194,327 | 26,100,000 | -0.36% | 26,115,000 | 0.06% | 26,798,000 | 2.62% | 27,393,000 | 2.22% | 106,406,000 |
| GBHEM | 5,266,557 | 5,335,000 | 1.30% | 5,335,000 | 0.00% | 5,335,000 | 0.00% | 5,335,000 | 0.00% | 21,340,000 |
| HANA | 550,000 | 550,000 | 0.00% | 550,000 | 0.00% | 546,000 | -0.73% | 543,000 | -0.55% | 2,189,000 |
| GCCUIC | 924,000 | 940,000 | 1.73% | 950,000 | 1.06% | 963,000 | 1.37% | 975,000 | 1.25% | 3,828,000 |
| GCORR | 835,000 | 852,000 | 2.04% | 852,000 | 0.00% | 865,000 | 1.53% | 871,000 | 0.69% | 3,440,000 |
| MGDF | 1,200,000 | 1,148,000 | -4.33% | 1,148,000 | 0.00% | 1,141,000 | -0.61% | 1,135,000 | -0.53% | 4,572,000 |
| GCSRW | 564,000 | 574,000 | 1.77% | 584,000 | 1.74% | 594,000 | 1.71% | 607,000 | 2.19% | 2,359,000 |
| **TOTAL** | 45,151,000 | 45,162,000 | 0.02% | 45,197,000 | 0.08% | 45,905,000 | 1.57% | 46,522,000 | 1.34% | 182,786,000 |
| **Administrative and Other** | | | | | | | | | | |
| GCOM | 880,000 | 880,000 | 0.00% | 880,000 | 0.00% | 882,000 | 0.23% | 886,000 | 0.45% | 3,528,000 |
| Str Blk Ch | | 325,000 | | 325,000 | 0.00% | 325,000 | 0.00% | 335,000 | 3.08% | 1,310,000 |
| UMCOM | | | | | | | | | | |
| Gen Ser | 5,430,000 | 5,430,000 | 0.00% | 5,430,000 | 0.00% | 5,448,000 | 0.33% | 5,467,000 | 0.35% | 21,775,000 |
| Tel com | 2,920,000 | 2,920,000 | 0.00% | 2,920,000 | 0.00% | 2,925,000 | 0.17% | 2,936,000 | 0.38% | 11,701,000 |
| Interp | 2,760,000 | 2,760,000 | 0.00% | 2,760,000 | 0.00% | 2,763,000 | 0.11% | 2,772,000 | 0.33% | 11,055,000 |
| Spec Sal/Pens | 1,886,000 | 1,488,000 | -21.10% | 1,620,000 | 8.87% | 1,756,000 | 8.40% | 1,840,000 | 4.78% | 6,704,000 |
| P R | 250,000 | 250,000 | 0.00% | 250,000 | 0.00% | 250,000 | 0.00% | 250,000 | 0.00% | 1,000,000 |
| Univ Col | 125,000 | 50,000 | -60.00% | 50,000 | 0.00% | 50,000 | 0.00% | 50,000 | 0.00% | 200,000 |
| P E | 35,000 | 35,000 | 0.00% | 35,000 | 0.00% | 36,000 | 2.86% | 37,000 | 2.78% | 143,000 |
| Contgcy | 495,000 | 395,000 | -20.20% | 250,000 | -36.71% | 248,000 | -0.80% | 305,000 | 22.98% | 1,198,000 |
| **Total** | 14,781,000 | 14,533,000 | -1.68% | 14,520,000 | -0.09% | 14,683,000 | 1.12% | 14,878,000 | 1.33% | 58,614,000 |
| **Total On-Ratio** | 59,932,000 | 59,695,000 | -0.40% | 59,717,000 | 0.04% | 60,588,000 | 1.46% | 61,400,000 | 1.34% | 241,400,000 |
| **Grand Total** | 62,583,000 | 62,587,000 | 0.01% | 62,629,000 | 0.07% | 63,590,000 | 1.53% | 64,833,000 | 1.95% | 253,639,000 |

tional people for needed experience and expertise. None who are presently nor formerly members or staff of any General Board or agency will be considered. In addition, as members are selected, GCFA will assure that there is appropriate representation of racial/ethnic minority persons, women and youth and/or young adults.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1812-NonDis
**Subject: Staffing of General Boards and Agencies**
Committee Item: GJ29-NonDis-C
Petition:
22479-GJ-NonDis-O, Pg. 1335
Membership: 98; Present: 55;
For: 55; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1813-NonDis
**Subject: Regarding Restructuring for Equality**
Committee Item: GJ58-NonDis-A
Petition:
22265-GJ-NonDis-O, Pg. 1334
Membership: 98; Present: 55;
For: 55; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

The gospel call to take the Christian message to the world moves us toward a global understanding of mission and ministry. It is our belief that as The United Methodist Church restructures to meet this call it should remain faithful to its historic and prophetic stands of equality and ethnic/racial inclusion.

Toward this end, we call upon the General Conference to make major efforts to preserve and enhance racial/ethnic diversity within any new structures during and after restructuring.

This resolution is not to be published in the *Book of Resolutions* and is to be referred to the Connectional Process Team.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1814-NonDis
**Subject: The Church and God's Creation**
Committee Item: GJ92-NonDis-A
Petition:
22902-GJ-NonDis-O, Pg. 1341
Membership: 98; Present: 82;
For: 75; Against: 7; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Paragraph 3, beginning endorses the work of the **National** Inter-religious Coalition for the Environment...

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1815-NonDis
**Subject: GCOM Quadrennial Report**
Committee Item: GJ254-NonDis-C
Petition:
21675-GJ-NonDis-O, Pg. 536
Membership: 98; Present: 69;
For: 69; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1816-NonDis
**Subject: General Agency Headquarters/Staff Location**
Committee Item: GJ266-NonDis-C
Petition:
21713-GJ-NonDis-O, Pg. 675
Membership: 98; Present: 69;
For: 69; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

# Consent Calendar C05

## 1817-506.1
**Subject: Election**
Committee Item: CO124-506.1-N
Petition:
22160-CO-506.1-D, Pg. 1261
Membership: 86; Present: 69;
For: 60; Against: 5; Not Voting: 4;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1818-726.6
**Subject: Age-level and Family Ministries**
Committee Item: CO251-726.6-N
Petition:
20439-CO-726.6-D, Pg. 199
Membership: 86; Present: 73;
For: 69; Against: 1; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1819-1101
**Subject: General Board of Church and Society**
Committee Item: CS19-1101-N
Petition:
22864-CS-1101-D, Pg. 1230
Membership: 102; Present: 93;
For: 92; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1820-72
**Subject: The Rights of Sexual Minorities**
Committee Item: CS38-72-N
Petition:
22447-CS-72-D, Pg. 1225
Membership: 102; Present: 75;
For: 73; Against: 1; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1821-71
**Subject: Rights of Homosexual Persons**
Committee Item: CS39-71-N
Petitions:
20056-CS-71-D, Pg. 1218;
20196-CS-71-D, Pg. 119
Membership: 102; Present: 75;
For: 74; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1822-NonDis
**Subject: The Homosexual Issue**
Committee Item: CS40-NonDis-N
Petition:
22339-CS-NonDis-O, Pg. 1239
Membership: 102; Present: 76;
For: 75; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1823-71
**Subject: Rights of Homosexual Persons**
Committee Item: CS41-71-N
Petition:
22580-CS-71-D, Pg. 1219
Membership: 102; Present: 74;
For: 73; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurreace [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1824-71
**Subject: Equal protection and treatment within the United Methodist Church**
Committee Item: CS57-71-N
Petitions:
20022-CS-71-D, Pg. 118;
22310-CS-71-D, Pg. 1218;
22312-CS-71-D, Pg. 1219;
22498-CS-71-D, Pg. 1219;
22499-CS-71-D, Pg. 1480;
22613-CS-71-D, Pg. 1219;
22883-CS-71-D, Pg. 1219
Membership: 102; Present: 76;
For: 63; Against: 9; Not Voting: 4;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1825-R125
**Subject: Regarding "Responsible Parenthood"**
Committee Item: CS176-R125-N
Petitions:
22344-CS-R125-U, Pg. 1238;
22345-CS-NonDis-O, Pg. 1235;
22466-CS-NonDis-O, Pg. 1238
Membership: 102; Present: 87;
For: 86; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence in favor of Petition 22887 (CS 185).

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1826-71
**Subject: Abortion**
Committee Item: CS177-71-N
Petition:
20703-CS-71-D, Pg. 121
Membership: 102; Present: 87;
For: 86; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1827-71
**Subject: Human Sexuality**
Committee Item: CS178-71-N
Petitions:
20285-CS-71-D, Pg. 120;
20747-CS-71-D, Pg. 122
Membership: 102; Present: 81;
For: 79; Against: 0; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1828-NonDis
**Subject: Regarding Clinic Violence**
Committee Item: CS183-NonDis-N
Petitions:
20029-CS-NonDis-O, Pg. 137;
22343-CS-NonDis-O, Pg. 1237
Membership: 102; Present: 87;
For: 86; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1829-71
**Subject: Reconciling Congregations**
Committee Item: CS184-71-N
Petition:
20972-CS-71-D, Pg. 1214
Membership: 102; Present: 75;
For: 74; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1830-NonDis
**Subject: Total Tissue Transplant Program**
Committee Item: CS186-NonDis-R
Petition:
22349-CS-NonDis-O, Pg. 1245
Membership: 102; Present: 87;
For: 84; Against: 2; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends referral to the General Board of Church and Society for further study.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1831-NonDis
**Subject: Organizations Connected to Abortion Matters**
Committee Item: CS188-NonDis-N
Petitions:
20157-CS-NonDis-O, Pg. 137;
22452-CS-NonDis-O, Pg. 1235;
22614-CS-71-D, Pg. 1224;
22899-CS-NonDis-O, Pg. 1237
Membership: 102; Present: 76;
For: 60; Against: 8; Not Voting: 8;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1832-NonDis
**Subject: Mission Statement**
Committee Item: DI23-NonDis-N
Petition:
20234-DI-69-D, Pg. 236
Membership: 112; Present: 84;
For: 82; Against: 1; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1833-1218.4
**Subject: Christian Formation Responsibilities - EUB Traditions**
Committee Item: DI73-1218.4-N
Petition:
22221-DI-1218.4-D, Pg. 1283
Membership: 112; Present: 70;
For: 66; Against: 2; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1834**-NonDis-$
**Subject: Establish a General Board of Evangelism**
Committee Item: DI81-NonDis-N$
Petition:
20788-DI-NonDis-O$, Pg. 1286
Membership: 112; Present: 98;
For: 97; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1835**-730.1
**Subject: Conference Board of Laity**
Committee Item: DI83-730.1-N
Petition:
20446-DI-730.1-D, Pg. 243
Membership: 112; Present: 98;
For: 97; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1836**-730
**Subject: Flexibility in Annual Conference Structure**
Committee Item: DI84-730-N
Petition:
20051-DI-730-D, Pg. 242
Membership: 112; Present: 98;
For: 97; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1837**-730.1
**Subject: Conference Board of Laity**
Committee Item: DI85-730.1-N
Petition:
22202-DI-730.1-D, Pg. 1281
Membership: 112; Present: 98;
For: 97; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1838**-730.1
**Subject: Conference Board of Laity**
Committee Item: DI86-730.1-N
Petition:
22404-DI-730.1-D, Pg. 1281
Membership: 112; Present: 98;
For: 97; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1839**-730
**Subject: Conference Board of Laity**
Committee Item: DI87-730-N
Petition:
20494-DI-730-D, Pg. 242
Membership: 112; Present: 98;
For: 97; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1840**-730.1
**Subject: Conference Board of Laity**
Committee Item: DI88-730.1-N
Petition:
21394-DI-730.1-D, Pg. 243
Membership: 112; Present: 98;
For: 97; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1841**-730
**Subject: Eliminate Annual Conference Board of Laity**
Committee Item: DI89-730-N
Petition:
20581-DI-730-D, Pg. 243
Membership: 112; Present: 98;
For: 97; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1842**-730.4
**Subject: Chair of the Conference Board of Laity**
Committee Item: DI90-730.4-N
Petition:
20447-DI-730.4-D, Pg. 243
Membership: 112; Present: 98;
For: 97; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1843**-757
**Subject: Eliminate District Board of Laity**
Committee Item: DI108-757-N
Petition:
20583-DI-757-D, Pg. 245
Membership: 112; Present: 98;
For: 97; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1844**-757.2
**Subject: District Board of Laity**
Committee Item: DI110-757.2-N
Petition:
21396-DI-757.2-D, Pg. 245
Membership: 112; Present: 70;
For: 69; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1845**-757
**Subject: District Board of Laity**
Committee Item: DI112-757-N
Petition:
21395-DI-757-D, Pg. 245
Membership: 112; Present: 98;
For: 97; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1846**-729
**Subject: Conference Board of Discipleship**
Committee Item: DI125-729-N
Petition:
22200-DI-729-D, Pg. 1280
Membership: 112; Present: 98;
For: 97; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Dave /

**1847**-729
**Subject: Conference Board of Discipleship**
Committee Item: DI126-729-N
Petition:
20493-DI-729-D, Pg. 241
Membership: 112; Present: 98;

For: 97; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1848-729
**Subject: Flexibility in Annual Conference Structure**
Committee Item: DI127-729-N
Petition:
20050-DI-729-D, Pg. 240
Membership: 112; Present: 98;
For: 97; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1849-729
**Subject: Conference Board of Discipleship**
Committee Item: DI128-729-N
Petition:
20445-DI-729-D, Pg. 240
Membership: 112; Present: 98;
For: 97; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1850-632
**Subject: Eliminate Council on Ministries**
Committee Item: DI132-632-N
Petition:
20579-DI-632-D, Pg. 239
Membership: 112; Present: 98;
For: 97; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1851-1201
**Subject: Purpose of the General Board of Discipleship**
Committee Item: DI146-1201-N
Petition:
22742-DI-1201-D, Pg. 1282
Membership: 112; Present: 98;
For: 97; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1852-NonDis
**Subject: Denomination-wide Membership Data Base**
Committee Item: DI149-NonDis-N
Petition:
22750-DI-NonDis-O, Pg. 1305
Membership: 112; Present: 96;
For: 94; Against: 0; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1853-282
**Subject: Functions and Accountability of a Lay Missioner**
Committee Item: DI154-282-N
Petition:
21382-DI-282-D, Pg. 239
Membership: 112; Present: 76;
For: 74; Against: 0; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1854-1223
**Subject: Regarding Correction of Discriminatory Language**
Committee Item: DI164-1223-N
Petition:
22656-DI-1223-D, Pg. 1284
Membership: 112; Present: 97;
For: 97; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/21

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1855-1202
**Subject: The Living Church in an Electronic World**
Committee Item: DI169-1202-N
Petition:
22556-DI-1202-D, Pg. 1282
Membership: 112; Present: 75;
For: 70; Against: 3; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1856-NonDis
**Subject: Doctrinal Integrity**
Committee Item: DI182-NonDis-N
Petition:
22213-DI-NonDis-O, Pg. 1292
Membership: 112; Present: 84;
For: 83; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1857-745.2
**Subject: Membership of Conference Council on Youth Ministry**
Committee Item: DI189-745.2-N
Petition:
20449-DI-745.2-D, Pg. 245
Membership: 112; Present: 98;
For: 97; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1858-745.2
**Subject: Membership of the Conference Council on Youth Ministry**
Committee Item: DI190-745.2-N
Petition:
20878-DI-745.2-D, Pg. 1282
Membership: 112; Present: 98;
For: 97; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1859-745.1
**Subject: Relationships of Council on Youth Ministry**
Committee Item: DI191-745.1-N
Petition:
20582-DI-745.1-D, Pg. 244
Membership: 112; Present: 98;
For: 97; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1860-225
**Subject: Children and the Church**
Committee Item: DI198-225-N
Petition:
22570-DI-225-D, Pg. 1408
Membership: 112; Present: 86;
For: 85; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1861-225
**Subject: Children and The Church**
Committee Item: DI200-225-N
Petition:
22109-DI-225-D, Pg. 1408
Membership: 112; Present: 86;
For: 85; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1862-NonDis
**Subject: Architectal Accessibility of Camping Facilities**
Committee Item: DI204-NonDis-N
Petition:
22219-DI-NonDis-O, Pg. 1295
Membership: 112; Present: 75;
For: 73; Against: 0; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1863-NonDis
**Subject: The Doctrinal Standards of the United Methodist Church and Homosexuality**
Committee Item: DI206-NonDis-N
Petition:
20992-DI-NonDis-O, Pg. 1287
Membership: 112; Present: 73;
For: 71; Against: 0; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1864-912
**Subject: The World Service Fund**
Committee Item: FA86-912-N
Petition:
20838-FA-912-D, Pg. 1314
Membership: 113; Present: 80;
For: 80; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1865-912.1
**Subject: The Apportionments of World Service And Conference Benevolence**
Committee Item: FA87-912.1-N
Petition:
20839-FA-912.1-D, Pg. 1314
Membership: 113; Present: 80;
For: 80; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1866-912.2
**Subject: The Apportionments of World Service and Conference Benevolence**
Committee Item: FA88-912.2-N
Petition:
20840-FA-912.2-D, Pg. 1314
Membership: 113; Present: 80;
For: 80; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1867-906.1
**Subject: A Uniform Church-Wide Apportionment Formula**
Committee Item: FA99-906.1-N
Petition:
22241-FA-906.1-D, Pg. 1312
Membership: 113; Present: 80;
For: 80; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1868-906.11
**Subject: General Council on Ministry**
Committee Item: FA128-906.11-N
Petition:
21000-FA-906.11-D, Pg. 1312
Membership: 113; Present: 80;
For: 80; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1869-906
**Subject: Regarding the "Black College Fund" and the "United Methodist Student Day Fund"**
Committee Item: FA139-906-N
Petition:
22759-FA-906-D, Pg. 1312
Membership: 113; Present: 80;
For: 80; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1870-921.2
**Subject: United Methodist Seminaries Mission Statements on Doctrinal Standards**
Committee Item: FA145-921.2-N
Petition:
22658-FA-921.2-D, Pg. 1315
Membership: 113; Present: 80;
For: 80; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1871-905
**Subject: Organization of General Council on Finance and Administration**
Committee Item: FA147-905-N
Petition:
20593-FA-905-D, Pg. 365
Membership: 113; Present: 80;
For: 80; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1872-905.1
**Subject: Organization**
Committee Item: FA148-905.1-N
Petition:
23071-FA-905.1-D
Membership: 113; Present: 80;
For: 80; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1873-925
**Subject: Enabling Legislation for Basic Salary Plan - Option Episcopal Fund**
Committee Item: FA225-925-N
Petition:
22245-FA-925-D, Pg. 1315
Membership: 113; Present: 80;

For: 80; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1874-1906.12

**Subject: Promotion of Funds by General Commission on Communication**
Committee Item: FA227-1906.12-N
Petition:
20638-FA-1906.12-D, Pg. 908
Membership: 113; Present: 79;
For: 78; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1875-914.3

**Subject: World Service/Conference Apportionment**
Committee Item: FA228-914.3-N
Petition:
20074-FA-914.3-D, Pg. 704
Membership: 113; Present: 93;
For: 88; Against: 4; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1876-2623.3

**Subject: A Charge that Could be used Against a Lay Person**
Committee Item: GJ5-2623.3-N
Petition:
22394-GJ-2623.3-D, Pg. 1488
Membership: 98; Present: 69;
For: 69; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1877-2626

**Subject: Trial Procedures**
Committee Item: GJ6-2626-N
Petition:
21550-GJ-2626-D, Pg. 1492
Membership: 98; Present: 79;
For: 79; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1878-2628

**Subject: Impeachment Proceedings Against a Judicial Council Member**
Committee Item: GJ9-2628-N
Petition:
21553-GJ-2628-D, Pg. 1493
Membership: 98; Present: 79;
For: 79; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1879-2613

**Subject: A Way to Assure a Hearing by the Judicial Council Providing a Decision was not Reported**
Committee Item: GJ10-2613-N
Petition:
21546-GJ-2613-D, Pg. 1485
Membership: 98; Present: 69;
For: 69; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1880-2628.1

**Subject: Miscellaneous Provisions**
Committee Item: GJ47-2628.1-N
Petition:
22609-GJ-2628-D, Pg. 1494
Membership: 98; Present: 79;
For: 79; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1881-1106

**Subject: The Organization of the General Board of Church and Society**
Committee Item: GJ62-1106-N
Petition:
22544-GJ-1106-D, Pg. 1232
Membership: 98; Present: 55;
For: 55; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1882-NonDis

**Subject: Uniting of United Methodist Men and United Methodist Women into United Methodist Families**
Committee Item: GJ63-NonDis-N
Petition:
22659-GJ-NonDis-O, Pg. 1338
Membership: 98; Present: 55;
For: 55; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1883-NonDis

**Subject: Size of General Boards**
Committee Item: GJ64-NonDis-N
Petition:
20207-GJ-NonDis-O, Pg. 712
Membership: 98; Present: 55;
For: 55; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1884-NonDis

**Subject: Chairpersons of Boards and Agencies**
Committee Item: GJ65-NonDis-N
Petition:
23018-GJ-NonDis-O, Pg. 1341
Membership: 98; Present: 55;
For: 55; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1885-810

**Subject: Provisions Pertaining to General Agency Membership**
Committee Item: GJ66-810-N
Petition:
20721-GJ-810-D, Pg. 700
Membership: 98; Present: 55;
For: 55; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1886-NonDis

**Subject: Annual Conference Church Membership on General Boards and Agencies**

Committee Item: GJ67-NonDis-N
Petition:
22642-GJ-NonDis-O, Pg. 1337
Membership: 98; Present: 55;
For: 55; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1887-802.4
**Subject: Amenability and Program Accountability**
Committee Item: GJ77-802.4-N
Petition:
21535-GJ-802.4-D, Pg. 1327
Membership: 98; Present: 55;
For: 55; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1888-802.6
**Subject: Fostering Greater Awareness of Cooperative Ministries among all General Boards and Agencies**
Committee Item: GJ78-802.6-N
Petition:
21536-GJ-802.6-D, Pg. 1328
Membership: 98; Present: 55;
For: 55; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1889-803
**Subject: Amenability and Program Accountability**
Committee Item: GJ80-803-N
Petition:
21537-GJ-803-D, Pg. 1328
Membership: 98; Present: 55;
For: 55; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1890-810.1
**Subject: Provisions pertaining to General Agency Membership**
Committee Item: GJ81-810.1-N
Petition:
20757-GJ-810.1-D, Pg. 700
Membership: 98; Present: 55;
For: 55; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1891-810.2
**Subject: General Agency Membership**
Committee Item: GJ82-810.2-N
Petition:
22567-GJ-810.2-D, Pg. 1329
Membership: 98; Present: 55;
For: 55; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1892-810.2
**Subject: Provisions pertaining to General Agency Membership**
Committee Item: GJ83-810.2-N
Petition:
20954-GJ-810.2-D, Pg. 700
Membership: 98; Present: 55;
For: 55; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1893-810.2
**Subject: Provisions Pertaining to General Agency Membership**
Committee Item: GJ86-810.2-N
Petition:
21655-GJ-810.2-D, Pg. 700
Membership: 98; Present: 55;
For: 55; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1894-2623
**Subject: Chargeable Offenses**
Committee Item: GJ172-2623-N
Petition:
20217-GJ-2623-D, Pg. 1092
Membership: 98; Present: 62;
For: 62; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1895-2626.1
**Subject: Granting the Executive Session Broader Responsibility**
Committee Item: GJ177-2626.1-N
Petition:
22396-GJ-2626.1-D, Pg. 1492
Membership: 98; Present: 79;
For: 79; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1896-2627.1
**Subject: Requiring Response of the Jurisdictional Appeals Committee**
Committee Item: GJ178-2627.1-N
Petition:
21551-GJ-2627.1-D, Pg. 1493
Membership: 98; Present: 79;
For: 79; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1897-2627.1
**Subject: Creation of a Time Frame for the Jurisdictional Appeals Committee**
Committee Item: GJ187-2627.1-N
Petition:
21552-GJ-2627.1-D2, Pg. 1493
Membership: 98; Present: 79;
For: 79; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1898-1106
**Subject: Organization of the General Board of Church and Society**
Committee Item: GJ191-1106-N
Petition:
20940-GJ-1106-D, Pg. 127
Membership: 98; Present: 56;
For: 56; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1899-1412.1
**Subject: Membership of the General Board of Global Ministries**
Committee Item: GJ195-1412.1-N
Petition:
21661-GJ-1412.1-D, Pg. 755
Membership: 98; Present: 56;
For: 56; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1900-1412.3
**Subject: The Composition of the General Board of Global Ministries**
Committee Item: GJ196-1412.3-N
Petition:
21328-GJ-1412.3-D, Pg. 755
Membership: 98; Present: 56;
For: 56; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/21

The Committee recommends concurrence with the petition as amended:

Delete sub-paragraph references within paragraph 805. (805 ~~1b, 2a~~)

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1901-1412.6
**Subject: Membership of General Board of Global Ministries**
Committee Item: GJ198-1412.6-N
Petition:
20625-GJ-1412.6-D, Pg. 755
Membership: 98; Present: 56;
For: 56; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1902-1804.2
**Subject: Membership of General Commission on Archives and History**
Committee Item: GJ203-1804.2-N
Petition:
20636-GJ-1804.2-D, Pg. 906
Membership: 98; Present: 56;
For: 56; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1903-1804
**Subject: Membership of the General Commission**
Committee Item: GJ204-1804-N
Petition:
22793-GJ-1804-D, Pg. 1386
Membership: 98; Present: 56;
For: 56; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1904-803.3
**Subject: Other General Agencies**
Committee Item: GJ214-803.3-R
Petition:
22768-GJ-803.3-D, Pg. 1328
Membership: 98; Present: 49;
For: 49; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends referral to General Council on Ministries.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1905-802
**Subject: Amenability and Program Accountability**
Committee Item: GJ215-802-R
Petition:
22766-GJ-802-D, Pg. 1327
Membership: 98; Present: 49;
For: 49; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends referral to General Council on Ministries.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1906-805.2
**Subject: General Program Board Membership**
Committee Item: GJ217-805.2-R
Petition:
22769-GJ-805.2-D, Pg. 1329
Membership: 98; Present: 49;
For: 49; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends referral to General Council on Ministries.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1907-805.2
**Subject: Other Membership**
Committee Item: GJ218-805.2-N
Petitions:
21059-GJ-805.2-D, Pg. 699;
21652-GJ-805.2-D, Pg. 700
Membership: 98; Present: 55;
For: 55; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1908-805.2
**Subject: Basic Membership**
Committee Item: GJ219-805.2-N
Petition:
21304-GJ-805.2-D, Pg. 699
Membership: 98; Present: 50;
For: 50; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1909-805
**Subject: General Agency Membership**
Committee Item: GJ221-805-N
Petition:
20613-GJ-805-D, Pg. 696
Membership: 98; Present: 50;
For: 50; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1910-2625.3
**Subject: Investigation of a Clergy Member of an Annual Conference**
Committee Item: GJ227-2625.3-N
Petition:
22608-GJ-2625.3-D, Pg. 1492
Membership: 98; Present: 78;
For: 69; Against: 9; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1911-1202
**Subject: Responsibilities of the General Board of Discipleship**
Committee Item: GJ228-1202-N
Petition:
22743-GJ-1202-D, Pg. 1282
Membership: 98; Present: 79;
For: 79; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1912**-2601
**Subject: The Judicial Administration of the Church**
Committee Item: GJ229-2601-N
Petition:
20210-GJ-2601-D, Pg. 1090
Membership: 98; Present: 69;
For: 69; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1913**-NonDis
**Subject: Lay Persons employed by Boards, Agencies, and Committees of the United Methodist Church**
Committee Item: GJ234-NonDis-N
Petition:
22517-GJ-NonDis-O, Pg. 1336
Membership: 98; Present: 79;
For: 79; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1914**-1107
**Subject: Filling Vacancies on the General Board of Church and Society**
Committee Item: GJ235-1107-N
Petition:
22545-GJ-1107-D, Pg. 1233
Membership: 98; Present: 79;
For: 79; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1915**-2622.3
**Subject: Fair Process**
Committee Item: GJ237-2622.3-R
Petition:
22606-GJ-2622.3-D, Pg. 1486
Membership: 98; Present: 63;
For: 61; Against: 0; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends referral to the General Board of Higher Education.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1916**-2622
**Subject: Complainants' Rights in Fair Process**
Committee Item: GJ238-2622-N
Petition:
22390-GJ-2622-D, Pg. 1485
Membership: 98; Present: 79;
For: 79; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1917**-2626.1
**Subject: General Fundamental Principles**
Committee Item: GJ239-2626.1-N
Petition:
20376-GJ-2626.1-D, Pg. 1096
Membership: 98; Present: 79;
For: 79; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1918**-2626.1
**Subject: Trial Procedures**
Committee Item: GJ241-2626.1-N
Petition:
23077-GJ-2626.1-D
Membership: 98; Present: 79;
For: 79; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1919**-2625.1
**Subject: Investigation Procedures**
Committee Item: GJ244-2625.1-N
Petition:
21549-GJ-2625.1-D, Pg. 1492
Membership: 98; Present: 79;
For: 79; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1920**-2626.3
**Subject: Trial Procedures**
Committee Item: GJ246-2626.3-N
Petition:
20377-GJ-2626.3-D, Pg. 1096
Membership: 98; Present: 79;
For: 79; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

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Daily Christian Advocate

THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Louisville, Kentucky Saturday, May 10th, 1992 Vol. 4 No. 19

Delegates Called to Witness, Serve in Christ's Name

Journalists from United Methodist Communications and The United Methodist Publishing House produce this 16-page edition summarizing key debates and decisions in words and pictures. It's included free with *Daily Reports*, but you'll want additional copies for your leaders, members, and for class or group discussion. Copies will be mailed at the close of General Conference. Ten or more to one address: **$1.50** each. Single copies: **$2.00.** DCA subscribers will receive one copy free (DD6-701681).

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**Roundup**

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For: 86; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1926-NonDis
**Subject: The Church and God's Creation**
Committee Item: GJ267-NonDis-N
Petition:
20887-GJ-NonDis-O, Pg. 717
Membership: 98; Present: 75;
For: 69; Against: 6; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1927-2622
**Subject: Advocate or Counsel in a Fair Process**
Committee Item: GJ268-2622-N
Petition:
20213-GJ-2622-D, Pg. 1091
Membership: 98; Present: 79;
For: 79; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1928-NonDis
**Subject: Guidelines for Labor Relations in United Methodist Church and Related Institutions**
Committee Item: GJ269-NonDis-N
Petition:
22481-GJ-NonDis-O, Pg. 1336
Membership: 98; Present: 88;
For: 87; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1929-2625.3
**Subject: Investigative Procedures**
Committee Item: GJ270-2625.3-N
Petition:
23078-GJ-2625.3-D
Membership: 98; Present: 66;
For: 66; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1930-1429
**Subject: Membership**
Committee Item: GM118-1429-N
Petition:
20181-GM-1429-D, Pg. 710
Membership: 126; Present: 80;
For: 80; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1931-262.11
**Subject: Chairperson of Worship**
Committee Item: LC25-262.11-N
Petition:
22128-LC-262.11-D, Pg. 1416
Membership: 89; Present: 69;
For: 68; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1932-264.1
**Subject: Program Agencies**
Committee Item: LC38-264.1-N
Petition:
20802-LC-264.1-D, Pg. 1416
Membership: 89; Present: 71;
For: 69; Against: 2; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1933-264.1
**Subject: The Church School**
Committee Item: LC39-264.1-N
Petition:
20960-LC-264.1-D, Pg. 961
Membership: 89; Present: 70;
For: 67; Against: 2; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1934-266.4
**Subject: Family Life Council**
Committee Item: LC43-266.4-N
Petition:
21452-LC-266.4-D, Pg. 962
Membership: 89; Present: 70;
For: 69; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1935-264.6
**Subject: Raffles of Handicraft Products**
Committee Item: LC45-264.6-N
Petition:
22131-LC-264.6-D, Pg. 1416
Membership: 89; Present: 71;
For: 71; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1936-248.13
**Subject: Basic Salary Option Plan**
Committee Item: LC93-248.13-N
Petition:
22116-LC-248.13-D, Pg. 1412
Membership: 89; Present: 74;
For: 74; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence in favor of 22117 and 22121.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1937-2544
**Subject: Planning and Financial Requirements for Local Church Buildings**
Committee Item: LC94-2544-N
Petition:
21090-LC-2544-D, Pg. 966
Membership: 89; Present: 73;
For: 67; Against: 6; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1938-257.3
**Subject: The Administrative Board, Powers and Duties**
Committee Item: LC146-257.3-N
Petition:
22721-LC-257.3-D, Pg. 1414
Membership: 89; Present: 74;
For: 74; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1939-248.13
**Subject: Powers and Duties of the Charge Conference**
Committee Item: LC147-248.13-N
Petition:
22531-LC-248.13-D, Pg. 1412
Membership: 89; Present: 74;
For: 74; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence in favor of 22117 and 22121.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1940-201
**Subject: Local Church**
Committee Item: LC155-201-N
Petition:
21894-LC-201-D, Pg. 1013
Membership: 89; Present: 73;
For: 73; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence in favor of 20224.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1941-255
**Subject: Membership of the Administrative Board**
Committee Item: LC215-255-N
Petition:
22119-LC-255-D, Pg. 1413
Membership: 89; Present: 74;
For: 74; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1942-253.1
**Subject: The Administrative Council**
Committee Item: LC224-253.1-N
Petition:
20344-LC-253.1-D, Pg. 957
Membership: 89; Present: 73;
For: 73; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1943-NonDis
**Subject: Removal of Inactive Members**
Committee Item: LC231-NonDis-N
Petition:
22153-LC-NonDis-O, Pg. 1427
Membership: 89; Present: 73;
For: 72; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1944-232.1
**Subject: Membership Records and Reports**
Committee Item: LC237-232.1-N
Petition:
22572-LC-232.1-D, Pg. 1410
Membership: 89; Present: 75;
For: 75; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1945-232
**Subject: Full Membership Roll**
Committee Item: LC238-232-N
Petition:
22720-LC-232-D, Pg. 1410
Membership: 89; Present: 78;
For: 78; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1946-255
**Subject: Membership of the Administrative Board**
Committee Item: LC239-255-N
Petition:
22120-LC-255-D, Pg. 1413
Membership: 89; Present: 74;
For: 73; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1947-227
**Subject: Affiliate and Associate Membership**
Committee Item: LC240-227-N
Petition:
21085-LC-227-D, Pg. 949
Membership: 89; Present: 32;
For: 31; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/23

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1948-227
**Subject: Seasonal Local United Methodist Churches Administrative Board/Council**
Committee Item: LC241-227-N
Petition:
22675-LC-227-D, Pg. 1408
Membership: 89; Present: 32;
For: 31; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/23

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1949-242
**Subject: Membership Records**
Committee Item: LC242-242-N
Petition:
21087-LC-242-D, Pg. 952
Membership: 89; Present: 32;
For: 32; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/23

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1950-315
**Subject: Orders in Relation to Ministry of all Christians**
Committee Item: MN29-315-N
Petition:
22928-MN-315-D, Pg. 1503
Membership: 113; Present: 100;
For: 99; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1951-307
**Subject: Continuation of Candidacy**
Committee Item: MN62-307-N
Petition:
22926-MN-307-D, Pg. 1503
Membership: 113; Present: 99;
For: 97; Against: 1; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1952-449.1
**Subject: Family Leave**
Committee Item: MN113-449.1-N
Petition:
21218-MN-449.1-D, Pg. 1066
Membership: 113; Present: 101;

For: 100; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1953-NonDis-$

**Subject: A study commission for matters of health and fitness related to clergy appt. and lay employment**
Committee Item: MN209-NonDis-R$
Petition:
20246-MN-NonDis-O$, Pg. 1100
Membership: 113; Present: 87;
For: 78; Against: 1; Not Voting: 8;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends referral to GCFA

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1954-521

**Subject: The District Superintendent and the Lay Preacher: Personnel**
Committee Item: MN221-521-N
Petition:
22421-MN-521-D, Pg. 1479
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1955-410.3

**Subject: Trial of a Local Pastor**
Committee Item: MN231-410.3-N
Petition:
22371-MN-410.3-D, Pg. 1449
Membership: 113; Present: 89;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1956-530.1

**Subject: Appointment Making**
Committee Item: MN279-530.1-N
Petition:
22599-MN-530.1-D, Pg. 1480
Membership: 113; Present: 69;
For: 69; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1957-442

**Subject: Appointments Beyond the Local United Methodist Church**
Committee Item: MN389-442-N
Petition:
21850-MN-442-D, Pg. 1004
Membership: 113; Present: 99;
For: 99; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended:

Amend title to read: **Elders in Appointments other than to....**

Appointments ~~beyond~~ **other than to.....**

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1958-424

**Subject: Members in Full Connection**
Committee Item: MN419-424-N
Petitions:
22952-MN-423-D, Pg. 1455;
22991-MN-322-D, Pg. 1440;
22992-MN-323-D, Pg. 1440;
22993-MN-422-D, Pg. 1454;
22994-MN-424-D, Pg. 1456;
22995-MN-425-D, Pg. 1457;
22996-MN-426-D, Pg. 1457;
22997-MN-427-D, Pg. 1458;
22998-MN-430-D, Pg. 1458;
22999-MN-431-D, Pg. 1458;
23000-MN-432-D, Pg. 1459;
23001-MN-433-D, Pg. 1459;
23002-MN-436-D, Pg. 1460;
23003-MN-437-D, Pg. 1462;
23004-MN-336-D, Pg. 1441;
23006-MN-338-D, Pg. 1441;
23007-MN-339-D, Pg. 1441;
23008-MN-340-D, Pg. 1442;
23055-MN-422-D, Pg. 1455;
23056-MN-423-D, Pg. 1455;
23057-MN-424-D, Pg. 1457;
23058-MN-425-D, Pg. 1457;
23059-MN-426-D, Pg. 1458;
23060-MN-427-D, Pg. 1458;
23061-MN-428-D, Pg. 1458;
23062-MN-429-D, Pg. 1458;
23063-MN-434-D, Pg. 1460;
23064-MN-435-D, Pg. 1460;
23065-MN-436-D, Pg. 1461;
23066-MN-437-D, Pg. 1462;
23067-MN-438-D, Pg. 1462;
23069-MN-440-D, Pg. 1464
Membership: 113; Present: 86;
For: 86; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1959-527

**Subject: Responsibilities of Council of Bishops**
Committee Item: MN447-527-N
Petition:
20692-MN-527-D, Pg. 1081
Membership: 113; Present: 104;
For: 102; Against: 2; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1960-527

**Subject: Responsibilities of Council of Bishops**
Committee Item: MN448-527-N
Petition:
20691-MN-527-D, Pg. 1081
Membership: 113; Present: 105;
For: 105; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1961-424.3

**Subject: Educational requirements for Pastors**
Committee Item: MN520-424.3-N
Petition:
20043-MN-424.3-D, Pg. 1055
Membership: 113; Present: 86;
For: 77; Against: 9; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1962-402.2

**Subject: Retain Homosexuality Statement in 402.2**
Committee Item: MN660-402.2-N
Petition:
20132-MN-402.2-D, Pg. 1046
Membership: 113; Present: 95;
For: 95; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1963-402.2

**Subject: Human Sexuality**
Committee Item: MN661-402.2-N
Petition:
20133-MN-402.2-D, Pg. 1046

Membership: 113; Present: 95;
For: 95; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1964-402.2
**Subject: Affirm the Right of all Persons who are Called**
Committee Item: MN662-402.2-N
Petition:
20134-MN-402.2-D, Pg. 1046
Membership: 113; Present: 95;
For: 95; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1965-402.2
**Subject: Persons practicing homosexuality**
Committee Item: MN665-402.2-N
Petition:
20137-MN-402.2-D, Pg. 1047
Membership: 113; Present: 95;
For: 95; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1966-402.2
**Subject: Definition of a self-avowed practicing homosexual**
Committee Item: MN666-402.2-N
Petition:
20226-MN-402.2-D, Pg. 1047
Membership: 113; Present: 95;
For: 95; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1967-402.2
**Subject: The Ordained Ministry**
Committee Item: MN667-402.2-N
Petition:
20279-MN-402.2-D, Pg. 1047
Membership: 113; Present: 95;
For: 95; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1968-402.2
**Subject: Relations of Ordained Ministers to the Ministry of All Christians**
Committee Item: MN668-402.2-N
Petition:
20530-MN-402.2-D, Pg. 1047
Membership: 113; Present: 95;
For: 95; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1969-402.2
**Subject: Relations of Ordained Ministers to the Ministry of All Christians**
Committee Item: MN669-402.2-N
Petition:
20531-MN-402.2-D, Pg. 1047
Membership: 113; Present: 95;
For: 95; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1970-404.4
**Subject: Candidacy for Ordained Ministry**
Committee Item: MN672-404.4-N
Petition:
20532-MN-404.4-D, Pg. 1048
Membership: 113; Present: 95;
For: 95; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1971-413.2
**Subject: Voting Rights of Probationary Members**
Committee Item: MN706-413.2-N
Petition:
22830-MN-413.2-D, Pg. 1451
Membership: 113; Present: 95;
For: 95; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1972-304.1
**Subject: Qualifications for Ordination**
Committee Item: MN707-304.1-N
Petition:
22923-MN-304.1-D, Pg. 1502
Membership: 113; Present: 95;
For: 95; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1973-407.1
**Subject: The Ordained Ministry**
Committee Item: MN708-407.1-N
Petition:
22828-MN-407.1-D, Pg. 1448
Membership: 113; Present: 95;
For: 95; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1974-53
**Subject: Episcopal Tenure**
Committee Item: MN720-53-N
Petition:
22413-MN-53-C, Pg. 1430
Membership: 113; Present: 72;
For: 71; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1975-305
**Subject: Entrance into Licensed and Ordained Ministry**
Committee Item: MN722-305-N
Petition:
22924-MN-305-D, Pg. 1502
Membership: 113; Present: 104;
For: 104; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1976**-321
**Subject: The Ordained Deacon**
Committee Item: MN723-321-N
Petition:
22934-MN-321-D, Pg. 1505
Membership: 113; Present: 99;
For: 99; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

# Calendar Items

**1977**-NonDis-$
**Subject: Hausa translation of the Book of Discipline, the Book of Worship and the Hymnal**
Committee Item: CC4-NonDis-C$
Petition:
20021-CC-NonDis-O$
Membership: 36; Present: 29;
For: 29; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/15

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1978**-38
**Subject: Election and Eligibility of Clergy Delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conferences**
Committee Item: CO101-38-A
Petition:
20708-CO-38-C, Pg. 177
Membership: 86; Present: 47;
For: 41; Against: 3; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

On Line 3, after the word connection insert the words probationary members, and the Associate Members

On Line 5, retain in full connection with

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1979**-35
**Subject: Lay Membership of Annual Conference for Deaconesses**
Committee Item: CO252-35-A
Petition:
23079-CO-35-C
Membership: 86; Present: 68;
For: 66; Against: 0; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Amend paragraph 35:

...the diaconal ministers, **the** *active* **deaconesses** *under episcopal appointment*, the conference president...

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1980**-NonDis-$
**Subject: A Reconciling Denomination**
Committee Item: CS37-NonDis-N$
Petition:
22510-CS-NonDis-O$, Pg. 1243
Membership: 102; Present: 76;
For: 61; Against: 14; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1981**-71-MR
**Subject: Supporting the Rights of Former Homosexuals**
Committee Item: CS169-71-A
Petition:
22311-CS-71-D, Pg. 1218
Membership: 102; Present: 73;
For: 59; Against: 8; Not Voting: 6;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Rename section 71G, formerly called Rights of Homosexual **and Former Homosexual** Persons to be called: Equal Rights Regardless of Sexual Orientation

Restore the original language and add a sentence at the end (underlined)

Move entire section to 72H and reletter the sections which follow it, so that it reads as follows:

72H~~*71G) Rights of Homosexual* and Former Homosexual *Persons*~~. Equal Rights Regardless of Sexual Orientation. — Certain basic human rights and civil liberties are due all persons. We are committed to support those rights and liberties for homosexual persons ~~and former homosexual persons.~~ We see a clear issue...Moreover, we support efforts to stop violence and other forms of coercion against gays and lesbians ~~and against former gays and former lesbians~~.We are also committed to support the same rights and liberties, as well as the same efforts against violence and other forms of coercion, for persons who formerly understood themselves to be homosexual.

MINORITY REPORT

Restore the original title of Rights of Homosexual and Former Homosexual Persons for section 71G.

Restore the original additions concerning former homosexual persons.

Amend the last sentence to replace formerly understood themselves to be homosexual with are former homosexuals so that the new section reads:

(addition to the section is underlined)

72H~~*71G) Rights of Homosexual* and~~ **Former Homosexual** *Persons* . ~~Equal Rights Regardless of Sexual Orientation.~~ — Certain basic human rights and civil liberties are due all persons. We are committed to support those rights and liberties for homosexual persons **and former homosexual persons**. We see a clear issue...Moreover, we support efforts to stop violence and other forms of coercion against gays and lesbians **and against former gays and former lesbians. We are also committed to support the same rights and liberties, as well as the same efforts against violence and other forms of coercion, for persons who** ~~formerly understood themselves to be~~ **are former homosexuals.**

1. Charles Pearce
2. Joseph Harris
3. David A. Seamands
4. David A. Banks
5. Elizabeth A.S. Wright
6. Rick Kindschi
7. James B. Moneyham

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**1982**-72-MR
**Subject: Rights of the Unborn**
Committee Item: CS175-72-N
Petition:
22584-CS-72-D, Pg. 1226
Membership: 102; Present: 85;
For: 50; Against: 35; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

MINORITY REPORT

Add a new sub-paragraph after 72C and reletter all following sections:

*D) Rights of the unborn.*—**While the full rights of women must always be respected, unborn children are acknowledged to be human beings in their own right. Although there is no consensus as to when human life begins, unborn children are deserving of treatment that is due those who are made in the image of God. Thus, we support the development of adoption agencies, counseling services for expectant mothers, and care centers for unwed mothers, designed to protect the sacred worth of the unborn child.**

1. Elizabeth A.S. Wright
2. Tom M. Junk
3. David A. Banks
4. Margaret Knight
5. James B. Moneyham
6. Joseph Harris
7. Lewis F. Tibbits
8. John A. Mason
9. Harold D. Nixon
10. Bill Howie
11. C. A. Dillon
12. Joseph F. DiPaolo
13. Martin A. Case
14. Donald A. Lehman

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1983-NonDis

**Subject: Sanctity of Life and Opposition to Abortion**
Committee Item: CS181-NonDis-N
Petition:
22587-CS-NonDis-O, Pg. 1236
Membership: 102; Present: 85;
For: 62; Against: 20; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1984-72

**Subject: The Social Community**
Committee Item: CS182-72-N
Petition:
20923-CS-72-D, Pg. 123
Membership: 102; Present: 85;
For: 49; Against: 30; Not Voting: 6;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1985-NonDis-MR

**Subject: Membership in Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice**
Committee Item: CS187-NonDis-N
Petition:
22621-CS-NonDis-O, Pg. 1236
Membership: 102; Present: 77;
For: 46; Against: 27; Not Voting: 4;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

MINORITY REPORT

We direct the womens Division and the Board of Church and Society to withdraw affiliation and participation with the organization Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice (RCRC). RCRCs goals and actions are not compatible with our churchs stance on abortion as stated in our Discipline in paragraph 71H. Therefore, the United Methodist Church ends its relationship with the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice.

1. Mike Lowry
2. David A. Banks
3. Martin A. Case
4. Bill Howie
5. Lewis Tibbits
6. Delight B. Wier
7. Harold D. Nixon
8. Donald A. Lehman
9. Joseph Harris
10. Tom M. Junk
11. Margaret Knight
12. Duane Andrews
13. John A. Mason
14. Elizabeth A. S. Wright
15 James B. Moneyham

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1986-NonDis

**Subject: Evangelism as a Missional Priority of the United Methodist Church for the next Quadrennium**
Committee Item: DI111-NonDis-N
Petition:
22557-DI-NonDis-O, Pg. 1302
Membership: 112; Present: 70;
For: 47; Against: 22; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1987-745-MR

**Subject: Conference Council on Youth Ministry**
Committee Item: DI187-745-C
Petition:
20496-DI-745-D, Pg. 243
Membership: 112; Present: 98;
For: 52; Against: 43; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

MINORITY REPORT

Whereas the petition as presented leaves questions as to the membership of another organization to which these responsibilities are assigned, and

Whereas we fear that such an organization might become an organization of adults instead of adults and youth in ministry together.

Therefore be it resolved that the following words are inserted after the word organization in the petition as presented, which follows the same membership requirements,

Deborah M. Wilcock
Shawn M. Hartman
Brian N. Jones
David Z. Hoffman
Peggy I. Sewell
J. Philip Wogaman
Susan Johnson Morrison
Martha D. Ward
Ronald E. Bowersox
Kathleen B. Barden

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1988-NonDis-MR

**Subject: Doctrinal Integrity in Denominational Leaders**
Committee Item: DI196-NonDis-A
Petition:
22211-DI-NonDis-O, Pg. 1291
Membership: 112; Present: 86;
For: 53; Against: 27; Not Voting: 6;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

The doctrinal standards of United Methodism stand in the broad stream of apostolic Christianity. These standards are distinguishing characteristics of our unique identity. Whenever persons be-

come members of local United Methodist congregations, they, along with the congregations of which they become a part, affirm ~~the Apostles Creed as a summary of doctrine~~ **these doctrinal standards.**

Whenever persons are ordained within The United Methodist Church, they covenant to proclaim the faith of the Church and no other... (*Book of Worship*, page 675, Ordination of Elders).

The certificate of ordination attests that each ordinand is set apart for the work of an Elder...so long as this person continues to be a faithful servant of Jesus Christ and adheres to and teaches the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ and the doctrines of the Church.

**After ordination, the Board of Ordained Ministry is responsible for all processes related to the character, effectiveness and conference relations of ordained members (¶ 733).**

Episcopal leaders are given responsibility to guard, transmit, teach, and proclaim corporately and individually the apostolic faith **as it is expressed in Scripture and Tradition, and, as they are led and endowed by the Spirit to interpret that faith evangelically and prophetically. (¶ ~~114.2~~ 512.2). Episcopal leaders have the responsibility of general oversight and promotion of the temporal and spiritual interests of the entire church. (¶50) Such oversight includes holding the church accountable to our doctrinal standards.**

In addition, all general agencies of The United Methodist Church are amenable to the General Conference (¶ 802). This amenability extends to the affirmation and defense of the doctrinal standards of the denomination, on whose behalf the general agencies have been created to serve. ~~Some elders, episcopal leaders, and members of boards and agencies, having made these commitments in good conscience at one time, may determine that they are no longer able to affirm and uphold the doctrinal standards of The United Methodist Church.~~

Therefore, be it resolved~~, that those whose teaching and/or leadership demonstrably repudiates the doctrine of United Methodism and who persistently refuse to relinquish their privilege of leadership granted by the people they have been called to serve must be subject to the provision for removal in *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church*~~:

**1. We affirm our doctrinal standards as set forth in the Book of Discipline, and encourage their practice at all levels of church life, and**

**2. We encourage the Secretary of the General Conference to forward a copy of this resolution to the Council of Bishops and the chairs of the boards of diaconal ministry, laity and ordained ministry in each Annual Conference.**

MINORITY REPORT

Doctrinal Integrity in Denominational Leaders

The doctrinal standards of United Methodism stand in the broad stream of apostolic Christianity. These standards are distinguishing characteristics of our identity. We are also characterized by a practical and faithful interpretation of those standards in response to the Spirits promptings to proclaim the gospel to the present age. To encourage such reflection, we have placed alongside our Doctrinal Standards and General Rules (¶ 67) the normative statement *Our Theological Task* (¶ 68).

Whenever persons are ordained within The United Methodist Church, they covenant to proclaim the faith of the Church and no other... (*Book of Worship*, page 675, Ordination of Elders). The certificate of ordination attests that each ordinand is set apart for the work of an Elder...so long as this person continues to be a faithful servant of Jesus Christ and adheres to and teaches the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ and the doctrines of the Church. After ordination, the Board of Ordained Ministry is responsible for all processes related to the character, effectiveness, and conference relations of ordained members (¶ 733).

Episcopal leaders are given responsibility to Guard, transmit, teach, and proclaim corporately and individually the apostolic faith as it is expressed in Scripture and tradition, and as they are led and endowed by the Spirit, to interpret that faith evangelically and prophetically. (¶ 514.2). Episcopal leaders have the responsibility of general oversight and promotion of the temporal and spiritual interests of the entire church. (¶ 50) Such oversight includes continually holding our doctrinal standards before the church.

In addition, all general agencies of The United Methodist Church are amenable to the General Conference. (¶ 802) This amenability extends to the affirmation and defense of the doctrinal standards of the denomination, on whose behalf the general agencies have been created to serve.

No United Methodist has a perfect understanding of our body of doctrine. We affirm and welcome the fresh witness of the Holy Spirit to lead us deeper into truth. We encourage creative theological thought, humbly acknowledging that all honest thought risks error and that we need a lively conversation as we seek to be faithful to the gospel of Jesus Christ and to one another.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1.We affirm our doctrinal standards and *Our Theological Task*, as set forth in the *Book of Discipline*, and encourage their observance at all levels of church life, and

2.We encourage the Secretary of the General Conference to forward a copy of this resolution to the Council of Bishops and the chairs of the Boards of Diaconal Ministry, Laity and Ordained Ministry in each Annual Conference.

J. Philip Wogaman
Mark Trotter
Charles W. Brockwell
Richard Gross
Robert E. Stillwell
Peggy I. Sewell
Jack Albright
Robert B. Brandt
Shirley D. Byers
Song Jn Park
Linda D. Wiberg
Dolly Fogle
Billy Still
Charles R. Armstrong
Jo Eva McClellan

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1989-906.12-MR

**Subject: Regarding Funding Homosexual Advocacy**

Committee Item: FA136-906.12-C
Petition:
22240-FA-906.12-D, Pg. 1313
Membership: 113; Present: 93;
For: 70; Against: 23; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

MINORITY REPORT

Para. 906.12: **The council shall be responsible for ensuring that no board, agency, committee, commission, or council shall give United Methodist funds to promote the acceptance of homosexuality. . . This restriction shall not limit the churchs ministry in response to the HIV epidemic, nor shall this restriction limit the churchs research, study and discussion of any issues of human sexuality.**

Signatures:

1. Frank Trotter
2. Donald E. Messer
3. Ernest Swiggett
4. Victor Ortiz
5. Jerry Tubach
6. Jeff Sitts
7. Alvin Deer
8. Sue Sherbrooke
9. Ellen Brubaker
10. Tracy Merrick
11. Jeannie Trevino-Teddlie
12. Susan Davies
13. Grady Knowles
14. Phyllis Bowers
15. Randall Robinson
16. Kay Cloud
17. Harold S. Stanton
18. John L. Hopkins
19. Jeff Quick
20. Sharon Leatherman
21. David R. Aubuchon
22. Phyllis Rodriguez
23. Joel E. Huffman
24. Jerry Jay Smith

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1990-906.12

**Subject: Human Sexuality**
Committee Item: FA137-906.12-N
Petition:
21034-FA-906.12-D, Pg. 1312
Membership: 113; Present: 93;
For: 75; Against: 18; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1991-906.12

**Subject: Correcting Language which Classifies Lesbians and Gay Persons**
Committee Item: FA149-906.12-N
Petitions:
20015-FA-906.12-D, Pg. 368;
20206-FA-906.12-D, Pg. 369;
20883-FA-906-D, Pg. 1311;
21478-FA-906.12-D, Pg. 369;
21588-FA-906.12-D, Pg. 369;
22238-FA-906.12-D, Pg. 1312;
22239-FA-906.12-D, Pg. 1313;
22470-FA-906.12-D, Pg. 1313
Membership: 113; Present: 93;
For: 75; Against: 18; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1992-NonDis-$

**Subject: Continue Funding the area of Abuse and/or Misuse of Drugs and Alcohol**
Committee Item: FA226-NonDis-C$
Petition:
20012-FA-NonDis-O$, Pg. 384
Membership: 113; Present: 85;
For: 85; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1993-808

**Subject: Board of Organization**
Committee Item: GJ57-808-A
Petition:
20720-GJ-808-D, Pg. 700
Membership: 98; Present: 81;
For: 63; Against: 18; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended with referral to the Judicial Council to determine consititutionality as follows:

Add a new sub-paragraph at the end of ¶808:

**Staff of program boards shall not be eligible to serve as officers of corresponding General Conference Legislative Committees.**

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1994-748

**Subject: Committee on Native American Ministry**
Committee Item: GJ96-748-A
Petition:
22261-GJ-748-D, Pg. 1327
Membership: 98; Present: 81;
For: 68; Against: 11; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

In the first sentence, following (without regard to race or ethnic origin) insert **or a designated member of an established church committee**

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1995-NonDis-$

**Subject: Resolution Proclaiming a Quadrennium of the Worker**
Committee Item: GJ118-NonDis-A$
Petition:
22709-GJ-NonDis-O$, Pg. 1338
Membership: 98; Present: 80;
For: 74; Against: 4; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/21

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Substitute for Petition 22709-GJ-NonDis-O; Kingswood Project, MOW

**RESOLUTION CALLING FOR AN EMPHASIS OF CONCERN FOR WORKERS**

Be it resolved, that the 1996 General Conference authorize an Emphasis of Concern of the Worker to be conducted in the 1997-2000 Quadrennium and reported to the 2000 General Conference. The Emphasis of Concern will provide opportunities for our denomination, annual conferences, districts and local congregations to explore the history of our church and its relationship to workers in their struggles for workplace peace and justice. This Emphasis of Concern will explore:

Ways United Methodists can celebrate workers, their economic importance to our community and their many and diverse contributions to a free and just society;

The new challenges that confront us in an international economy and find ways we can stand together in continuing struggles; and

Ways to implement the actions called for in the resolution entitled The Right of Workers passed at the 1988 General Conference (Book of Resolutions, pages 369-370).

The Emphasis of Concern may, for example, organize a nationwide Conference on The United Methodist Church and Working People.

The General Conference shall direct the General Board of Global Ministries and the General Board of Church and Society to appoint a task force to coordinate the activities of the Emphasis of concern. This task force will be composed of both clergy and laity. The General Board of Global Ministries and General Board of Church and Society will each appoint one-third of the task force. Those appointed will then nominate the final one-third of the task force to represent the church-at-large. All appointees will be persons who are informed about the issues and/or presently engaged in ministry to working people, the unemployed and the

underemployed. The task force will be gender, race and class inclusive.

Be it further resolved, the General Conference shall encourage each annual conference, district, and local congregation to explore and develop their own ministries to working people, the unemployed and underemployed. The General Board of Global Ministries and General Board of Church and Society will assist these efforts to

Identify working people, the unemployed, and the underemployed who worship in our local congregations and, in the best tradition of Wesleyan inclusiveness, design settings in which to hear their stories, survey their needs, affirm their diverse gifts, and nurture their leadership skills;

Encourage regular dialogue with local organized labor communities and reach out to unorganized workers;

Advocate for the economic, social, political and spiritual interests of working people, the unemployed and the underemployed within annual conferences, districts and local congregations;

Be in special community with all who are affected during grievances, organizing efforts, contract negotiations, strikes, lockouts or plant closings; and

Participate in ecumenical, interfaith and other community-centered efforts to serve working people, the unemployed and the underemployed. Help to find funds both within and without the church to undergird ministries of support and advocacy for unemployed and underemployed.

Our denomination, its annual conferences, districts and local congregations, its boards, commissions, agencies, hospitals, nursing homes, seminaries and other higher education institutions employ many workers. We lift up the standards of being model employers, including:

Listening to the concerns of our employees and respond to their suggestions and grievances;

Supporting, not impeding, their efforts to organize for the purpose of collective bargaining; and

Developing written guidelines based on the Social Principles for use within the denomination, its annual conferences, districts, local congregations, agencies and affiliated institutions which affirm the rights of workers to organize for the purpose of collective bargaining.

The General Conference recognizes that an Emphasis of Concern alone will not solve the workplace crisis. Each United Methodist must make a personal commitment to join the struggle. We worship the Carpenter and embrace the wisdom of John Wesley. Both served working people. United Methodists are well positioned to serve working people. We are workers, bosses, farmers, shoppers, preachers, educators, missionaries, administrators, corporate officers, landlords, doctors, bankers, stockholders and consumers. Embracing the spirit and implementing the call of the 1988 Resolution, United Methodists can help working people realize their full potential and find justice, peace and wholeness within their workplaces. By our actions, we seek to proclaim the sacredness of the workplace and the dignity of its workers.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1996-NonDis-MR

**Subject: Retain the Headquarters of the General Board of Global Ministries in New York City**

Committee Item: GJ152-NonDis-A

Petition:

20515-GJ-NonDis-O, Pg. 715

Membership: 98; Present: 88;

For: 48; Against: 39; Not Voting: 1;

Date: 4/21

The Committee recommends concurrence with substitute motion as amended as follows:

Substitute Motion:

Whereas, the 1988 Task Force to Study the Feasibility of Relocating the General Board of Global Ministries (the 1988 Task Force) reported to the 1992 General Conference its judgment that such relocation was feasible, and it also reported a series of recommendations to effect such a relocation.

Whereas, the 1992 General Conference directed that the General Board of Global Ministries (the GBGM headquarters be moved from New York City.

Whereas, the 1992 General Conference established a Site Selection Task Force (the 1992 Site Selection Task Force) to select a new site for the GBGM headquarters.

Whereas, the projected costs of the 1992 Site Selection Task Force recommendations are so great (in excess of 72 million dollars) that the proposed relocation site is too costly and not reconcilable with the study and recommendation of the 1988 Task Force or the 1992 General Conference Resolution.

Whereas, the General Council On Ministries Connectional Issues Task Force is recommending (Item III on Page 576 of DCA) that the general agencies seek to refine and reshape themselves during the 1997-2000 quadrennium.

Whereas, the 1996 General Conference will be considering numerous petitions and studies recommending restructuring of the General Church that may require an overall study of the general boards and agencies during the next quadrennium.

Whereas, more prudent action necessitates a delay in mandating the relocation of the GBGM until the General Conference in 2000, so that any restructuring of the general boards and agencies can be incorporated into the site relocation decision and a more economical site can be determined in accordance with the recommendations of the 1988 Task Force.

Now, therefore, the 1996 General Conference adopts the following:

1.The 1992 Site Selection Task Force be dismissed with appreciation.

2.That the standing joint committee of the General Council on Ministries (GCOM) and the General Council on Finance and Administration (GCFA), as authorized by Paragraph 907.2 and 1006.26 of The Discipline review the suitability of the New York Headquarters location based upon possible restructure recommendations and stewardship of mission resources.

MINORITY REPORT

We the undersigned members of the General and Judicial Administration Legislative Committee, offer the following minority report:

WHEREAS, it is essential that the major decisions affecting the General Church be made by the General Conference; and

WHEREAS, the 1988 Task Force to Study the Feasibility of Relocating the General Board of Global Ministries (1988 Task Force) reported to the 1992 General Conference its judgment that such relocation was feasible, and it also reported recommendations to effect relocation; and

WHEREAS, the 1992 General Conference directed that the General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM) headquarters be moved from New York City.; and

WHEREAS, the 1992 General Conference established a Site Selection Task Force (1992 Task Force) to select a new site for GBGM headquarters; and

WHEREAS, the recommendations of the 1992 Task Force are not acceptable because of excessive costs and are not reconcilable with the 1988 Task Forces recommendations or the 1992 General Conference decision; and

WHEREAS, although the General Conference does not seek to assign fault,

it is clear that the will of the 1992 General Conference has been frustrated and that a new way to resolve this matter is now essential in order to keep faith with a large part of the membership of The United Methodist Church; and

WHEREAS, because major restructuring of the general agencies is in process, it is not advisable to select a site for the GBGM headquarters at this time; and

WHEREAS, there is a strong possibility that suitable new sites for the GBGM headquarters are available with will result in annual reductions in net costs; and

WHEREAS, it is not desirable and not necessary to create another task force or to incur any significant expense for an additional study; and

WHEREAS, the necessary work to enable the General Conference to make an informed decision can be done by utilizing an existing Disciplinary join committee;

NOW, THEREFORE, the 1996 General Conference adopts the following:

1. The Standing Joint Committee of the General Council on Ministries (GCOM) and the General Council on Finance and Administration (GCFA) authorized by Paragraph 907.2 and 1006.26 of the Discipline, as part of its continuing quadrennial review of the location of general agency headquarter, shall make a report to the General Conference in 2000. This report shall take into account all applicable restructuring and plans for restructuring, costs and cost savings, and stewardship of mission resources. The report shall include:

a. A review of the suitability of the New York City headquarters location;

b. A recommendation of one or more relocation sites for the economical and effective operation of the GBGM headquarters; and

c. A comparison of the suitability of the New York City headquarters and each proposed relocation site.

2. The General Conference in 2000 shall decide whether to retain the GBGM headquarters location and, if not, shall select a relocation site.

3. The Standing Joint Committee of GCOM and GCFA shall carefully control expenses and shall not use any mission funds for this assigned task. The Committee is encouraged to use relevant data from the 1988 and 1992 Task Forces and to invite specific proposals from local development authorities and others.

1. Joe M. Whittemore, North Georgia
2. Patricia L. Miller, South Indiana
3. Philip Susag, New England
4. Paul D. White, Louisiana
5. Anita K. Archer, Memphis
6. Rudolph R. Baker, Jr., North Georgia
7. June P. Goldman, Iowa
8. Hiram Bobo, Jr., North Georgia
9. Polly G. Harper, South Carolina
10. Ed H. Hill, Northwest Texas
11. Jim Holsinger, Kentucky
12. Thomas A. Langford, III, Western North Carolina
13. W. S. Bill Hatcher, South Georgia
14. Randy Smith, Texas
15. Monty Stabler, North Alabama
16. David A. Dodge, Florida

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1997-2623.1
**Subject: Chargeable Offenses**
Committee Item: GJ186-2623.1-N
Petitions:
20722-GJ-2623.1-D, Pg. 1093;
21544-GJ-2623.1-D, Pg. 1486;
22699-GJ-2623.1-D, Pg. 1487
Membership: 98; Present: 70;
For: 44; Against: 23; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1998-264.6
**Subject: United Methodist Women**
Committee Item: LC44-264.6-C
Petition:
22532-LC-264.6-D, Pg. 1416
Membership: 89; Present: 68;
For: 41; Against: 26; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 1999-1527.2
**Subject: Areas of Concern for the Division of Ordained Ministry**
Committee Item: MN452-1527.2-N
Petition:
22098-MN-1527.2-D, Pg. 1484
Membership: 113; Present: 105;
For: 70; Against: 35; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2000-441
**Subject: Equalized Salary Task Force**
Committee Item: MN492-441-C
Petition:
20298-MN-441-D, Pg. 1059
Membership: 113; Present: 77;
For: 44; Against: 31; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

# Removed from the consent Calendar

## 800-702.1
CO138

Removed from consent calendar A04 by the following delegates:

Fenn, Philip J.;
Biggs, Jr. Marvin Mouzon;
Bowles, Paul D.;
Buskirk, James B.;
plus one other.

## 812-282
DI59

Removed from consent calendar A04 by the following delegates:

Pritts, Deborah L.;
Salyer, Ronald;
Duger, Sharon L.;
Neese, Betty;
Bretsch, Ronald.

## 813-282.2
DI61

Removed from consent calendar A04 by the following delegates:

Pritts, Deborah L.;
Salyer, Ronald;
Duger, Sharon L.;
Neese, Betty;
Bretsch, Ronald.

**834**-1602
FA151

Removed from consent calendar A04 by the following delegates:

Youngblood, Rebecca C.;

Dorsey, Frank L.;

Ravenhorst, Dorothy A.;

Earl, Dorothy M.;

Yohan, Shantilata R. F..

**854**-2623.1
GJ175

Removed from consent calendar A04 by the following delegates:

Trotter, Jr. Frank E.;

Leatherman, Sharon;

Matthews, Eugene W.;

Oliver, Mary Brown;

Chattin, Terri Rae.

**856**-805
GJ222

Removed from consent calendar A04 by the following delegates:

White, David L.;

Swiggett, Ernest L.;

Knowles, Grady;

Wynn, Samuel;

Mallory, Margaret M..

**862**-262
LC22

Removed from consent calendar A04 by the following delegates:

Wynn, Samuel;

Cotton-Winn, Carole;

Knowles, Grady;

Mallory, Margaret M.;

Collier, Theodore C..

**877**-270.2
LC176

Removed from consent calendar A04 by the following delegates:

Atha, Grayson;

Pritts, Deborah L.;

Goodpastor, Larry M.;

Youngblood, Rebecca C.;

Gardner, Andrew J..

**890**-267
LC208

Removed from consent calendar A04 by the following delegates:

Del, Pino Jerome K.;

Wynn, Samuel;

Knowles, Grady;

Mallory, Margaret M.;

Collier, Theodore C..

**891**-268
LC209

Removed from consent calendar A04 by the following delegates:

Del, Pino Jerome K.;

Wynn, Samuel;

Cotton-Winn, Carole;

Knowles, Grady;

Mallory, Margaret M..

**895**-226
LC217

Removed from consent calendar A04 by the following delegates:

Vetter, Jeremy;

Hartman, Shawn;

Yoost, Timothy;

Griffith, Daniel;

Turner, Richard D..

**918**-110
MN55

Removed from consent calendar A04 by the following delegates:

Extrum-Fernandez, Renae D.;

Schock, Louise K.;

Zeiders, G. Edwin;

Moore, Mary Elizabeth;

Pritts, Deborah L..

**943**-422
MN184

Removed from consent calendar A04 by the following delegates:

Robertson, Suzi;

Palmer, Ruth G.;

Hayes, Jr. Robert E.;

Foster, James W.;

Bryant, Norma L..

**973**-443
MN388

Removed from consent calendar A04 by the following delegates:

Atha, Grayson;

Pritts, Deborah L.;

Goodpastor, Larry M.;

Youngblood, Rebecca C.;

Gardner, Andrew J..

**1028**-NonD
CS119

Removed from consent calendar B04 by the following delegates:

Dowdy, Kristen E.;

Murphy, Jr. E. Thomas;

Carver, Rebecca C.;

Day, Barbara;

Reed, James R..

**1050**-NonD
FA208

This calendar item was determined to have financial implications and was removed from the consent calendar B04 by the Coordinator of the Calendar.

**1051**-NonD
FA209

This calendar item was determined to have financial implications and was removed from the consent calendar B04 by the Coordinator of the Calendar.

**1052**-NonD
FA210

This calendar item was determined to have financial implications and was removed from the consent calendar B04 by the Coordinator of the Calendar.

**1053**-NonD
FA211

This calendar item was determined to have financial implications and was removed from the consent calendar B04 by the Coordinator of the Calendar.

**1054**-NonD
FA212

This calendar item was determined to have financial implications and was removed from the consent calendar B04 by the Coordinator of the Calendar.

**1055**-NonD
FA213

This calendar item was determined to have financial implications and was removed from the consent calendar B04 by the Coordinator of the Calendar.

**1056**-NonD
FA214

This calendar item was determined to have financial implications and was removed from the consent calendar B04 by the Coordinator of the Calendar.

**1057**-NonD
FA215

This calendar item was determined to have financial implications and was removed from the consent calendar B04 by the Coordinator of the Calendar.

**1058**-NonD
FA216

This calendar item was determined to have financial implications and was removed from the consent calendar B04 by the Coordinator of the Calendar.

**1059**-NonD
FA217

This calendar item was determined to have financial implications and was removed from the consent calendar B04 by the Coordinator of the Calendar.

**1060**-NonD
FA218

This calendar item was determined to have financial implications and was removed from the consent calendar B04 by the Coordinator of the Calendar.

**1061**-NonD
FA220

This calendar item was determined to have financial implications and was removed from the consent calendar B04 by the Coordinator of the Calendar.

**1151**-726
CO131

Removed from consent calendar C04 by the following delegates:

Trumble, Bette T.;

Nicholson, Anne D.;

St., Clair Liz;

Atha, Grayson;

Sprague, C. Joseph.

**1209**-703.2
CO200

Removed from consent calendar C04 by the following delegates:

Horton, Alvin J.;

Jackson, Kenneth J.;

Hulick, Elizabeth 'Betsy';

Dowdy, Kristen E.;

Smith, Theodore.

**1336**-712
FA195

Removed from consent calendar C04 by the following delegates:

Whittle, Charles D.;

Nixon, Harold D.;

Ward, Gary T.;

Smith, Jim W.;

Hill, Ed H..

**1337**-711.3
FA198

Removed from consent calendar C04 by the following delegates:

Whittle, Charles D.;

Nixon, Harold D.;

Ward, Gary T.;

Smith, Jim W.;

Hill, Ed H..

**1345**-NonD
FA224

Removed from consent calendar C04 by the following delegates:

Crutchfield, Charles;

Stegall, Karl K.;

Courtoy, Charles W.;

Jones, Dale;

Pickett, William A..

**1580**-458
MN358

Removed from consent calendar C04 by the following delegates:

Lutz, Sandra W.;

Tan, Wee-Li;

Schock, Louise K.;

Extrum-Fernandez, Renae D.;

Palmer, Ruth G..

**1668**-402.2
MN716

Removed from consent calendar C04 by the following delegates:

Goodpastor, Larry M.;

Barrett, Joy A.;

Bailey, Paul C.;

Keck, Duane J.;

Woolridge, Jr. Eugene R..

# Proceedings of the 1996 General Conference of The United Methodist Church

## Committee On Journal Report

The Committee On Journal hereby certifies as accurate, with the following corrections, the proceedings as printed in the *Daily Christian Advocate* for Monday, April 23, 1996.

*Daily Edition*, page 402, column 1, second full paragraph, line 10, replace "defendent" with "dependent."

*Daily Edition*, page 420, column 3, line 18, should read "for" nonconcurrence.

**Reported by William Reasner Chair, Committee On Journal**
(C13, seat 2)

## Monday Evening Session April 22, 1996

*Bishop Thomas Stockton, presiding*

*song*

BISHOP THOMAS STOCKTON: And now, as we begin each of our sessions with a few moments where we share with each other, please turn to perhaps someone that you have not shared with yet, someone a few spaces from you, in front of you or behind you. And we'll take just a few moments to share with you. What do you want to happen tonight and what does God want to happen tonight? May we have your attention, please, as we share with each other for just a few moments and then we will have prayer.

*(moments of sharing)*

Now having shared, would you please join with each other in prayer?

*(prayer)*

Now we have a personal privilege. Dr. Lee Sheaffer, would you come to microphone number 9, please.

LEE B. SHEAFFER (Virginia): I thank you for this personal privilege.

BISHOP STOCKTON: May we come to order, please. *(laughter)*

*Society of St. Andrew*

SHEAFFER: The Society of St. Andrew is a ministry in the Virginia Annual Conference working to alleviate hunger. This ministry is well known internationally for its Potato Project. In preparation for General Conference, the Society of St. Andrew promoted a "Penny Blizzard," encouraging congregations to raise a mile of pennies or $850. Twenty-one annual conferences and 147 churches have responded by giving $85,000 toward alleviating hunger in the United States. This represents 4 1/2 million servings of food.

We thank these churches and annual conferences for their support. We salute and thank the Rev. Ray Buchanan and the Rev. Jeff Allen for their outstanding leadership and vision to help address the hunger problems in our world. The Rev. Buchanan and Rev. Allen are up to my right. As you can see, their Society of St. Andrew donated $85,000 to help with the hunger problem of our nation. Thank you very much. [*applause*]

BISHOP STOCKTON: Let's express appreciation for that ministry. [*applause*] Pete Weaver, Pennsylvania, wanted to make an inquiry. Where are you? Microphone 9.

*Rule 36*
*Discernment and Consensus*

PETER D. WEAVER (Western Pennsylvania): I know time flies when you are having fun, and it seems like we've only been here a day. [*laughter*] But the fact of the matter is, we've been here almost a week. And on the first day of our proceedings, if you will refer in the Daily Proceedings on page 54 and 55, you will remember that Susan Hassinger proposed an amendment to Rule 36. And as a body, we referred that Rule 36 to the Committee on Plan of Organization and Rule of Order.

And if you will look at the dialogue that occurred between Bishop Sano and Robert Stevens, you will note that the implication was that we would hear back on that referral the next day. It is now the next day plus, and so I rise to inquire what has happened to that referral, and based upon the answer, I may have an motion.

BISHOP STOCKTON: It's my understanding that Robert Stevens had to leave the site of the conference. And I am not sure whether there is someone else that can answer that question. Is there a member of the Rules Committee that can speak to this issue? Jerome Del Pino? Jerome, would you go to number nine, please.

JEROME K. DEL PINO (New England Conference): Bishop, the Rules Committee did, in fact, receive the proposal that had been submitted by Susan Hassinger. And it was given due consideration in the meeting of the committee as it formed and elected its new officers. It was determined in that meeting that while, as my colleague, Pete, has indicated, it was implied that it would be returned. There was not the understanding that that was mandatory, given the scope of the study that the committee felt would need to be done in order to act responsibly regarding the parameters of that motion.

That is to say that we believe that it has implications for a paradigm change for the General Conference. We were very open to being able to hear back from the process that was

utilized by the ministry study group, and we would be informed by that. I have made the commitment to Susan that the first meeting of the Rules Committee for the General Conference, I, as chairperson, would ensure that she would be invited to be with us, so that we could deliberate about this together, and be able to bring an informed decision to the General Conference of the year 2000.

BISHOP STOCKTON: All right, that is the answer to the question. Thank you from the Rules Committee.

WEAVER: May I make a motion then to follow that?

BISHOP STOCKTON: All right. Microphone 9.

WEAVER: I'd like to move that the Committee on Plan of Organization and Rules of Order report back to the Tuesday morning session concerning the Hassinger amendment to Rule 36. And if I have second, I would like to say just another word.

BISHOP STOCKTON: Now, you are speaking about tomorrow?

WEAVER: That's correct.

BISHOP STOCKTON: All right, it's a second. You may speak.

WEAVER:This is indeed a time of shifting paradigms, to use Jerome's phrase. Many of us feel that the winds of the Spirit are moving in ways as the bishops have led us to pray and be in times of discernment. The amendment to Rule 36 proposed that we put that in a formal way into our rules, so that if the body by a two-thirds vote, decided that it would want to move into a time of discernment and consensus finding around some of the divisive issues that are facing us, that we might do so.

As we prepare to sail into some of those heavy waters, I believe that it is important for us to allow God to give us this tool in our Rules of Order so that we may, by a two-thirds vote, if we feel moved by the Spirit, move into a time of discernment concerning the issues that are facing this General Conference.

BISHOP STOCKTON: All right, the motion is before us. The original motion is on page 54 of the blue book. The motion that has just been made is before us by Pete Weaver. Is there discussion? All right, will you then vote when the light appears, yes or no, on the motion by Pete Weaver, affirming the motion on page 54 to refer to the Plan of Organization? [Results: 450 yes, 273 no; 35 abstained]

Yes, we will refer that to the Plan of Organization. I am hopeful that the chair of the Plan of Organization is here and listening and can deal with that, and bring it back to us tomorrow.

All right, Jerome, will you work on that and come back tomorrow? Thank you. Mary Silva, from Rio Grande Conference. Where are you? Microphone 8.

*Request Free Copies of Mil Voces Para Celebrar*

MARY SILVA (Rio Grande): Last Saturday we rejoiced and gratefully accepted the report from the Hispanic hymnal. I would like to request that the United Methodist Publishing House provide a copy of the Hispanic hymnal, *Mil Voces Para Celebrar*, to every delegate to the 1996 General Conference just as it was done with the *United Methodist Hymnal* at the 1992 General Conference. Gracias.

BISHOP STOCKTON: All right. You are asking the Publishing House to do this. Are you asking the General Conference to ask the Publishing...

SILVA: Right.

BISHOP STOCKTON: All right, that motion is before us. Is there discussion? Please vote then when the light appears. I don't see anyone that wants to speak. Oh, All right. Come to microphone 9. Excuse me, we will redo the vote, because his hand was up before I called for the vote and I did not see it.

JACK PLOWMAN (Western Pennsylvania): Bishop, I commend the maker of this motion. However, this church has experienced some financial difficulties. I think before this is voted upon, I think this General Conference should have some indication as to what it would cost to fulfill the motion.

BISHOP STOCKTON: I'm not sure that we have someone here who could give that indication. Microphone 9? Is there anyone? All right. Over here. Go to microphone 6. Microphone 6?

SKIP KEELS (Baltimore Washington): While I may not know the cost of this, I think there are some things in life which cost should be irrelevant. If we truly are going to celebrate the somebodyness of everybody in this connection of ours, our Hispanic sisters and brothers indeed have given us a rich legacy and treasure which all of us can live and grow and live up even a greater person than before. For that reason, I would affirm it with all my heart and soul.

BISHOP STOCKTON: All right. That's one for and one against. Back here? Number, go to number 12. Well, microphone 7, then.

V.L.DAUGHTERY (South Georgia): I wish to offer a substitute motion.

BISHOP STOCKTON: All right.

DAUGHTERY: I move that the Publishing House make available forms for delegates of the General Conference to purchase and to send a hymnal to a Hispanic congregation somewhere within the denomination.

BISHOP STOCKTON: Say that again.

DAUGHTERY: I would like for Cokesbury to make available some kind of form where the delegates of this General Conference could purchase a hymnal, a Spanish hymnal, and send it as a gift somewhere to a Hispanic congregation.

BISHOP STOCKTON: All right. The substitute motion is before us. Is there discussion on the substitute motion? All right, back here. Yes, come to microphone 9, out to your right.

*Request Hispanic Hymnals at Cost*

CHARLOTTE ABRAM (Nebraska): While the amendment is in order that we should indeed purchase

and send hymnals to our brothers and sisters in Hispanic ministries all around our world, I would also note that the Hispanic hymnal has relevance and worth in all of our congregations. And I believe that the Publishing House can provide to us at least at cost, a cost less than $10, and hopefully that will go a long way towards us using those hymnals in the communities where we serve and engender good will, and also inspire others to order hymnals from the Publishing House.

BISHOP STOCKTON: All right, that's a vote against the substitute. I see no other hands. If you, as we vote on the substitute...yes, you may speak, microphone 8.

SILVA: May I clarify that there are 64 conferences who have Hispanic ministries already in place that could use the hymnal.

BISHOP STOCKTON: All right. When the light appears please vote on the substitute motion. [Results: yes, 467; no 383; abstained, 25] The substitute does prevail. All right, the substitute becomes the main motion now. If you favor this would you please, well, if you favor or don't favor. When the light appears, please vote. [Results: yes, 542; no, 330; abstained, zero]

That is affirmed. Thank you. Now we come to the order of the day; the Advance. We turn to Bishop Woodie White to lead us in this deeply significant aspect in the life of our church. Bishop White.

*Report on Advance*

BISHOP WOODIE WHITE: Delegates and friends of the General Conference, it is my honor as the chairperson of the Advance Committee to bring this report to you. Perhaps there is no program more exciting, no program that touches more places in the world on behalf of United Methodism, than the Advance. Tonight the theme of our report is "Being in Mission, Being a Missionary." We celebrate the thousands of missionaries all across the world who are in service, in mission in significant ways. Indeed you might be surprised to see the variety of ways in which missionaries serve. We hope that as you view the video that we are about to share with you, that you will be inspired and challenged to find ways though the Advance to support in full the services of a missionary. To help you see the scope, we shall take both a historical look and we'll also be able to look at missionaries from these very halls of our General Conference. First, however, we go back to 1984 for a quick video clip of a wonderful young person named Laura Bucher. In this film, "Born to Give," Laura is asking her grandfather about being a missionary.

*(video)*

BISHOP WHITE: Amen! We thank you delegates and we thank Laura as well for being witnesses to God's mission in the church. Now we'll have an opportunity to see other witnesses. Indeed you'll have a chance to see a brand new video. In fact, you're part of a world premiere of a new video, "Whom Shall I Send?" These are scenes that go all across the world showing persons in mission. We hope that as you view this video that you'll ponder the question, "How will I answer the question, 'Whom shall I send?"

*(video) "Whom Shall I Send"*

CYNTHIA WILSON-FELDER: And now, let's wave all those flags we were given earlier, because you see, these are the flags that represent our missionaries and our mission work all around the world!

STEVEN KIMBROUGH: And let's sing our answer, "Here I am Lord! Send us to work for the Advance, to work for your church!"

WILSON-FELDER: Let me ask those among us who have been in mission service, to please, at this time, stand as we sing the chorus. "Here I Am, Lord."

*(song)*

BISHOP WHITE: On behalf of the Advance for Christ and His Church, we thank you for your prayers and for your support. This concludes our report. *(applause)*

BISHOP STOCKTON: On the video, we heard the district superintendent who said that 85 percent of the charges on his district are involved in the Advance. And he said that this brings vitality to the life of the church, and it brings vitality to the lives of each one of us. Thank you, Bishop Woodie White, for challenging us and lifting us and informing us. Now we can move to some calendar items. All right, back in the back, would you go to microphone 14?

WILLIAM HINES (West Ohio): If it's in order, Bishop, I'd like to make a motion of request.

BISHOP STOCKTON: All right.

HINES: Is that in order, sir?

BISHOP STOCKTON: Go ahead.

*Call for a Statement from Bishops' on Homosexuality Issue*

HINES: I would like to move that the 1996 General Conference go on record tonight, April 22nd, as requesting the Council of Bishops to inform us when they plan to issue a statement concerning the news release issued by fifteen of our bishops last Friday. And if I have a second, I'd like to speak briefly.

BISHOP STOCKTON: Let me ask the President of the Council of Bishops to respond to that, please. Bishop Woodie White.

BISHOP WHITE: The Council of Bishops has been in prayer and in meeting for the last few years, few days, (it seems like years!) *(laughter)*..not in response to any action taken by this General Conference, but rather, in response to what we felt the need of the Council and of the church seems to be. And so tomorrow morning, in your *DCA*, you will find there a statement from your council.

BISHOP STOCKTON: Thank you, Bishop White. All right. Let's move to

calendar items. Would you come to microphone 4, please.

*Correction on Calendar Item 200*

ED KAIL (Iowa): Bishop, we discovered an error in the transmission of text from the local church legislative committee to the secretary's desk, and didn't catch it until after the consent calendar had been adopted this morning. So I'd like to offer an amendment to suspend the rules in order to reconsider a particular item just to correct the record.

BISHOP STOCKTON: All right. You want to suspend the rules.

KAIL: Yes, sir.

BISHOP STOCKTON: All right, this takes two-thirds majority. If you would, you will vote now whether or not to suspend the rules. When the light comes on, would you please vote? [814 approved] All right, the rules are suspended. Will you bring to the body the correction?

KAIL: Yes, sir, in the blue *DCA*, page 141, Calendar Item 200.

BISHOP STOCKTON: All right.

KAIL: As this petition was processed through the local church committee, it was the intention of the committee that sub-paragraph two be deleted.

BISHOP STOCKTON: Do you chair that committee?

KAIL: I was the secretary of the subcommittee that worked on this, sir. It was that the proposed amendments to sub-section two that are part of this petition not prevail, and that the *Discipline* in that section remain in tact. The effect of this petition was to mandate the creation of a conference staff position in every annual conference. We didn't think that was a good idea.

BISHOP STOCKTON: All right. Thank you. That correction will be made. We will vote. Let's vote on the motion that that correction be made. When the light appears, will you please vote to make or not to make that correction? That vote is positive; we will make that correction. [871 approved] Microphone 14. Just one of those who's raising the hand. Microphone 15.

*Delegate from Zaire*
*Grateful for Missionaries*

SUL A. NAWEJ (Southern Zaire): (interpreted from French) His excellency, the Bishop, and members of the conference, I don't want the missionary action throughout the world to pass silently. We must congratulate those who have the courage to do missionary work throughout the world. I have the case of my country, Zaire. They are willing to stay in spite of all the great insecurity which reigns there, even though the United States has not made them safe. And if we take the case of Mrs. Glenn, the wife our general treasurer, who has begun to feed the children who have (unintelligible), and the abandoned children. We must acclaim the glory of God and be grateful for the missionary work throughout the world. Thank you. *(applause)*

BISHOP STOCKTON: I don't know how many of us here have really suffered for our faith. How many of us have been at a point of facing death for our faith? I haven't. But we have people in various parts of the world who are in that situation. And I'd like for us in some way to say thank you for who they are and what they're doing for the glory of God. Again. *(applause)*

BISHOP STOCKTON: Those of you who are here from countries where there is intense suffering, please carry back to them our love and our gratitude for who they are and what they do for the glory of God. All right, General Judicial Administration, David Severe. Do you have calendar items to present?

DAVID SEVERE (Oklahoma): Yes, sir, we do. Thank you. The Calendar Item 438. In the *DCA* number 2, page 1324.

BISHOP STOCKTON: Say that again, please.

*Calendar Item 438*
*Sexual Orientation*

SEVERE: All right. In Calendar Item 438, *DCA* number 2, the white volume, and it's on page 1324. It is Petition 21003. You'll find it in the left column in about the middle of the page.

BISHOP STOCKTON: All right. In the blue book, that's number 438 on 171.

SEVERE: Yes, sir, on 171 in the blue book in today's *DCA*. Or, yesterday's. The gist of this is that it would add language regarding sexual orientation to this section of the *Discipline*. And the action of the legislative committee was to vote nonconcurrence: 67 for nonconcurrence, 22 against and no abstentions. Our rationale was that we believe the present language should be retained in this section of the *Discipline*.

BISHOP STOCKTON: All right, this is before us. The committee recommends nonconcurrence. Is there discussion? I see none. When the light appears, will you please vote? The recommendation is nonconcurrence. [yes, 695] The committee is affirmed.

SEVERE: Calendar Item 434. Again, in the *DCA*, page 2. This is on page 170 of today's paper, or of today's, I'm sorry, April 20th. You'll find the petition on page 1338 of that *DCA* number 2, the white volume. It is Petition 22660. It's the left hand column about the middle of the page.

BISHOP STOCKTON: All right. This is a resolution that is before us. The committee recommends concurrence. Is there discussion? I see no requests, so when the light appears, will you please vote? The committee recommends concurrence. The vote is for concurrence.

*Calendar Item 435*
*Review of Church Programs*

SEVERE: All right. Calendar Item 435, page 1335 of the *DCA* number 2. It is Petition 22362. It is in the left column about the middle, also. This requests a critical review of all church programs by one individual in particular with the intent to remove ineffective ones. The committee voted nonconcurrence: 86 for nonconcurrence, 6 against and no abstentions.

Our rationale was that we did not see that it was necessary. There are valid processes available to us in other ways.

BISHOP STOCKTON: All right. Is there discussion? I see no requests for no discussion. The committee recommends nonconcurrence. Will you please vote when the light appears? [849 approved] The committee is affirmed for nonconcurrence.

SEVERE: Calendar Item, I believe I did that one. I think that that finishes us for right now. Thank you, sir.

BISHOP STOCKTON: That's yours for now. Thank you. Higher Education and Chaplaincy, Allen Norris.

*Funding Seminary Education*

J. ALLEN NORRIS (North Carolina): Bishop Stockton, for our first item this evening, we are in the blue book page 174, Calendar Item 446. The petition is in the white book, page 1382, top left, and the Petition 22275. A resolution entitled "Funding Seminary Education." The legislative committee moves concurrence as amended. The amendments following the "therefore be it resolved" clause in the paragraph numbered 1, delete the words "increase the amount of funding to" and replace them with the words "encourage increased funding for." And in paragraph numbered 2, insert after the word "develop," "and evaluate the feasibility of." Bishop, the rationale for this amendment: this resolution is a direction to the Board of Higher Education and Ministry with the intent to increase funding for seminary students. The legislative committee concurs with this intent, but does not choose to prescribe to the Board of Higher Education and Ministry that it must increase funding, realizing, of course, that there are budget constraints. The text that is included as the amendment would ask the board to become more proactive in encouraging the development of sources for funding and in evaluating alternative means of loan repayments. With those amendments, we recommend concurrence.

BISHOP STOCKTON: All right this is before you as amended. This goes to Finance and Administration because it has financial implications. Is there discussion? The committee recommends concurrence as amended. Yes. Would you go to microphone number 2?

JARED A. NEWMAN (Rocky Mountain Conference): I have a question as to where the financial implications are. When we were in legislative committee, one of the things that we did in making these amendments was remove the direct financial implications out of it.

BISHOP STOCKTON: All right, if they have been removed...

NORRIS: Yes, sir, they have been removed. It's encouragement to the board to find these sources and to also ask the board to evaluate a plan whereby the loans might be repayed by some kind of years of service type principal.

BISHOP STOCKTON: All right. It is before you as amended. Will you vote when the light appears? [891 approved]

*Consistency in Language*

ALLEN NORRIS: Our next item is in the blue book page 175. Calendar Item 453. The petition is found in the white book on page 1382, bottom right. And the Petition 22277. The title is, "Consistency In Language" in the *Discipline*, regarding clergy members. This was a petition pertaining to quite a number of paragraphs in the *Discipline*, some of which were applicable to our legislative committee. The committee recommends nonconcurrence by a vote of 71 to 8 with 1 abstention, believing that the terminology currently in the *Discipline* is appropriate, and that with the petition addressing so many paragraphs in the *Discipline*, that we felt that our committee certainly did not have jurisdiction over some of those. And therefore we recommend nonconcurrence.

BISHOP STOCKTON: All right this is before you on page 1382 of the white book toward the top. Is there discussion? The committee recommends nonconcurrence. Will you please vote when the light appears? [804 approved] Nonconcurrence is affirmed.

*Black College Fund*

NORRIS: Also in the blue book on page 175, Calendar Item 452. It is found in the red book on page 826 in the middle of the right hand column, page 826 in the red book. The Petition 21280 titled, "The Black College Fund." The legislative committee recommends concurrence with a goal of $46,708,480 for the 1997 to 2000 quadrennium for the Black College Fund.

The committee wanted this body and GCFA to know it affirms fully the historically Black institutions affiliated with The United Methodist Church and the support given through the Black College Fund. Bishop, we realize that if this is passed that it must, of course, be referred to GCFA. But recommend concurrence.

BISHOP STOCKTON: All right, number 452 in the blue book referring to 826 in the red book. Committee recommends concurrence. Is there discussion? Yes, microphone 9.

*Black College Fund and GCFA*

LOVETT WEEMS (Missouri West): What are the implications of passing this and GCFA and the Financial Administration Committee coming in with a figure other than that figure? Because I believe that's not a figure that's in any of the budgets that we've been working with at this point.

NORRIS: Bishop and delegates, the committee was aware of a compromise discussion and situation that had been worked out. However, they still wanted to go on record to this body and GCFA favoring the larger amount. I would assume that if this body recommends that it go to GCFA, that GCFA must come back to this

body with it's recommendation. And that we would then proceed to look at it from that point of view when we have that recommendation.

WEEMS: So is it correct to say that if this is passed, this is not necessarily a mandate of this conference that that figure must be at that amount?

BISHOP STOCKTON: That is correct.

NORRIS: That would be my assumption. I would defer to someone from GCFA.

BISHOP STOCKTON: GCFA will have to bring that total budget back. And this will be a part of that total budget. All right, back at the back of section C. Go to microphone 13.

RUTH PALMER (Texas): Could you tell us how much was raised during this current quadrennium? Thank you.

BISHOP STOCKTON: I would defer to someone from GCFA. Do you have an answer to this? Would you come to microphone 3?

PAT STROMAN (Central Texas): I'm not on the GCFA. I am on the Higher Education and Chaplaincy Committee, and did some research, and found that only 31 million out of the 41 million apportionment was given over this past quadrennium. My comment to the committee was, if you want to make a statement, go home and raise the money.

BISHOP STOCKTON: So $31 million is the answer to your question. All right, this is before us. All right, back at the back, yes, microphone 13.

EWING WERLEIN JR (Texas): I'm a member of the Financial Administration Legislative Committee; and that committee has been dealing with this particular issue. While we would all like to have this larger sum available for Black colleges, as well as larger sums for many other ministries, we find that the church cannot support, in the aggregate, all of what is being requested.

In this particular instance, the request is being made for some $3 million more than what the GCFA has recommended. At that, our own committee will recommend a slight increase over and above what the GCFA recommended. I would urge the conference not to begin making budget considerations at this time, before hearing GCFA and the Financial Administration Committee. We, therefore, urge that this be voted down.

BISHOP STOCKTON: All right, that's a vote against. Yes, come to microphone 2.

PHILIP R. GRANGER (North Indiana): Bishop, I move direct reference to GCFA.

BISHOP STOCKTON: All right, there is a motion that this be referred to GCFA. I heard a second. All right, if you would, yes, microphone 4.

MAREYJOYCE GREEN (East Ohio): If it's passed as it is, will it not be referred to the finance committee anyway? I think that is a routine thing if, in fact, it has financial implications.

BISHOP STOCKTON: Yes, the motion was to refer the whole petition to GCFA without taking a vote on it here. That's the motion.

GREEN: Is it possible to pass the substance of the motion with referring the financial part of it to GCFA? Or does it have to be all at once?

BISHOP STOCKTON: Would you want to amend the amendment to that effect?

GREEN: Yes I would. I would move that we vote upon the substance of the amendment with the financial part of it ....

We vote upon the substance of the amendment with the financial part of it being referred to GCFA.

BISHOP STOCKTON: All right. You move that we consider the substance of the motion and then refer the financial figures to GCFA.

MAREYJOYCE GREEN: Yes, bishop.

BISHOP STOCKTON: My consultants say that the best way to handle this is if you would like to do that then you vote against the amendment and then we're back. All right. Come to microphone 7. We're on the amendment to refer. We're on the motion to refer.

JOHN D. KEATON (Northern Illinois): Wondering if a point of clarification is in order.

BISHOP STOCKTON: All right.

KEATON: Early on, one of my fellow delegates said about the Black College Fund that the committee should go home and raise the money. It is my understanding that the Black College Fund is a ministry of the whole church and so for me if there's any going home, that's the going home for all of us not just the committee.

STOCKTON: Oh yes, that's right. All right. If you would refer, All right, come to microphone 2. Come on to number two.

BRADLEY WATKINS (Central Illinois): I'd like to try an amendment. I move that we separate the substance of this motion from the financial part of it and vote on them separately.

BISHOP STOCKTON: All right. That's properly before us. We do have the motion to refer. It's proper to separate the motion. Is there any objection to separating the motion? Come to microphone 3.

BERT TALBOT (South Indiana): Isn't a motion to refer a higher ranking motion than a motion to amend or substitute?

BISHOP STOCKTON: Yes, we have the motion to refer, but the question of separation can be done. So, if you would separate the finances from the substance of the petition, let's vote on that. Vote on whether you would separate the question—finances from the substance. Vote when the light appears. All right, it is separated. The motion to refer is before us. Who made the motion to refer? Just a minute, All right, you made the motion to refer. We have separated the two aspects of the question. (Question from the body about whether this pertains to the financial aspect). This pertains to the financial aspect. We will refer this to GCFA regardless, whether this is passed or not, but what you're saying is refer it without voting on it? Number seven.

PHIL GRANGER (North Indiana): Bishop, the issue was not to be work-

ing as a committee of the whole this early on budget and to refer that item so GCFA can give us some advice.

BISHOP STOCKTON: All right. The question is separated, the motion is to refer the financial aspect of this petition. Are you ready? When the light appears, will you vote. Wait a minute, don't vote. Whoa. Stop the machinery please. All right. Come to microphone 9. We're discussing the motion to refer the financial aspect of this.

GABRIELLE G. MALLORY (West Ohio): As a student at Bennett College, one of the eleven historically Black colleges related to the United Methodist Church, I urge you to make a decision based on faith and support the funding of the Black colleges.

BISHOP STOCKTON: All right. I see no other requests. When the light appears, will you vote on reference for the financial part of it, to refer the financial aspect of this petition. All right, it is referred. We're back to the substance of the petition and that is before us. The committee recommends concurrence. When the light appears, will you please vote. [850 approved]

That is confirmed. All right, Allen.

ALLEN NORRIS: Thank you, bishop. Our next item is in the blue book on page 175.

BISHOP STOCKTON: All right, what is it? Number 10, microphone 10.

ROLF LINDELL (Sweden): In order to make the presentation more understandable to all delegates, I would like for those who present the petitions or those debating to refrain from the use of abbreviations. We do have on page 83 a list of the abbreviations, but it's sometimes a little bit hard to have the thumb there all the time.

*Schools of Theology and Small Membership Churches*

BISHOP STOCKTON: Good point, thank you. All right.

NORRIS: The blue book, page 175, Calendar Item 454 can be found in the white book on page 1381, bottom right. The Petition 22523 and the title is "Schools of Theology and Small Membership Churches." The committee recommends nonconcurrence by a vote of [Results: yes, 69; no, 8; abstained, zero]. And the rationale is that we should not try to spell out in paragraph 1531 a list of special content concerns. We therefore recommend nonconcurrence.

BISHOP STOCKTON: All right. This is before you. Number 454 in the blue book. Would you like to speak? Microphone 4.

ED KAIL (Iowa): In appointment beyond the local church at Saint Paul School of Theology in the area of town and country ministries. We recognize very well that 67 percent of the churches within our denomination are small membership churches and think that that proportion of churches should deserve some special attention in theological education. We do that at our seminary. I know the other seminaries do that. But it's very helpful, we believe, for the whole denomination to realize the important significance of that type of church within our denomination. I would like to see that spelled out.

BISHOP STOCKTON: So you're speaking against nonconcurrence.

KAIL: That's correct.

BISHOP STOCKTON: Is there someone speaking for concurrence? Or nonconcurrence? Anyone to speak on either side of the issue. Chair, do you want to speak?

NORRIS: We still would support the principle that we do not believe as a committee—a majority of the committee—that is that we should start having a list of special emphases in the *Discipline* pertaining to content of courses.

BISHOP STOCKTON: All right, this is before you. When the light appears will you please vote. [Results: yes, 640; no, 286; abstained, 6]. The committee in affirmed for nonconcurrence. All right.

NORRIS: The next item is in the blue book on page...

BISHOP STOCKTON: Wait, back at the back. Go to microphone number 12.

CHARLES JOHNSON (South Carolina): I rise to ask a question about Calendar Item 454. We referred the financial implications to GCFA, but we did not take action on the other part of that calendar item, did we?

BISHOP STOCKTON: Yes. Yes, we did. We voted on the other aspect of that. On the substance and not on the financial aspect. All right.

*Purposes of University Senate*

NORRIS: Right, blue book, page 174, Calendar Item 447. This can be found in the red book page 824 in the middle of the right-hand column. The Petition 20724. The title is "Purposes and Objectives of the University Senate." The committee recommends nonconcurrence by a vote of 71 to six with three abstentions on this petition. Rationale: That the senate itself should continue to develop the criteria by which all United Methodist institutions and seminaries are to be evaluated and not delineate in the *Discipline* the detail of these criteria. Therefore we recommend nonconcurrence.

BISHOP STOCKTON: All right, this is before you, no. 447 in the blue book, 1518 in the red book. Is there discussion? The committee recommmends nonconcurrence. Will you please vote when the light appears.

BISHOP STOCKTON: All right. The committee has sustained 81.6 percent, 17.7 percent opposed. [764 approved]

ALLEN NORRIS: Bishop, having taken that action, there are three other calender items that are very similar to 447. These are also on pages 174 and 175, Calender Items 449, 450, and then on 175, 455. All of these petitions can be found in the white book on page 1381. They deal with exactly the same subject matter that we voted on in 447, and therefore, the committee would recommend nonconcurrence on all three calender

items. And, bishop, we leave to you, sir, whether you want to take them as a group or individually.

BISHOP STOCKTON: Let's take each one separately.

NORRIS: All right, Calender Item 449, Petition 22568. And we recommend nonconcurrence.

BISHOP STOCKTON: All right. Is there discussion? Yes, microphone number 2.

DONALD R. AVERY (Louisiana): I would like to move that we vote on these three in toto.

BISHOP STOCKTON: All right, that motion is before us. Vote on all three at one time. Is there discussion? There is a second. All right, the motion . . . Yes, microphone 7.

RILEY CASE (North Indiana): I think that these petitions are sufficiently different, that they should be considered separately. I have one that I would like to speak to. I don't care about the other two. *[laughter]*

BISHOP STOCKTON: All right. That's a speech against including all three together. The motion is that we vote on 449, 450 and 455 together. Will you please vote when the light appears whether or not to take all three together? Vote; the motion is that we take all three together. Please vote when the light appears. Sixty seven percent to 31 percent that we take them all three together. So, you may speak. We are taking 449, 450 and 455 together. Microphone number 7.

CASE: Bishop and members of the conference, I would speak against the committee recommendation and for Calender Item 455. Many United Methodists and local churches are under the impression that to be called a United Methodist college or university or seminary means that there is some connection with United Methodist values. They're surprised to learn that for many such institutions, questions about connections with United Methodist beliefs or practices or values are never asked.

Our University Senate, the body responsible for credentialing schools as officially United Methodist affiliated, asks about institutional integrity, well-structured programs, sound management, a clearly defined church relationship and, sometimes, they ask about appropriate diversity, but never about consistency with United Methodist values or doctrines. They would like to set their own criteria. I think that this General Conference could ask them to include some more criteria. This proposed petition would begin to address this lack.

BISHOP STOCKTON: All right, that's a speech against nonconcurrence. Do we have a speech in favor of nonconcurrence. All right. Come to microphone 3 please.

*Voices From UM Schools and Seminaries*

MARY ELIZABETH MOORE (California-Pacific): I plead to vote with the committee on this recommendation, because to be faithful to United Methodist theology is to be open to questions and ideas that are not in our *Discipline*; to explore the traditions of other religions; to explore traditions that have not yet been explored. I beg you to leave the freedom of exploration and academic integrity with schools of theology. *[applause]*

BISHOP STOCKTON: All right. Are there others? Yes, come to microphone 2.

JASON A. PAULSMEYER (Missouri East): As a student of a United Methodist school, I feel that it would be very appropriate to teach our doctrine, not exclusively. We wouldn't necessarily have to exclude other teachings. This petition doesn't say we have to exclude other teachings. But, I do think it is important to stress our heritage as United Methodists and our doctrine in our teachings of institutions. *[applause]*

BISHOP STOCKTON: All right. That's a speech against nonconcurrence. Is there a speech for nonconcurrence. All right. Come to microphone 14 please.

E. EUGENE FRAZER (West Ohio): Bishop and members of the conference, I am also privileged to be the clergy chair of the Board of Trustees of Ohio Northern University, a United Methodist-related school within the bounds of the West Ohio Conference. I believe that I speak for our president, for our board of trustees, for the majority of our faculty, and especially for the majority of our student body, when I assure this conference that we are proud to be fully associated with the United Methodist Church in matters of the mission and the philosophy of our church within the total Christian community. I would trust that you would vote accordingly as you cast your ballot on this matter and only can regret that the three issues have been grouped together. Thank you.

BISHOP STOCKTON: All right. We have had two for and two against. Back at the back, microphone 13.

EWING WERLEIN JR. (Texas): I served for 16 years on the board of trustees of Southern Methodist University. And, thus on the Board of Perkins School of Theology. I observe, when the budget comes to us from GCFA, that there is going to be an asking of the churches during the next quadrennium of somewhere in the neighborhood of $108 or $109 million. Three-fourths of that is proposed to go to the seminaries of The United Methodist Church to be distributed to the theological schools on a formula. Now, when a church such as ours is asked to give in the tens of millions, yea, up towards $100 million, it seems a modest enough request that we ask the theological seminaries, recognized by the senate as affiliated with our church, simply to teach faithfully the doctrine and the heritage of The United Methodist Church. I would urge our support of this resolution. *[applause]*

BISHOP STOCKTON: You are speaking against nonconcurrence, am I right? All right. Right here.

WERLEIN: That is correct. I would speak against nonconcurrence in order to favor the resolution that was under consideration.

BISHOP STOCKTON: All right. Microphone 3.

DONALD E. MESSER (Rocky Mountain): I speak in favor of nonconcurrence. I speak in favor of what the legislative committee has recommended, which is nonconcurrence. The reason is that the United Methodist theological schools, of which I have served as president in the past, do faithfully teach the doctrine and heritage of The United Methodist Church. We are required to teach the history, doctrine and polity of the church. We submit our regular courses to Nashville [Tenn.] to the division.

We do so proudly and effectively teach. We have currently at our own school, the Iliff School of Theology, over 30 some students studying the General Conference and attending every session. This is a part of the life of the church. This is a part of the integral life of the curriculum of our 13 United Methodist schools, and therefore, I urge you to vote nonconcurrence.

BISHOP STOCKTON. All right. We've had three and three, so the question will be put.

NORRIS: Bishop, may I have one concluding statement?

BISHOP STOCKTON: Yes. We are voting on 449, 450 and 455.

NORRIS: All right, the committee, the legislative committee, is assured that the criteria of the University Senate adequately cover this matter. And that, therefore, we should not begin to spell it out in the *Discipline*. That is the rational for nonconcurrence.

BISHOP STOCKTON: All right. When the light appears, will you please vote? [Results: yes, 650; no, 299]

BISHOP STOCKTON: The committee is affirmed, 68 percent to 31 percent. Your point of order, please. Come to microphone 8.

JUNE D. MCCULLOUGH (Southern New Jersey): Bishop, we all like applause when we make our statement, pro or con. However, it has been the custom for the presiding officer to remind us that applause is not appropriate. I wonder if the chair would take that under consideration?

BISHOP STOCKTON: All right, thank you. That is correct. In a loving situation in which we're in, we do not put down or affirm people. [*laughter and applause*] Do you object to that applause? [*laughter*] All right, will you please continue?

### *Membership of University Senate*

ALLEN NORRIS: We're in the blue book again on page 174, the Calendar Item is 448. The petition is in the white book on page 1380, page 1380, and the Petition 22271, dealing with membership of the University Senate. The legislative committee recommends nonconcurrence with this petition by a vote of 73 to 7, with zero abstentions.

Our rationale is that the proposal would change the senate membership by limiting the number of members who are professionally affiliated with a United Methodist-related educational institution. By a large majority, however, the legislative committee has affirmed the current disciplinary provision for membership based on the widely accepted premise and practice of peer review, both in education at all levels, and in the church. Therefore, we would recommend nonconcurrence.

BISHOP STOCKTON: All right, 448 is before you, 1380, number 1517 in the white book. Is there discussion? I see no requests. Will you please vote when the light appears? The recommendation is nonconcurrence. [860 approved] The committee is affirmed 86 percent to 12 percent for nonconcurrence. All right.

NORRIS: Bishop Stockton, for our last item on page 175 in the blue book, Calendar Item 451. That is in the red book, page 824, Petition 20723, also titled, "Membership of the University Senate." And this petition is quite similar to the one we just voted on in Calendar Item 448. Therefore, the committee would again recommend nonconcurrence.

BISHOP STOCKTON: All right, we're on 451 in the blue book, 1517 in the red book. Is there discussion? All right. Come to microphone 2.

VICTOR W. GOLDSCHMIDT (North Indiana): I'd like to move an amendment that the proviso that they be United Methodist members, that want to be included in the petition, and not the others. The wording, I need your help, Norris, on this. You know where I'm heading. The first lines includes, I'm sorry, the four line of the petition on page 824, "shall be members of The United Methodist Church," will be the parts I would like the amendment to include, but no other parts. So from there after, the words "United Methodist Church," it would stop, and it would return to the wording in the *Discipline*.

So the purpose is only to add the requirement that is not in the *Discipline* now, that they be members of The United Methodist Church.

BISHOP STOCKTON: All right. This is an amendment to 1517 in the red book. You will amend it by a period after "United Methodist Church."

GOLDSCHMIDT: Not really a period, but continuing with the wording in the *Discipline*, which is not before us, but it is in the *Discipline*. So the only change in the present disciplinary language would be the requirement that they be United Church members.

BISHOP STOCKTON: All right. That amendment is before us. When the light appears, will you vote on the amendment? Yes? Yes. It has been now. [Bishop Stockton had a request from the floor for a second.] Would you please vote when the light appears, on the amendment. [Results: yes, 495; no, 413; abstained, 28]

BISHOP STOCKTON: The amendment passes 52.9 to 44.1. So the amendment is part of the Petition 1517. That is before us. All right, number 451 is before us. The recommendation is for nonconcurrence. Allen, do you have a final word?

NORRIS: You have amended it. In terms of the statement as it is, I believe the amendment, Victor, if I un-

derstand it, is that it would be the Senate shall be composed of 25 voting members who, at the time of their election, shall be members of The United Methodist Church, and then pick up the language as it is in the *Discipline*, now. Is that correct?

BISHOP STOCKTON: That was the amendment.

NORRIS: All right. I have no further statement then to that, bishop.

BISHOP STOCKTON: All right, number 451 is before us? Yes. Come to microphone 3.

BECKY HAASE (California-Pacific): Just a point of clarification. The motion is nonconcurrence. Is the motion still nonconcurrence or was that basically a substitute for the original motion?

BISHOP STOCKTON: That was an amendment, and the recommendation of the committee is still nonconcurrence.

HAASE: So a yes vote would still be nonconcurrence?

BISHOP STOCKTON: That's right.

HAASE: Thank you.

BISHOP STOCKTON: Is that clear? A "yes" vote would be nonconcurrence. A "no" vote would be for concurrence. All right, will you please vote when the light appears? [Results: yes, 533; no, 404; abstained, 12] Nonconcurrence is affirmed.

NORRIS: Bishop, that completes our items for the evening. I would like to introduce at this time, the vice-chair and the secretary of the Higher Education and Chaplaincy Committee. If they would come forward, LaVon Wilson, the vice-chair from Central Illinois, and Janet Stephenson from the Iowa Conference as the secretary. They have worked hard, and you may be hearing from one or both of them tomorrow, or whenever we bring additional items. And I wanted the body to see them. [*applause*]

BISHOP STOCKTON: All right. Thank you. This does not mean that you are through with all of your petitions?

NORRIS: We are not through, sir. I wish we were, for the good of the body. I do have an announcement. We have approved, on the Consent Calendar, the study, "Education, the Gift of Hope." And we have recommended it to the church for study. We have been advised that some delegates did not receive their copy in the mail before they came to General Conference. I would like to announce that there are limited number of these available from the *DCA* desk near Cokesbury. And of course they will not cost you anything. And so we do urge you to pick up a copy if you do not have one of this very interesting and important book.

BISHOP STOCKTON: Yes. Come to microphone 2, please.

CHRISTIAN T. RICKS (Missouri East): Bishop, besides having to fight the lights up here, overnight some trees have grown, next to the podium. We were wondering if we could get those moved, so we can see the bottom of the screen and know what we are voting on all the time?

BISHOP STOCKTON: All right, we'll make that request. [*laughter*] Thank you. You may want to know what causes them to grow so quickly. All right, Carl Stewart, Independent Commissions, Carl Stewart. Wait. Yes. Microphone 6.

*Financial Implications*
*Not in GCF&A Report*

BARBARA W. RIDDLE (Florida): I want to move in between the presenters, and I appreciate you recognizing me. I move that persons presenting business to the conference which is not a part of the proposed budget of the General Council of Finance and Administration, inform delegates of the additional funding requested. And, if I have a second, I'll speak to it.

BISHOP STOCKTON: There is a second. Please speak.

RIDDLE: We have so much before us that it really is almost impossible to keep one's finger in the report from General Council on Finance and Administration. And in recognition of the covenant that we have with each other, this would be another way that our presenters might inform the delegates about the business that's before us, so that we can make informed decisions.

BISHOP STOCKTON: All right. You're saying that if there is, if there are financial requirements that are not in the Finance and Administration report, that that needs to come before, needs to be clearly delineated for the body?

RIDDLE: That's right. And the amount that will be requested.

BISHOP STOCKTON: All right, there is a second. Is there a discussion? Will you please vote when the light appears? [753 approved] It is approved. 82 percent to 15.5 percent. So we'll keep that in mind, please. All right, Carl Stewart.

CARL E. STEWART (Louisiana): Thank you, Bishop. I will present to you five petitions. We will first consider Calendar Item 456, found on page 175 of the *Daily Christian Advocate*. And Petition 20507, found on page 901 in the Advanced Edition 1, the red book.

BISHOP STOCKTON: 9201?

*Conference Commission on*
*Archives and History*

STEWART: 901. The petition concerns the Conference Commission on Archives and History. The petition would amend paragraph 738 of the *Discipline*. Currently, each annual conference is required to have a Commission on Archives and History. The proposed amendment would allow for the responsibilities of Archives and History to be handled by another annual conference organization if the annual conference elected to do so.

The committee recommends nonconcurrence on this petition based on the rationale that the change is unnecessary. The committee feels that the current disciplinary provision is quite workable at the annual conference level and provides for a needed continuity within our connectional system. Bishop, I would move the adoption of

the committee recommendation of nonconcurrence.

BISHOP STOCKTON: All right, 456 in the blue book.

STEWART: Of the red book?

BISHOP STOCKTON: 738 in the red book. And the recommendation is nonconcurrence. Is there discussion? Please vote when the light appears. [776 approved]

BISHOP STOCKTON: Nonconcurrence is affirmed. 84.5 percent to 14.5 percent.

STEWART: Thank you. We will next consider Calendar Item 457, also found on page 175 of the *Daily Christian Advocate*. This is Petition 20635, and it is found page 906 in the Advanced Edition 1, the red book.

BISHOP STOCKTON: All right, 906.

*General Commission on Archives and History*

STEWART: This petition pertains to the accountability of the General Commission on Archives and History. The petition would amend paragraph 1803.2 of the *Discipline* by making the General Commission on Archives and History accountable to the Council of Bishops, rather than its current accountability to the General Council on Ministries. The committee recommends nonconcurrence. The rationale of the committee for nonconcurrence is that the proposed change is unnecessary. The amendment would shift additional oversight responsibilities to the Council of Bishops, which are not warranted. The current language should be maintained. And I move the adoption of the committee's recommendation of nonconcurrence.

BISHOP STOCKTON: All right, this is before you, 457 in the blue book, 1803 in the red book. Is there discussion? Will you please vote when the light appears? [875 approved] Nonconcurrence is affirmed. 94.5 percent to 4.5 percent. Nonconcurrence. All right?

STEWART: Thank you. The next petition is Calendar Item 458. It's also found on page number 175 of the *Daily Christian Advocate*, and it's Petition 20240, found on page 901 in the red book. The petition also pertains to the Commission on Archives and History. It would add a new sub-paragraph after paragraph 738.4 in the *Discipline*. The proposed language would require the Commission on Archives and History to consult with the Conference Commission on Communication on matters needing communication expertise.

The committee recommends nonconcurrence. The proposed amendment is deemed to be unnecessary. Currently, the Commission on Archives and History can avail itself of the resources of the Communications Commission and other resources as the need arises. I would move the adoption of the recommendation of nonconcurrence.

BISHOP STOCKTON: All right. This is 458 in the blue book, 738 in the red book. Is there discussion? Will you please vote when the light appears? [894 approved] Nonconcurrence is affirmed by 96 percent to 3 percent.

*Proposed Commission for Persons with Handicapping Conditions*

STEWART: Thank you. We will next consider Calendar Item 459, also found on page 175 of the *Daily Christian Advocate*, and it's Petition 20772. It will be found on page 920 of the Advanced Edition, your red book. Here we'll have a subject matter shift. The petition calls for the establishment of a new commission: The General Commission on Inclusiveness of Persons With Handicapping Conditions.

The committee emphatically embraces the premise of the petition that The United Methodist Church must be vigilant in respecting the rights of persons with handicapping conditions, and, indeed, insuring their full participation in all areas of the church. The committee believe, however, that church members have been and continue to be made aware of the need to accept, to include, and to respond with Christian love through the special needs of persons with handicapping conditions without the creation of a new commission.

We commend the petitioners for raising our consciousness about this vital concern and we affirm the work in this area already existing through such boards and agencies as Global Ministries and Discipleship. I move adoption of the committee recommendation of nonconcurrence.

BISHOP STOCKTON: All right, this is 459 in the blue book, page 920 in the red book. The committee recommends nonconcurrence. Is there any discussion? Will you please vote when the light appears? [905 approved] It is affirmed. 95 percent to 3.5 percent. All right?

*Historical Society of UMC*

STEWART: All right, my final Calendar Item is 460. This is also found on page 175 of the *Daily Christian Advocate*, and it's Petition 20758. It'll be found on page 907 of the Advanced Edition of your red book. This petition takes us back to the subject matter of the Archives and History, and involves specifically the historical society.

The essence of the petition is to amend the first sentence of paragraph 1810.1 of the *Discipline*. The amendment is to change the language there from "may organize" to "shall support the" Historical Society of The United Methodist Church. In other words, the current language in the *Discipline* indicates that the Historical Society may be organized.

The rationale of the committee is that the Historical Committee does, indeed, exist and thus the language of the *Discipline* should be amended to conform to that reality, and in turn, to affirm its work. The committee recommends concurrence, and I move adoption of the recommendation.

BISHOP STOCKTON: All right this is before us. Number 460 in the

blue book, number 1810 on page 907 in the red book. Yes?

BISHOP STOCKTON: Come to microphone 4.

A. MARK CONARD (Kansas West): As vice-president of the Historical Society, I would move to amend the motion to substitute the words "endorse and encourage" for the word "support." So that it would read: "the General Commission shall endorse and encourage the Historical Society."

BISHOP STOCKTON: Endorse and encourage. The amendment is before us: "shall endorse and encourage the Historical Society of the United Methodist Church." Seconded? You want to speak to that?

CONARD: That clarifies the relationship between the General Commission and the Historical Society and relieves any doubts that is a financial obligation, since the Historical Society is self-supporting.

BISHOP STOCKTON: All right, the amendment is before us.

CARL STEWART: Bishop, may I speak to this?

BISHOP STOCKTON: Let's see if there is other discussion. Is there other discussion on this amendment? I see none. Please speak.

STEWART: Bishop, I would only state that the committee, I believe, would embrace the amendment being sought. Within the subcommittee there was varying discussions about language in order not to implicate some financial undertaking. And so I don't view that the subcommittee would be adverse to the proposed amendment.

BISHOP STOCKTON: All right, so you think the committee will affirm this?

STEWART: Yes.

BISHOP STOCKTON: All right. That is accepted by the committee then. So the wording becomes "shall endorse and encourage." All right? As accepted, the amendment is part of the petition now. The petition is before us. Is there discussion? Will you please vote as the light appears? [896 approved]

That is affirmed, 94 1/2 to 4 1/2.

STEWART: Thank you, Bishop.

BISHOP STOCKTON: Thank you. All right, I think, George Hunter, do you have those that have been taken off the Consent Calendar, and do you have others?

GEORGE G. HUNTER III (Florida): Yes, Bishop, two items that were voted on a very large majority, less than five negative votes. There are four that were put on the Consent Calendar have been called off the calendar and will be before us this week, one of them tonight. It is Item Number 2 on the Consent Calendar. I think you need not refer to that. However, instead, turn in the red book to page number 175.

BISHOP STOCKTON: 175 in the red book.

HUNTER: It is Petition 21053. This is the gist of it historically.

BISHOP STOCKTON: Which one is it?

HUNTER: 21053. And it requires a bit of historical explanation. Traditionally, ...

BISHOP STOCKTON: Hold it a minute. Let's be sure we get it. It is on page 1075 of the red book?

*Delegation from British Methodist Church*

HUNTER: No, 175. Sorry. Basically, it has to do with the fact that we send delegates to the Annual Conference of the British Methodist Church. And they send delegates to our General Conference. The pattern has been for us to send them four people every year. And for them to send four people to us every quadrennium. The petition has proposed that we adjust that some: send them two people every year, and they send us four people every quadrennium. This is, colleagues, a very important relationship, and we have invited a distinguished member of our committee, the Rev. Brian Beck, the Secretary of the Conference of the British Methodist Church, to fill us in on the importance and the emerging shape of this relationship.

BISHOP STOCKTON: If you would welcome Brian to our, to speak today, would you give him some applause? From the British Methodist Church. *(applause)*

BRIAN E. BECK (British Methodist Conference): Bishop, and colleagues in the conference, I bring you greetings of the British Conference. This arrangement is a feature of the concordat between our two conferences, which has been going since 1968. As you have heard, under the arrangement, we exchange delegates, and up to this point, the arrangement has been for four delegates going in each direction, and in both cases, to have both voice and vote within the conference.

The petition before you is the fruit of conversations which have been going on between representatives of the British Conference of the Council of Bishops, and of the General Council on Christian Unity and Inter-religious Concerns for more than four years now. It's essentially just to renegotiate the terms of the concordat; and there are two principal reasons why it is being proposed: The first is that in terms of size, four representatives of the British Conference, in a conference of this size, I think we have found over the years to be helpful to come with such a contingent.

The British Conference, on the other hand, currently numbers 576 and is contemplating reducing that size to about 400. We have 12 related conferences who send representatives to us, and reducing the size of our conference, considerably, is going to affect the size of all those delegations. If we were to retain four voting representatives from the United Methodist Church within a reduced British Conference, the proportion would be significantly changed in a way that we could not offer for the other autonomous conferences voting with us. We do, of course, value this particular link.

I am conscious of the fact that I and the others from Britain, here, represent the only concordat church which has voting rights within this confer-

ence, and we wish to continue to offer those voting rights to those whom you send to Britain. We make that exception because we recognize the United Methodist Church as a global church, and not just as a national conference. We also wish to preserve the link because you have generously referred to us in your *Discipline* as the Mother Church of Methodism. We, for our part, regard you as our first break-away conference. *(laughter)*

The other and subsidiary reason why the change is being proposed is because, clearly, when each conference bears the cost of sending its own delegation to the other conference, the cost on The United Methodist Church sending four every year, is much greater than the cost for the British to come once every four years. And in practice, you have been sending only two delegates in recent years.

I think it has been agreed between those who have held the conversation, that this proposal is acceptable and will work. The British Conference has already resolved that it will adopt the change if this conference also agrees to do so. And I hope, therefore, that you will support the committee in voting for concurrence on this item. Thank you sir.

BISHOP STOCKTON: Thank you, Dr. Beck. This is a constitutional amendment, I understand, George, and it's on the consent calendar in the blue book, page 93, Calendar Item 2. And so you recommend concurrence?

GEORGE HUNTER: We do, sir.

BISHOP STOCKTON: All right, is there any discussion? Will you please vote as the light appears. [907 approved] It is affirmed by 98 percent. Thank you.

HUNTER: Bishop, one other item has been lifted from the consent calendar, number 49, but we will take that up later in a package with other petitions.

BISHOP STOCKTON: All right. Thank you. All right, we're at the point where, I think, another one of the committees has to meet tonight, so we will adjourn after a few moments, and allow that committee to meet with hope that they'll have some sleep sometime tonight.

Let me report on Bishop Bill Cannon's surgery today on his broken hip. The surgery went very well, and the doctor said the bishop will be up and walking some tomorrow, and may be able to go home Friday. *(applause)*

Committee on Presiding Officers, Rex Bevins.

REX C. BEVINS (Nebraska): The presiding officers for Tuesday, April 23, are as follows: Tuesday morning, Bishop Robert Morgan of the Louisville area; Tuesday afternoon, Bishop David Lawson of the Illinois area; Tuesday evening, Bishop Clay Lee of the Holston area.

BISHOP STOCKTON: They will sleep well tonight. Committee on Agenda and Calendar reports, Sarah Miller?

SARAH S. MILLER (Wyoming): Thank you, bishop. We've got a big, good day for tomorrow. We're going to hear the Africa University choir, *(applause)*, yes sir! We're going to be visited by a great array of ecumenical leaders, and we've got important business to do: the consultation on church union covenant communion proposal, the connectional issues study report, the global nature of the church report, the General Board of Global Ministries site location. Now, because it's going to be a busy day, I know you hate to miss any of your lunch or dinner time, but since we've had such a generous time for those two things, we're proposing that we cut the lunch hour to an hour and a half (take a half hour off of it), so that we come back a half hour early, and we're proposing that we cut the dinner time from two and a half hours to two hours.

BISHOP STOCKTON: Give us the time. 12:30 til 2?

MILLER: 12:30 til 2 and 5 to 7 to eat.

BISHOP STOCKTON: All right. If you will approve those or not approve them, vote when the light appears. [723 approved] All right, that is affirmed by almost 80 percent. Thank you. Announcements, Carolyn Marshall?

CAROLYN M. MARSHALL (South Indiana): There are three announcements this evening. The General and Judicial Administrative/ Legislative Committee..

BISHOP STOCKTON: Can you hear:

MARSHALL: It's not on. The General and Judicial Legislative Committee will meet briefly in the space between the front platform and the bleachers at the front. We're presuming that this means over here, stage left, basically near the press area.

Bishop Nacpil would like to meet with the Manila Episcopal Area delegation in room A112 soon after the adjournment this evening.

And the Plan of Organization and Rules of Order Committee will meet in room A210, ten minutes after adjournment.

BISHOP STOCKTON: Thank you. And I'd like to express appreciation to Bishop Jack Tuell and Bishop Kern Eutsler for seeking to keep me straight here, by backing me up. Now as we adjourn, we will ask Bishop Ann Sherer to come and pray us out. Bishop Sherer.

BISHOP SHERER: *(prayer)*

BISHOP STOCKTON: We are adjourned until 8:15 tomorrow.

## Tuesday Morning Session April 23, 1996

*Bishop Robert Morgan, presiding*

BISHOP ROBERT C. MORGAN: Excuse me please, if there is a doctor, Dr. Holzinger. There is an accident in the back. If all of you would just take your seats now, please. There is an accident back there. And if there is a doctor, Dr. Emerick, I think I saw. Leon, there's an accident back here. If the rest of you would please just be seated.

I know you join me in expressing appreciation to the worship leaders today. Bishop Hoyt, Dr. Dawney, Dr.

Robbins, and this wonderful choir. They all came to us and they laid it on the line for us and we thank you. *[applause]*

Now we come to the time, as we do each day, of discernment, where we turn to our neighbor just for a few moments, to do some reflection and a moment of prayer. On the screen you will see the two questions, I say this to our ecumenical visitors, we would invite you to join with us in this. If you would please return to your seats now, and let us be in a moment of quiet and reflection.

If you would turn to your neighbor now, and reflect together, discerning God's will for our life together. If the visitors would just please remain quiet, so our delegates can do their work. Thank you. If you are leaving, just leave quietly. We're now in a very important part of our day. A time of prayer and discernment. If you will turn now to your neighbor.

And now if you would join us together as we pray together. Let us sing together, a little hymn, we can sing it without accompaniment. Join me if you will.

*(hymn)*

Amen. We begin the day, by recognizing the bishop from Indonesia. I want to do this right, Bishop Doloksarieu for a special presentation. Bishop, we welcome you, we thank you for seeing that this wonderful choir came to our conference. If you will great the bishop. *[applause]*

*Indonesian Bishop Addresses General Conference*

BISHOP H. DOLOKSARIEU: Thank you, bishop. Dear beloved Methodists, good morning. I'm grateful to God for this wonderful moment, to be among you and speak to you. As you can see, there are 50 people who come from Indonesia. It is 18 hours flight to Denver.

The main purpose of our coming here is to praise our Lord Jesus Christ and to thank you, all members of The United Methodist Church for your faithful support in mission in Indonesia since 1905. Since then, with the missionaries' support and cooperation, many mission works have been achieved successfully. In this regard, allow me to name some of the missionaries the American Methodist Church has sent to Indonesia. Rev. (unintelligible) from Indiana, Rev. John Wesley Day from New Jersey, Mr. Angalanda, Mr. Reems, Rev. Dale Walker from Illinois, ....

Rev. Freddie Ginglock from Estes Park, Rev. W. Armstrong from Texas, Rev. Harbock from Kentucky, Bill Imler, Rev. Joe Daniels from North Dakota, Rev. Thurman, Rev. Lionel Mutaya, just to mention some.

My heart drew me to say again, I Corinthians, chapter 15, that "their labor in the Lord is not in vain." Now there are 100,000 members of The Methodist Church in Indonesia, 500 ministers, hundred and hundred churches, hundred thousand students at Methodist schools and university, many health clinics, in addition to many rural development and clean water projects. We believe this is the most grand gathering of the Methodists in America. In this regard, we think, now is the most appropriate time to say thank you to all of you.

As a token of our deep heart thankfulness, on behalf of the Methodist Church of Indonesia, I would like to present a flag and a banner, in this regard, to the General Board of Global Ministries, and to this General Conference. I would like to invite Dr. Randolph Nugent and Bishop Herbert Skeete.

*Indonesian Church Celebrates 90 Years with Gifts*

BISHOP F. HERBERT SKEETE (Boston area): I'll share the plaque with you. "We wish to express our greatest and heartfelt gratitude to God and to our brothers and sisters of the United Methodist Committee on Relief of the United Methodist Church. Last year we celebrated together the 90th anniversary of Methodism in Indonesia. Thank you on behalf of UMCOR." *(applause)*

RANDOLPH W. NUGENT JR. (general secretary General Board of Global Ministries): The plaque reads the same for the General Board of Global Ministries, "Serving the Lord together with you for 90 years, the Methodist Church of Indonesia." I should like to say we are deeply grateful for the recognition and want to be in with you for the future, and say to the General Conference, the leadership which you have seen here has followed the tradition in which we have been working to leave in place, to enable the people of the region to be the leaders. Presently there are now only two missionaries in Indonesia, Warren and Jo Harbert, who are in theological education, serving and enabling pastors in evangelism. Thank you. *(applause)*

BISHOP DOLOKSARIBU: And lastly, I would like to present this to this General Conference. Would you please... *(presenting a banner)*

BISHOP MORGAN: I accept this on behalf of the General Conference, and we will place it in a very significant place here at the General Conference. It says, "Thank you, American Methodist Churches, for your 90 years of mission in Indonesia, 1905-1995," cross and flame. *(applause)*

BISHOP DOLOKSARIBU: Thank you and God bless you all.

BISHOP MORGAN: Now we have an order of the day to recognize our distinguished ecumenical visitors. Bishop Melvin Talbert, who is the secretary of the Council of Bishops, and also is our ecumenical officer of the church, will make these presentations.

*Categories of Ecumenical Guests*

BISHOP TALBERT: Thank you, Bishop Morgan. Good morning, sisters and brothers. I am Melvin Talbert, secretary of the Council of Bishops, and it has been my privilege to be ecumenical representative of the Council of Bishops for the last eight years.

Before I present our distinguished guests, I think it's important for me to let you know that, at this General Conference, there are various categories of guests that are present with us. The first are those churches with concordant relationships, and these two churches are seated in the bar with unique relationships. And they are the British Methodist Church and the Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas. They are the only churches with which we regularly exchange delegates.

The second category is autonomous affiliated churches. There are many persons here representing autonomous affiliated churches. These churches have a special relationship with us, because they were begun by missionary outreach of The United Methodist Church or one of our predecessor bodies. Many of those persons are seated with us in the bar of the Conference or on the podium.

Third, there are churches with whom we have entered into covenant. These are different churches from across the world who have signed special covenants with us under the leadership of the Council of Bishops, affirming each other's ministries and missions. In 1992, we signed eight such covenants. Tomorrow we will vote on and we will have the honor to sign two additional covenants, one with the Evangelical Church of Angola, and another with the West Africa Methodist Church of Sierra Leone.

Finally there are those to the ecumenical guests from churches and organizations outside the United States. These are guests that I'm privileged to introduce to you at this time, and we are honored and indeed delighted to have them join us this morning and to be recognized at this time. I understand that the pages are passing among you a list of these, and as I present these guests, for the morning, I would ask them to stand and remain standing if you would hold your applause until the complete list has been read to you, I would appreciate it.

*Presentation of Ecumenical Guests*

May I present these our ecumenical guests. Representing the African Methodist Episcopal Church, Bishop H. Hasford Brookins. Representing the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, Bishop Joseph Johnson. The American Baptist Churches in the USA, Dr. Louise B. Barger.

BISHOP MELVIN TALBERT: Representing the American-Jewish Committee, Ms. Anita Fricklas. And may I add I'm not sure but this may be the first time that we've had someone from the Jewish community with us at our General Conference. *(applause)* Representing the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), the Rev. William C. Crowl. Representing the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church and our preacher of the morning, Bishop Thomas L. Hoyt Jr.

Representing the Consultation on Church Union: Dr. Vivian U. Robinson, President and Dr. Daniell C. Hamby, General Secretary. Representing the Episcopal Church, the Right Rev. Edward F. Gulick, Jr. Representing the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Bishop Ralph Kempski.

Representing the Free Methodist Church of North America, the Rev. Dr. Richard Morrow. Representing the International Councils of Community Churches, Dr. Michael J. Owens and Mrs. Michael J. Owens. Representing the National Baptist Convention of America. I have not seen him but he may have arrived. Dr. James Diehl.

Representing the National Conference of Catholic Bishops the Most Rev. William S. Skylstad of Yakima. And let us pause here. Six members of the Roman Catholic Church under the leadership of Bishop Skylstad—he co-chairs the Roman Catholic-United Methodist dialogues with Bishop Bill Geoghan—prior to this General Conference heard about the Guide to Prayer and Preparation." They [illegible] copies of that devotional guide and used it for forty days [illegible] General Conference prior to our coming here, and we are most grateful. *(applause)*

Representing the National Council of Churches in the United States of America, the Rev. Dr. Joan Brown Campbell, general secretary, and then of course myself as president. Representing the Orthodox Church in America, the Very Rev. William Leonid Kishkovsky. Representing the Reformed Church in America, the Rev. David Dutchmas. Representing the United Church of Christ, the Rev. William F. Dark. Representing the Wesleyan Church, the Rev. Phillip L. Harris and Mrs. Betty Lou Harris. And representing the World Council of Churches, Mr. Phillip E. Jinkes. Let us give our ecumenical guests a warm hand of welcome. *(applause)*

Now my friends, we could have a hallelujah time this morning inviting all of these guests to greet us and we could learn a lot about them, but we are not going to do that. What we're going to do is ask one of these guests to greet us, and it is my privilege to do that now.

*Presentation of Joan Brown Campbell*

One that I've been privileged to work with over the last many years and over the last four years in a very close way is the General Secretary of the National Council of Churches, Dr. Joan Brown Campbell. She is a tremendous person, a great ecumenical leader, a great visionary, and one who is able to lead us in such a way that we are all so proud. It is not easy to work with 33 comunions when they all have their own goals and directions and try to bring them together as one to foster a common direction, goal, and spirit. But Dr. Campbell has done that magnificently and we are delighted to greet her. It is my privilege to have worked with her as president-elect in the last two years traveling with her, not only in this country but in places like Russia and Armenian, and then this year it is my privilege to serve as president for 1996 and 1997. Let us greet Dr. Campbell and enable her to

greet us in the name of Christ. *(applause)*

JOAN BROWN CAMPBELL: Thank you, Bishop Talbert. Dear sisters and brothers in the family of God; grace and peace to each and every one of you. I greet you this morning in the name of the one who in the face of the cross called us to be the one people that we are intended to be. Jesus knew and knows us so very well. How clear he was that a hungry, hurting, and war-weary world would yearn for people of faith who could speak and act together. To stand under a banner that lifts up the great commitment to unity of this important Church is humbling, comforting, and challenging. In all essentials unity. In essentials unity. Can the congregation join me by saying, "amen."

CONGREGATION: Amen.

*Campbell Brings Word from National Council of Churches*

CAMPBELL: I greet you today and believe me, it is indeed an awesome task as I look at those who stood when I stood; those who are gathered now behind me. I greet you on behalf of all of those, and the cloud of witnesses that they represent. Each one of them, as Bishop Talbert said, could give you a special greeting. Together I believe that those gathered here bespeak the diversity of the family of God.

And what we want to say to you today is a very simple message. We want to say to you, you are not alone. But even more than that we want to say to you, your decisions matter enormously. And much as you may think they are your decisions, we would say to you, they are not yours alone; for they matter to the people of God. We are all related my friends, related by nothing less than the blood of Jesus Christ. We are related here in this country, we are related to sisters and brothers all over this world. I bring special greetings today to those who call themselves Methodists and who come from around this world.

I was deeply touched as I walked into this room and walked passed the translation booths, and realized the vast diversity of those gathered here. I would say to those of you from around the world, your cultures enrich us, your witness informs, your faith deepens our faith. Your struggles enrich our mission. They quite rightly command our resources and very often test our comfort. You add richness to the tapestry of our common life.

*Tribute to UM Contribution to National Council*

Especially today I would be remiss if we did not thank you for the enormous gifts of leadership of The United Methodist Church, gifts of leadership shared nationally, internationally, and in cities and towns all throughout this great nation. You have shared with us generously. Ecumenically, The United Methodist Church gives leadership to ecumenical efforts throughout this land; especially to the National Council of Churches, the World Council of Churches, and the Consultation on Church Union.

And now just one personal word. A word of special thanks and of warmth and gratitude to Bishop Melvin Talbert. Time would not allow me to say what I would like about this great and good man who has brought courage and strength to a struggling ecumenical movement. Thank you, Bishop Talbert, thank you United Methodist Church, for the gift of this man in our life, and thank you Ethelou wherever you may sit for sharing him with us.

Our prayers are with you now as we move forward together to witness as one. To witness as one, not simply because it is convenient, not even because it is politically effective, but profoundly and earnestly so that the world might believe, and that all might receive the promise of eternal life. We pray for you that you might be gifted in these days with vision, with wisdom, with courage, and with charity in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. God's peace be with you and with all those for whom you pray. Amen. [*applause*]

BISHOP TALBERT: As people called United Methodists, we have never assumed that we are the Church. In the spirit of John Wesley, we have always proclaimed that to be who we are, we must be involved ecumenically. And so we have invited our guests to be with us this morning to demonstrate the fact that we are serious about that. We cannot do our work effectively as people of faith unless we commit ourselves to being on the journey of faith with our sisters and brothers in other communions and denominations in our communities.

Sisters and brothers, this ecumenical journey does not simply belong to us at the national level. It is our common witness at the very grassroots of our life with the congregations in our communities. We greet our sisters and brothers who have come to be with us this morning in the name and in the spirit of Jesus Christ.

The corporate responsibility for ecumenism belongs to your Council of Bishops. But in order to give someone the privilege of sitting around the table in the ecumenical arena for the past eight years and throughout the history of the council, the secretary has been designated the one to carry that responsibility. And as I said earlier, it has been mine to do that in behalf of this council and in behalf of this church for the last eight years.

*Bishop Grove to Represent Council of Bishops at National Council*

Assuming that you will approve an agenda item coming before you later, Bishop William Boyd Grove will be my successor as Head of Communion in the next four years. I want to say to you again it's been a joy and a privilege representing you, but that task could not have been completed or been done successfully without the support of Dr. Bruce Robbins and staff of the General Commission on Christian Unity and Concern; without Bill Grove and his leadership as president of that council, and without many of

the general agencies of our church and who have in behalf of all of us made ecumenical commitment in and through the National Council of Churches and the World Council of Churches.

So, it's been a joy and privilege representing my church, and it's been an inordinate privilege for me to represent you in presenting our ecumenical guests this morning. And as they stand and leave the stage, let us again, greet them and welcome them in the name of Christ. *(applause)*

BISHOP MORGAN: We are so grateful for the presence of the ecumenical—you may be seated—and we're so proud of Bishop Talbert who is the president of the National Council of Churches.

We're in the midst of an Order of the Day, friends. I will call on you at the appropriate time. We're still in the midst of this moment, and I think it was not said specifically, and I should have said that when I presented him, and what a tremendous honor that is for the whole church for him to serve us in that capacity.

Yes, back here. Go to microphone 14. What is your purpose?

*Petition of Commendation to Bishop Talbert*

ELAINE STANOVSKY (Pacific Northwest): The Western Jurisdiction Committee on Episcopacy has asked for me to present a "Petition of Commendation" for Bishop Talbert.

BISHOP MORGAN: All right, we'll hear that.

STANOVSKY: "Whereas Bishop Melvin G. Talbert has served our denomination and Christ's Church Universal in an exemplary manner, and whereas, Bishop Talbert has been elected and is now serving as President of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America, therefore be it resolved that the 1996 General Conference of the United Methodist Church hereby gratefully express our appreciation and joyful support of Bishop Talbert as he fulfills the office of President of the National Council of Churches in the United States of America."

As United Methodists, we, indeed, are proud of the leadership that Bishop Talbert offers, conveying to all that the Church is one in Christ Jesus. We thank God for Bishop Talbert and his ministry within our church, and now representative of the church throughout the United States and the world. We rejoice that God has given us Bishop Melvin G. Talbert, especially at such a time as this. Congratulations, Bishop Talbert, and our prayers are with you. I would move its adoption.

BISHOP MORGAN: And let us affirm that petition with our applause. That would be the way, rather than using the electronic things on that. *(applause)*

*(Bishop Talbert stands)*

BISHOP MORGAN: I think that was unanimous applause. Thank you for that. Very appropriately now, we move to the COCU report, Churches Of Christ Uniting, in that same spirit. And I turn to Bishop William Grove and those who will be making this presentation, and the legislative committee appropriate, who will make this. Bishop Grove?

BISHOP WILLIAM GROVE: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the General Conference, and friends. It is a blessed opportunity for us to present this report on churches in covenant communion within the context of ecumenical joy which we're experiencing this morning. Sharing with me in this report will be Mr. Byrd Bonner, a lay delegate from the Southwest Texas Conference, a member of the General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns, and the chair of the task force of the General Commission that has been dealing with this covenantal possibility for us through the years.

Ecumenical witness is an evangelical imperative. Jesus' prayer for the unity of his disciples represented, I believe, the deepest yearning of Christ's spirit: "May they all be one, as you, Abba, and I are one, that the world may believe." The division of the church is a major impediment to our evangelical task.

*UM Constitution and Ecumenism*

The United Methodist Church is constitutionally ecumenical. I read to you from Division I, Article V of the constitution: "As part of the Church Universal, the United Methodist Church believes that the Lord of the Church is calling Christians everywhere to strive toward unity, and therefore, it will seek and work for unity at all levels of church life. Through world relationships with other Methodist churches and United churches related to the Methodist Church, through councils of churches, and through plans of union with churches of Methodist or other denominational traditions." Our constitution represents our essence, what is constituative of us: our bone marrow and our blood. Our constitution commits us to seek the unity of the church.

We now face the opportunity of a new form of unity, a unity that is not organizational, but covenantal; that is not institutional, but spiritual; a unity in sacred things, as the document, "Churches in Covenant Communion," describes the relationship.

*Churches in Covenant Communion*

BISHOP GROVE: "Churches in Covenant Communion" represents a covenantal relationship among communions while allowing them to retain their own ecclesial heritage, identity and authority. The dimensions of the covenant into which we are invited to enter are the following:

One: "Claiming our unity in faith." The General Conference 1988 adopted the COCU consensus, which is the theological foundation of the covenant by overwhelming vote.

Two: "Commitment to seek unity with wholeness together." That means commitment to an inclusive

church in every dimension of what inclusive means—racially, economically, gender.

Three: "Mutual recognition of members in one baptism."

Four: "Mutual recognition of each others' churches." Do you know that we've never taken a formal action to recognize as churches, the other member churches in the Consultation on Church Union?

Five: "Mutual recognition and reconciliation of ordained ministries."

Six: "Celebrating the Eucharist together."

Seven: "Engaging together in Christ's mission at every level—locally, regionally, and nationally."

Eight: "The formation of church covenanting councils."

This proposal is put before you by the Council of Bishops by unanimous vote. Over the last seven years, the council has devoted more time in plenary session of the Council of Bishops to this proposal than to any other issue, with the exception of the ministry study. In 1991, the council withheld its recommendation to the 1992 General Conference so that we would have the time, within the council and throughout our church, to gain clarification about some issues that we believed at that time, needed clarification. We delayed the recommendation for four more years.

In spite of the fact that the Council of Bishops withheld its recommendation in 1992, 19 annual conferences recommended to the 1992 General Conference that we enter into covenant communion. When we came finally to our vote within the Council of Bishops on this proposal, there were two votes in the negative; and after the vote, those who had voted in the negative asked to have the vote reopened, so that it could be made a unanimous vote.

In addition to the Council of Bishops, the General Commission on Christian Unity and Interrreligious Concerns, and 34 annual conferences have petitioned the General Conference for approval of the covenant.

The following churches have voted to enter into this covenant: The Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, as we heard from Bishop Hoyt; the International Council of Community Churches; the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America; the Christian Church, Disciples of Christ; the United Church of Christ; two other churches—the African Methodist Episcopal Church and the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, will vote on the covenant in their general conferences this summer.

No member church of the Consultation on Church Union has rejected the covenant. We pray for the day when the Episcopal Church, which still has the covenant under study, may decide to join us within the covenant.

*Imagining Union*

Imagine some scenarios that might soon become reality within this covenant. In a small town in Ohio, or in Nebraska, or in the state where you live, four of the covenanting churches have congregations. They decide that once a month, or four times a year or more, they will meet for a shared Eucharist, with all clergy as co-celebrants. They also decide that they will do all their baptisms together. Or they decide that when they do their baptisms in their own congregations, there will always be representatives of the other churches within the covenant present at the baptism.

In one annual conference in New York or in California, or in Virginia or Georgia, a decision is made to have a shared service of ordination. For the United Methodists, the ecumenical service of ordination is an adjourned session of the annual conference. But in another annual conference, the decision is made to have representatives of the covenanting churches present at the annual conference, when the service of ordination takes place, to participate in the laying on of hands. Both are possible within the covenant.

This covenant will move faith and order ecumenism to the local congregational level. It will help us all—laity, pastors, superintendents, and bishops—to experience the life of the one Church in a new and dynamic way. I believe that this is the most significant ecumenical challenge to be placed before the General Conference of The United Methodist Church in nearly half a century, since we first voted to enter the National and World Council of Churches. To quote a good preacher, "We are challenged to march beyond our maps." [*applause*]

*Layman Supports COCU*

BYRD BONNER (Southwest Texas): In the late 1800's a French impressionist painter named George Seurat began to develop a painting technique called pointilism. I am certainly no painter, but my understanding of that technique is that individual distinct dots of paint are placed on a canvas with a hope and conviction that, upon viewing the painting from a distance, the entire landscape of hue and color appear.

My name is Byrd Bonner, and I am a first time lay delegate to a General Conference from the Southwest Texas Conference. I was baptized and confirmed in a United Methodist Church in a county seat town in the North Texas Conference. My wife and children and I now are members of an inner city church in San Antonio. Like most of you, I have been United Methodist all my life. But the way that we too often go about our ministries within the walls of our congregations and sanctuaries, or cocoons, as Bishop Hoyt visioned, is troubling.

Covenanting helps us address some of that isolation with a fresh understanding. It will encourage a broader understanding of baptism, Communion, and mission. We are all aware of the significance of the ecumenical movement, and many in this room have been particularly important players in that movement. The general church level is the primary place where the ecumenical move-

ment has been played out. But ecumenism is not primarily lived out here. We now understand and proclaim evangelism and mission to primarily take place in our local churches. The unity we seek is primarily lived out at the local level as well.

Upon learning about "Churches in Covenant Communion" in presentations, many people have said to me, "We do this already." True, many do, but not all. Covenanting is the first unique opportunity for the ecumenical movement of this century and the widespread ecumenism going on at the grass roots, finally to meet. If covenanting can be described as some kind of marriage, I suggest that this is the marriage, not necessarily one between Methodists and Presbyterians and Episcopalians and AME and CME and on and on, but a marriage between the grass roots ecumenism, the power of Spirit and ministry that we encounter in our local churches, and the ecumenical, theological movement that has been going on amongst our denominations.

This is the first General Conference action relating to ecumenism that has had such a direct and immediate impact on our local churches. The congregations that we come here from, yearn to take something back that will affect them. The use of the study guide, "We are the Church Together," has resulted in more than 40 petitions to this General Conference, urging the adoption, from all parts of the church. If your annual conference is not among the ones, if they're in the minority of conferences not sending petitions to General Conference urging adoption, then one of your neighboring conferences is among that majority of conferences.

I first heard about covenanting while on our Conference Commission on Christian Unity in the late '80s, trying to wade through all the theological movements and acronyms of the world of ecumenism. I saw in it a place where laity can plan and carry out dreams of understanding and unity as partners in ministry with their sisters and brother clergy. The covenanting councils in local areas no more constitute some kind of new bureaucracy than a ministerial alliance or an Emmaus reunion group...

They simply set the stage for the framework for joint worship, communion, and mission as never before. Whether your image for the opportunity available to us in covenanting is that of vibrant strands of thread woven into a colorful tapestry, as Bishop Craig so prophetically shared with us last week, or whether it is even that of my Presbyterian uncle on the coastal plains of south Texas, who sees many deep, time-worn, dirt, livestock trails, all leading up to the summit of a low hill where there is a common well overflowing, as an approach to salvation available through Jesus Christ, unity is not something that we can afford to nonconsent.

The unity of the body of Christ is a gift of God. It is we who divide it. I am also no theologian, but it seems to me that God has placed each one of us here, corporately and individually, as distinct dots on God's canvas, with our own gifts and graces, our own qualities to bring to the body of Christ. And that as God backs up from that canvas, we portray the entire color of God's masterpiece landscape. We must not leave this place saying, in a very United Methodist voice, that we want to remain one single color of thread, only one hue of landscape, or one narrow, deep trail, thinking that we have the shortest or only route to God.

Covenanting is not the answer to the unity of the church and its dividedness. What it is, is a significant, unique step, through which many more steps can be taken to other traditions and denominations, with them and to other spiritual growth and life movements, thriving within the lives of the churches. This is not a time to wait. We Methodists have always been leaders in this ecumenical dialogue and the ecumenism that happens in our grass roots. We must not take this opportunity to wait further. We *must* take this opportunity to say, "yes!" Our oneness in Jesus Christ is not a matter of cooperation or of efficiency, or of convenience, it is a matter of our salvation. Thank you. [*applause*]

BISHOP MORGAN: All right. Thank you. Now, where we are, is that we will turn now to the Calendar Committee to present the Consent Calendar. In the first item up from the legislative committees will be Independent Commissions, will present a report of this matter that has just been presented to us. Who will report, Fitzgerald Reist, Sarah Miller? You're on.

SARAH S. MILLER (Wyoming): First let me call your attention to a correction. If you'll note on today's *DCA*, page 329, there's a note about moving two items that were incorrectly listed yesterday under Consent Calendar A03, items number 639 and 640, should have been listed under the Consent Calendar 304. They were still on the Consent Calendar, so we assume we can still deal with them today, but just under a different category.

*Items From Consent Calendar Voted On*

FITZGERALD REIST: Consent Calendar...but before I get into that, if anybody's noticed today's *DCA*, at the top of the page headers during the calendar sections, they are now identified. Appreciation to the *DCA* staff for hearing the concern and making it easier to follow where we are in the book.

Consent Calendar A03 is on page 202. And in today's *DCA*, the items removed from the Consent Calendar are found on page 389. Calendar Items 480, 490, 543, 545, 547, 548, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557 are all removed from Consent Calender A03.

MILLER: Bishop, I move the adoption of Consent Calendar A03 with the exceptions noted.

BISHOP MORGAN: All right. Let me say to you as you vote today for the first time, you will just be entering a "yes" or a "no" vote. Abstain vote,

you just don't vote, and it is not counted. We will just be counting "yes" and "no" votes. If you will approve the Consent Calendar report, vote when the light appears. [871 approved] And it is supported.

REIST: Consent Calendar B03 is found on page 213 of the *DCA*, and removed from the Consent Calendar are listed on page 390. There is a correction to be made. Item 559 is removed from Consent Calendar B03, but also item 575, you will want to insert there, is removed along with item 576. Those three items are removed from Consent Calendar B03.

MILLER: Bishop, I move the adoption of Consent Calendar B03 with the exceptions noted.

BISHOP MORGAN: All right. It is before you. If you will vote when the light appears.

BISHOP MORGAN: You have supported the report. [884 approved]

REIST: Consent Calendar C03 begins on page 221. The removals from C03 are found on page 390. Those are Calendar Items 656 and 710.

MILLER: Bishop, I move the adoption of Consent Calendar C03 in its entirety.

BISHOP MORGAN: Consent Calendar C03 is before you. Vote when the light appears. You have supported Consent Calendar C03. [861 approved]

*Rules for Removal From Consent Calendar*

REIST: May I, sir, just a word of clarification for the delegates. The "Remove from Consent Calendar" forms, that are available in the secretary's office, will now of course need 10 signatures and printing of 10 names. Just to clarify that for everyone. Thank you.

BISHOP MORGAN: Thank you, Fitzgerald. Turn now to Carl Stewart, Independent Commissions to...Yes, microphone 2.

DONALD AVERY (Louisiana): If a motion to limit debate would be in order at this time, I would like to make one.

BISHOP MORGAN: What kind of motion are you talking about?

AVERY: For the balance of this General Conference session, I would move to limit debate to two speakers for, two speakers against, and two minutes each, for all matters.

BISHOP MORGAN: That's in order. It would take a two-thirds vote. Are you ready to do that. Rather a majority vote, excuse me, not a two-thirds vote. If you...I don't see a...Yes? Microphone 4.

MERLIN ACKERSON (Iowa): I think it does take two-thirds, by the way, does it not? To change the rules? More than that, I think that this is too early in the week to start limiting debate. We have some very important issues coming before us. I don't think two speeches on each side is enough. So I would urge the conference to vote against this motion.

BISHOP MORGAN: The rule now is that you have two speeches on either side, but you may have a maximum of three, then you go to the vote. All right. It is before you. If you would support it, the motion, vote when the light appears. [Results: yes, 301; no, 633; abstained, zero] The motion fails.

All right, Mr. Stewart.

*Petition in Favor of Covenant Communion*

CARL E. STEWART (Louisiana): Thank you, Bishop. On the platform with me is Patricia Toschak, delegate from Minnesota, who is the subcommittee chair on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns. We will consider Calendar Item 780. Calendar Item 780 is found on page 257 of the *Daily Christian Advocate*. It is Petition 20970, found on page 921 of the Advanced Edition, the red book. There is a minority report. It is also found on page 258 of the *DCA*.

The petition before you involves the proposal for the adoption of the Church in Covenant Communion about which we have heard this morning. The committee celebrates the work of the study committee and wholeheartedly echoes the words spoken this morning by our bishops, Bishop Grove, Bishop Talbert and also Bishop Hoyt. We rejoice in the presence of our ecumenical friends as we present this historic opportunity to the General Conference.

The committee recommends concurrence with the petition with amendments. The amendments made in committee are contained in the *DCA*, and they are of three types. On page 258 in the left hand column, you'll see in bold "whereas, the United Methodist Council of Bishops on May 5, 1995 unanimously adopted the resolution and support..." The petition was amended to insert that and updated the balance of the amending you see in that same left column, primarily was just modifying language to make the petition current, and to indicate appropriately where the designations and the Church of Christ Uniting.

Still on page 258, but in the center column, you'll see language in bold at the top that the committee added. That amendment was to the effect that The United Methodist Church shall maintain its own standards for ministerial training and the ordination of ministers which shall also apply to our reception or transfer of ministers or other denominations, including any prohibitions set by General Conference.

The last amendment that I just read was added primarily as a result of discussion in the subcommittee, that it would be well to clarify or refine the language to so indicate that's there. So the committee presents to you and moves for adoption of the petition with concurrence with the amendments that I have indicated.

BISHOP MORGAN: Thank you Judge Stewart. Will you present the minority presenter?

STEWART: Mr. Riley Case from our committee is present and on the podium to speak to the minority report. If that's in order.

BISHOP MORGAN: He'll present that now? And then we'll come back and perfect the majority.

*Minority Report on Covenant Communion*

RILEY CASE (North Indiana): We've had two hours of sermons, speeches, and introductions all assuming that the Church of Christ Uniting is an accomplished fact, that the decision has been made, and that there is widespread and almost unanimous support. It is not necessarily so. We still do have a choice. One option is with the minority report which says let's continue our commitment to the conversations and Consultation on Church Union, but let us proceed with caution. So the minority report is there for you. Do you want me to continue or just finish the report?

BISHOP MORGAN: No, no. That's before us now, then we will turn to Judge Stewart to now perfect the majority report, then we'll come back to you, Riley.

STEWART: Thank you bishop, on behalf of the committee, would say that the amending language that you see before it, is in our opinion, is an effort to ameliorate concerns that were expressed. The document is before you and you have read it, and we feel that the time for action is now.

BISHOP MORGAN: What is the wish of the body on how we receive it? I would assume that we take it *seriatim*, because the first one is a constitutional amendment, and we would need to take two-thirds vote on that. Is that All right would you Dr. Stewart? All right, it's before you now. Anyone wish to speak? Yes, I recognize microphone 2, and I would assume number 1 is before us right now. Charles Brockwell of Louisville, home of the national champions.

CHARLES BROCKWELL (Louisville): Well, in 1986, and in the future. Bishop Morgan and sisters and brothers of the conference, I speak in behalf of the majority report, and I hope that we will affirm our covenanting in the COCU covenanting proposal. I'm a member of the Louisville Conference. I'm also a member of the Louisville Presbytery. My ministry at the Presbyterian Seminary qualified me to apply for membership as a Presbyterian minister under the *Book of Order* of the Presbyterian Church, which I did. Without reordination, I was received into the Presbytery. And I work on the Board of Ordained Ministry of our conference and the Committee on Preparation for Ministry.

BISHOP MORGAN: Dr. Brockwell, let me interrupt you. I misled you there. We are perfecting this. If you have an amendment, I will call on you later, when we come back, to speak to the report. What we have now, are there any amendments or changes you wish to make? We're not looking for speeches right now. We'll give you a chance in a moment. Yes, microphone 3, and we're looking at number 1. The article which is the constitutional revision.

HENRY RADDE (Central Texas): There is a correction that needs to be made, but it's not in number 1. It's in the beginning on page 257, I believe the third paragraph down "whereas Jesus prayed for the church that they may all be one," scripture quote John 17:20. I believe that should be John 17:21.

BISHOP MORGAN: All right, an editorial, and we thank you. Let me try you again now, on number one are there any amendments? I do not see any hands. All right number 2 paragraph 2402, are there any amendments? I see a hand right back here, a guard. Come to microphone 9 please or 14, whichever you prefer.

ELIZABETH HULICK (Virginia): I just have an editorial correction. When we discussed this in the committee, on page of 258 of the blue book, we had changed the date from 1992 to 1991.

BISHOP MORGAN: At the top of the page in the left column? Is this correct?

RADDE: At the top of the page in the left column where you can see it stricken 1992, but they reprinted '92 again.

BISHOP MORGAN: All right, thank you. Number two. Are there any amendments on number two. I do not see a card. All right, I'm moving to number three. Are there any amendments that you wish to make? All right, number four. Any amendments? I do not see a card. Number five, any amendments? All right. Is there anywhere else in the document of the report that you wish to make any changes or amendments? I do not see a hand, so I would declare that we have perfected the majority report, and if, brother Case you would come now, we will do the same for the minority report and I'll come back to you, Judge.

Let the chair, Brother Case, Brother Riley. As I read the minority report, and I want to try something, rather than perfecting this, it seems to me that what you're asking for is a postponement to study. Can we not just address this together as a body? In reality, what would be before us, do you want to vote on it now or do you want to wait four years to deal with it right? Is that what you're asking?

CASE: Basically.

BISHOP MORGAN: Can I try this on the body, if they'd be willing to? Do you feel comfortable with that? Rather than, you know, working on perfecting it. I think the essence of your minority report is delay four years or postpone four years, and then vote. If the body would support that approach to the minority report, then we'll discuss that, and give you a chance to speak to that, and everyone else who wishes to speak to that do so. If you would support that idea of approach to this minority report, please vote when the light appears. This would be without perfecting it. [Results: yes, 537; no, 334]

You support the chair, well, not overwhelmingly, but you did support me, 537-334.

All right, now the minority report which is basically to postpone to further study is before us, and I'll give you the closing crack at it, right.

*Call for Continuation of Current COCU Status*

CASE: I'm impressed that so many or so few really, so few of our local communities even know about this proposed half merger, let alone are enthusiastic about it. Many of the

communities that I know there is, indeed, a decided lack of enthusiasm. The minority report says let's continue in COCU, which for those in central conferences and beyond the bounds of the United States, means Consultation On Church Union. Let us continue in these efforts, but before we enter into marriage, let's have a time of engagement. Let's have a time of getting to know each other. We have done that on the national level. Let's have a time of getting together on local levels.

Let's call together our other communities, our communions, the other churches who are part of this COCU consultation. Let's have some worship services, let's have some studies, some gatherings, some celebrations. We already have this unity in Christ, we don't need a covenanting service to express that unity. Let's express that unity now, to see if there truly is interest in proceeding with this half-merger. And if local churches are committed enough, and really want to add another layer of structure, and the apportionments that go with it. And if we're sure that this will best express our unity, then let us rejoice and let it be. Let's test to see how deep is our commitment.

My Presbyterian friends tell me the COCU proposal may not pass the General Assembly this summer, at least in its present form, without some qualifications. My Episcopal friends tell me there are serious question around apostolic succession and the laying on of hands. It is still not settled for them. Things would be very complicated if we, clergy, got hands laid on, without the Episcopalians. Let us continue our ecumenical efforts.

Let us continue our COCU walk, but let us proceed with caution. We sometimes do march beyond our maps to greater victories. But sometimes we march off our maps into the desert and into disaster. Let's proceed, but let's give ourselves some time to set the course.

BISHOP MORGAN: Thank you. Is there anyone who wishes to speak from the floor. I see a card, a man standing, in the blue, go to microphone 10.

Now, once again, Joel, before I...all that is before us now is to discuss the minority report. The minority report basically has been perfected. We talk about delaying and amendments and so forth, in order that you may speak for. Are you speaking for or against?

JOEL S. GARRETT (Western Pennsylvania): I'm speaking against.

BISHOP MORGAN: All right.

GARRETT: I rise to speak against the minority report. Although I understand its intent, my hunch is that those who are opposed to COCU will go home and give it only half-hearted effort, if any at all, while those in favor will go home to support it and make it work. And then in four years we'll come back here and we'll debate this subject all over again based on our success or lack thereof.

As a member of the Legislative Committee on Independent Commissions, I have studied the COCU legislation and I am in favor of the majority report, because the concerns addressed in the many legislations are taken care of in the amendment that you find in the blue book. I'm opposed to the minority report because the Episcopalian and Presbyterian denominations will be meeting later this year, after us. I've opposed the minority report because the COCU plan will enhance our commitment to Pan-Methodism, not slow it down.

As a former member of our Conference Commission on Christian Unity, and I chaired that commission, I was involved in many conversations with those who were conservative and who were frustrated with a lack of willingness on the part of our General Commission to be engaged in dialogue with people all across the theological spectrum. But again, as a member of the Independent Commissions Committee, I'm impressed with the inclusiveness that the General Commission is expressing in all of the legislation that we have approved on the Consent Calendar.

I support the majority report because of its involvement of people all across the theological spectrum, to bring people to the table of ecumenical dialogue in the mission field of Christian unity. I ask us to affirm those who are leading us in the unity to which Christ calls us. We've been engaged with COCU for 30 years, its time to go to the altar.

BISHOP MORGAN: All right. Is there someone who wishes to speak for the minority report. I see, right here, go to microphone 8.

### *Christianity Unity Differs from Church Union*

WILLIAM K. QUICK (Detroit): I find myself in somewhat of an awkward predicament. But I rise to support this minority report for several reasons. I am admittedly an *ecumaniac*. I believe, however, there is a difference between Christian unity and church union; to which I think if we approve the majority report today, is the first step to church union.

I believe a major player in Christian unity is the Roman Catholic Church. And we have been in conversations in the World Methodist Council with the Roman Catholic Church since John XXIII. I believe the Evangelical Lutheran Church is a key player in ecumenism. We have initiated in a petition before this conference, to re-establish conversations with the Evangelical Lutheran Church, which stopped in 1988.

I believe it is incumbent upon us to move closer to that dream articulated by E. Stanley Jones to bring together the historic Black United Methodist congregations who left this family of ours in 1786; shortly thereafter, and then in 1866, back under the umbrella of a truly United Methodism. And I think that ought to be our first priority.

This proposal does not suggest that we cut the cord with COCU. It brings to us some common sense and very practical considerations that I think merits our thoughtfulness, our prayers, and our support. And I hope, as

you vote, you will support the minority report.

BISHOP MORGAN: Let us indulge the chair a moment. It is time for the break. What is the wish of the body? Do you wish to proceed or do you want to take a break now and come back and pick up right there? Proceed? If you would proceed that we finish this matter, would you vote when the light appears. [836 approved]

BISHOP MORGAN: We have voted to proceed, 836 to 98. We have had one speech for, one speech against. Is there someone who wants to speak against the minority? Over here, right here, on the aisle. Come to microphone 2. You are speaking against the minority report.

CHARLES H. LEE (North Alabama): It sounds as though much that is being said about the minority report seems to suggest that we're entering into a marriage; that's the image that's being used, or suggested, it seems to me. And I don't think it's quite marriage yet; it's still sort of engagement, it looks like to me. Still kind of talking it out, feeling it—well, that might not be a good word. *(laughter)* When we were in committee, I gave an example of how on World Communion Sunday in the evening service, as a Black United Methodist pastor, I was invited to be the preacher in the evening service on World Communion service at an all White Pentecostal church. They were fully Pentecostal and White. I was fully Methodist and Black. *(laughter)* I preached, they shouted, and we all survived. *(laughter and applause)* I would recommend that we oppose the minority report, and let's go on and talk together a little while in a long engagement.

BISHOP MORGAN: All right, is there now someone who wishes to speak for the minority report? Yes, right here in the middle, go to microphone 9. This will give us two for and two against.

### *UMCOR and Ecumenism*

GUY C. AMES III (Oklahoma): I rise to support the minority report. Actually coming from the perspective that what we are asking, many of us, is for a structure that would allow us to, at the local level, really get on with the ecumenical efforts. We've heard today some very fine presentation proposals, and I think much work has gone into what has taken place with the covenanting proposal.

However, my experience as a UMCOR consultant, one of the first twelve that was established back in '86, I've come to understand that ecumenism means many different things across the country. And one of the things that oftentimes has hindered or kept us from getting on with some serious, important task of disaster response or ministry at the local level has been the process by which we often times have to spend time in dialogue and conversation rather than getting on with the actual work of ecumenism. I'm very much in favor of us coming to the table together. I have served as a pastor of an all Black congregation. I have served in ministry beyond The United Methodist Church with Roman Catholics, the Disciples of Christ, with those who are part of charismatic denominations as well as other evangelical churches.

I'm thrilled with the movement of our church to extend our ecumenical relationships beyond the boundaries of COCU. However, I believe this General Conference is moving in ways that will enable us to move toward, not institutional structures of ministry, but person-to-person structures. I do not believe that the institutional and programming structure of COCU and the covenant team experiences that we will be asked to share in at district and local levels will truly enhance ecumenism, at least from where I come from and the communities in which I serve.

We ask that you help us to focus on things that I believe will bring greater unity. The Pan-Methodist merger, which we will propose beyond this next four years, that will bring together four denominations, will do more than just celebrate ecumenism; it will actually lead us to unity. I ask you to support the minority report for these basic concerns.

BISHOP MORGAN: All right, we've had two speeches for, two against. Others wishing to speak? I'm trying to be fair here. I'm looking back in the back, there. I'm not going to get the guy with the jumping jack, but the guy with the, excuse me, the man with the tan suit. You may go to microphone 13. Who wishes to speak back there? Do you not wish to speak?

JULIAN L. BYRD (Texas): I rise to oppose the minority report.

BISHOP MORGAN: All right.

BYRD: For more than 38 years I have served as a chaplain in hospitals in the city of Houston, Texas, working in a truly ecumenical setting with persons of all denominations and faiths. On the staff of the institution in which I serve, the Methodist Hospital in Houston, we have an ecumenical chaplains staff representing denominations of the Protestant and Catholic faith as well as a Jewish rabbi. In the experience I've had in working across denominational and faith lines, I can tell you that when persons face medical crises in their life, in essentials, we stand together in unity. We recognize our differences and provide the opportunity to persons to give expression to those, but we share love with one another. I oppose the minority report because I think we've had enough time over twenty years in working together at the denominational level. It is time now for us to march beyond our maps, and affirm our brothers and sisters in whatever denomination and faith group they happen to express their faith, and come together as one in Christ by voting for the majority report and against the minority report. Thank you for allowing me to give this expression of my belief.

BISHOP MORGAN: All right. Now is there someone who wishes to speak for the minority report? We have one more speech available. Over to the left, here, in the red, on the aisle. Go to microphone 10, please, or to fifteen, whichever you prefer. This will give us three on either side, and we'll go to the minority report.

JAIME POTTER-MILLER (Western Pennsylvania): Bishop, I'm asking for the floor for the gentleman you recognized in the tan suit. He's one of our international delegates and was not able quickly enough to have the translation. He rose, sat, rose, sat, and someone else spoke, and I'd like to hear from him.

BISHOP MORGAN: All right. I'm not going to fight that one. I'm not going to get my dog in that fight, I think Bishop Grove said. Are you speaking for the report of the minority?

*(translated from French)*

ONEMA OMBAKU (Central Zaire): I am speaking against the report of the minority.

BISHOP MORGAN: OK.

*Word from Zaire on Ecumenism*

OMBAKU: My name is Ombaku from Central Zaire. I don't understand why we need to discuss this question a lot because we have this experience where I live. About thirty years ago, there were about thirty denominations, and we were all separate, but now we are all one, and we have forgotten that we were from different groups. And I often ask myself, are we saved because we are Methodists, Catholics, Presbyterians, etc., or are we saved because we believe in Christ. Habits are hard to break, and that's what I mean, because the adventure is imminent. Jesus is one, and faith is one, and we have—and the church lives in faith. We must work. There are a lot of people that work in the administration, but we really must work at another level. There is a voice that brings us to faith, to unity. We must not wait. I ask this assembly, and I ask this conference to support the report of the majority and vote in opposition of the report of the minority. Thank you. [*applause*]

BISHOP MORGAN: We must have a speech for; except when the bishop speaks for the minority report. Microphone 10, OK, microphone 13. This is a speech for the minority report.

MICHAEL WEAVER (Virginia): Bishop, a year ago I was privileged to attend a local gathering of the Walk to Emmaus. At that gathering of a movement that includes members of many Christian denominations we, together, witnessed the baptism of a person who had come to learn of and accept God's grace in Christ, while she attended a Walk weekend. It was a true joy to join Christians of different stripes in reciting the Apostles' Creed and celebrate together the initiation of a person into Christ's Holy Church.

I stand solidly in support of relationships with other Christians in other denominations. However, let me express my serious reservation about the COCU proposal. Much of the grass roots ecumenism that takes place today takes place apart from any other structural unity between churches. Movements like the Walk to Emmaus and Promise Keepers bear witness to a unity brought about by the blowing of God's Holy Spirit amidst God's Church.

In addition, I am concerned that the COCU proposal is not sufficiently inclusive of denominations represented in the world today, including denominations not based in the United States, and including denominations that are today experiencing great renewal and growth. For these reasons, I stand in support of the minority report.

BISHOP MORGAN: The speech first, a little while ago, rather than last, but if you just have a comment, not a major speech. I took you out of turn awhile ago, it was my fault. But if you have a comment you may say something here.

RILEY CASE (North Indiana): I think the choice is before us. The minority report does not ask us to end ecumenical involvement; it does not ask us to pull out of COCU; it asks us simply to consider moving at a pace that would allows us, at all levels of the church, to come together to a decision that will affect our future.

BISHOP MORGAN: OK, thank you Judge Stewart for the majority report. Then we are ready to vote.

STEWART: Bishop, do I get a word on...

BISHOP MORGAN: Yes. On the minority, you are the final word now, what your recommendation is from the majority, then we'll come to the majority.

STEWART: With respect the minority report, I'll make it brief. Covenanting delay, is denying it. The minority report in seven paragraphs is conclusionary and speculative. With all due respect to the enthusiasm and the spirit expressed by the authors, it is simply grounded in speculation and not in faith.

There are no facts that are presented to buttress the claims that have been made. It simply asks us to delay this decision into infinity and I would respectfully request that you deny and reject the minority report.

BISHOP MORGAN: All right, we are voting on the minority report. When the light appears, you're voting on the minority report. If you vote yes, you support the minority, if you vote no, you're not supporting. Vote when the light appears. [Results: yes, 361; no, 579] And the minority report fails.

*Vote for COCU Majority Report*

We are now to the majority report. We've already perfected it. Are you ready to move into a vote on that, or do you want to make more speeches? If you are ready to vote on this, would you vote when the light appears? [841 approved] You vote yes, clearly a two-thirds. I think as we vote here, prepare to vote, we need to vote number 1, which is a Constitutional amendment. And we will need to vote that. No, we were voting to vote.

All right, if you would...we're voting on the majority report now. You just voted to say you were ready to vote, is my understanding. If you, number 1 is a Constitutional amendment. If you will take number 1, we're voting on number 1 on page 258,

number 1. If you would support that Constitutional...then we'll take the rest of it altogether. It'll take a two-thirds vote on this. If you would support number 1 on page 258, vote when the light appears. [Results: yes, 646; no, 276]

Now, the whole report, the rest of the report is before you. If you would support the report, vote when the light appears. The rest just takes a majority. [Results: yes, 661; no, 288] And it is supported. The report prevails. Thank you. [*applause*] Now then, we are...we'll come back to you just a little bit later. We're going to take a break now folks, we have a lot on our plate this morning. And we have the connectional issues, that's going to come up beyond the break, and so it is now seven minutes until the hour. Be back in your place by 11:15. We will begin business. Steve will lead us in singing "Blessed Assurance" at that time.

*(break)*

BISHOP MORGAN: All right, thank you, friends. I see you coming to your places. We have an order of the day to hear the Connectional Issues Report from the General Council on Ministries. Bishop William Dew, please come now. It sounds so much like we're in school, and a school teacher saying take your place and that sort of thing. Don't want to do that, but we need to come now to our place; this is such a very important matter. In fact, we gave you a couple more minutes than you normally get for break. If you will be in order now, please. Bishop Dew.

BISHOP WILLIAM DEW JR: Thank you, Bishop Morgan.

BISHOP MORGAN: Excuse me. Please if you're on the floor in the bar, stop your conversations with one another and listen. And if you on the side need to conversation, slip out, have your conversation outside. We need to do business now; a lot is on our plate today. Thank you so much. Now Bishop Dew.

BISHOP DEW: Thank you. This General Conference will provide leadership in determining the future direction of our life together for many years in our future. This may, in fact, become the most significant General Conference in its responsibility of formation of The United Methodist Church as we anticipate the 21st century.

The actions that you will take are going to shape our ministry, and that ministry will be affecting our local congregations, and our annual conferences with yet unidentified challenges and opportunity. Your actions already are beginning to shape a shared vision for our denomination.

I remember Bishop Felton May's words, when he was GCOM president at the last General Conference; when he said seeking God's wisdom is often an uncertain task and your service as a delegate to the General Conference will convince you that a single clear vision has not yet emerged among the people called United Methodist. We've now travelled through another quadrennium.

Your conference leaders in the General Council on Ministries have sought to be attentive to God's voice, and to lead the church in a time of discernment concerning the mission of our church. This is provided in the unique opportunity to listen to all of the constituencies of the church, including representatives of all of our congregations gathered in all the annual conference and missionary conference sessions in 1994.

These listening processes and their findings have significantly shaped the response of the General Council on Ministries. You have had the opportunity to see this response in more than 40 individual reports that are presented in fulfilling our responsibilities as outlined in the *Book of Discipline*. It's also apparent in the response to 26 specific assignments that were voted by the 1992 General Conference to be carried out on behalf of the church.

In all of our listening, we are comforted by the passage from Habakkuk. "Write the vision. Make it plain on tablets so that a runner may read it." But still there is a vision for the appointed time. It speaks of the end and does not lie. If it seems to tarry, wait for it. It will surely come. It will not delay.

As best we can understand God's will and vision, this is an in-between time when the fullness of God's wisdom is not being realized in our communities. What is clear from our observation is that we are fragmented, broken, often seeking our own will rather than God's. And in this day of word search capabilities, we know that the word "vision" appears only six times in the 1992 *Book of Discipline*. But for the last four years it has become common in our language. But more than that it has helped us realize the need for a compelling sense of mission that will unite us in our common ministry.

Earlier, I had opportunity to give you a brief overview of the work of the General Council on Ministries and now we come to begin to present specific proposals. There are many in the church who believe that the General Council on Ministries is a relatively new creation, having been established by 1972 General Conference. That would say that the GCOM is slightly near 24 years old. However, if one traces the history of the council in terms of functions and responsibilities, we find that both the former Evangelical United Brethren Church and the former Methodist Church each had very similar agencies that were a primary part of its organizational life for decades.

*Tracing GCOM History*

During my renewal leave this past year, I reviewed the history of our conciliar and coordinating bodies. Since the early 1950s, the EUB tradition had a coordinating body known as the Council on Administration and related to it a Program Council. In 1952, the former Methodist Church created a Council on Coordination and the Council on Finance. So for at least 11

quadrennia, we have benefited from a coordinated programmatic approach.

Tracing the disciplinary responsibilities of each of these predecessor denominations, their coordinating units had-responsibilities that are essentially synonymous with those given to the General Council on Ministries in 1972, and have continued to the present day. It's very clear that the organizational decisions made by the Wesleyan family of EUBs, Methodists, and later United Methodists, all affirm as core value the importance of a coordinating agency to give leadership and to which other units of the denomination would be accountable.

In the spirit of our history and acknowledgement of this essential role for our denomination, we offer our recommendations for your consideration. Together all of the proposals that are coming from the General Council on Ministries comprise the actions of elected representatives from your annual and central conferences, as well as representatives from the Council of Bishops and colleagues from the program agencies.

*Summary of Issues before GCOM*

Rather than merely seeing these items isolated or as the property of several legislative committees, we would like you to see them as a package, as a collective response to the disciplinary responsibilities of GCOM. First the General Council on Ministries is recommending the report of the extensive connectional issues study and the legislative proposals to fully implement its recommendations.

These recommendations will provide greater organizational flexibility for local congregations and annual conferences; reduce the number of general agency directors from 950 to approximately 640; develop a connectional process team to further develop recommendations for General Conference in the year 2000.

And this will include further development of the connectional issues study and the Council of Bishops' report on the global nature of the church. We will also identify our process of the church to develop a compelling vision to guide our ministry and mission.

We believe this report provides the essential processes to allow the church to be transformed and equipped for the 21st century. I want to say a brief word, you may know that we have a general secretary named David Lundquist. David is having severe back problems and is unable to be with us. He needs rest. So while you may be concerned, I'm going to suggest that you not start making telephone calls and all that. Just let him alone and let him rest. We'll take care of our responsibility, and I think David will trust that.

I want to now introduce to you the chairperson of the Division of the General Council on Ministries, who has given leadership with the Connectional Issues Study. And there will be a team of people who will make this presentation. The chairperson, who will come now, is the Rev. Gordon Goodgame.

*Chairperson Introduces GCOM Report*

GORDON GOODGAME (Holston): Thank you Bishop Dew, Bishop Morgan, sisters and brothers called to be saints in the Church of Jesus Christ. Every period is a time of dying and a time of coming to birth. Change, which is a very part of creation, raises the potential for apprehensive fear, but also the possibility of new creation, energy and life. This study presents a sincere attempt to discern God's will being communicated to the whole body and to help us, as a church, move forward in faith.

Please join us in considering the mission, values, vision and practices to be invested in a God-called, Christ-shaped, Spirit-led movement into the 21st century. From the beginning, when the body of Christ has been open to God's new creation, and willing to journey towards the Lord's promise, the Holy Spirit has breathed vitality into its forms, and blessed its ministry. Faithfulness to this still creating God always involves sensitive discernment, continual realignment, and responsive transformation in organizations and processes.

As a faithful component of Christ's body, and in the face of radical societal change, The United Methodist Church is being called upon to make a relevant transition, while holding fast to the core Christian beliefs and practices. In such a faithful journey, it will be necessary to review our biblical mission, discern and articulate a consistent vision, and take steps to order our lives together so that we can be more effective stewards of all God-given resources.

While maintaining a commitment to God's will, the requirement of this day urges us to focus intentionally on the ministry of all Christians; on the essential role of congregations; on the support functions of connectional units; on an open approach to connectional structures and communications; on moving decision-making as close as possible to the point of ministry, all the while with flexibility, accountability, and broad inclusivity.

BETTE T. TRUMBLE (Nebraska): In 1992, General Conference commissioned the General Council on Ministries to lead the church in a period of discernment, reflection, and study of its mission and structure as it moves into the 21st century. Entrusted to an inclusive and broadly representational task force, this mandate has been carried out in the true spirit of discernment, including Bible study, theological review, and conversations with a broad network of church persons who have contributed input, and reflection.

*Connectional Issues Study*

From the beginning, this has been a shared journey, as concepts and directions have been made public and feedback was carefully considered, and included in our thinking. The Connectional Issues Study, which you have before you, presents a studied synopsis of churchwide listening;

identifies key concerns leading to a shared vision; recommends first steps toward restructuring; and grants flexibility to local churches and annual conferences; calls for accountability and enhanced communication from general agencies; proposes a transitional quadrennium for reformation of general agencies, local churches and annual conferences guided by an articulated vision.

The General Council on Ministries Connectional Issues Study Task Force entered into a collaborative process of listening, reflecting, reviewing, and recommending. This resulted in more listening and an ongoing, transforming, feedback process which involved the whole United Methodist Church. This discernment process of the denomination's preferred future has involved a myriad of constituencies across the church. The study's intent was to hear from the grass roots and to learn where God is leading United Methodists.

*Components of Connectional Issues Study*

HEINRICH MEINHARDT (Germany North): The central components were a survey of 35,000 annual conference members, a review of vision statements already developed by annual conferences, consultation with central conferences, a forum of 32, consultation with numerous groups from across the church, the Council of Bishops, the General Council on Finance and Administration, all 13 general agencies, conference lay leaders, conference council directors, ethnic caucus groups, representatives of other churchwide studies.

Summary findings on page 552 of the advance *DCA* are built upon prayerful discernment, broad input, shared reflection, and open inquiry into historic and current disciplines. Presentations on paradigm shifts, visioning, and theological and biblical roots were made to GCOM members' plenaries to inform and undergird the work of GCOM.

...in the Connectional Issues Study. Minerva G. Carcano, pastor and spiritual leader for the Rio Grande Annual Conference, led sessions on biblical rules and scriptural principles motivating a vital United Methodism into the 21st century.

TRINA BOSE (California-Pacific): Intensive listening to various individuals and groups across the church led to thousands of responses and the collection of essential information. This data was analyzed and combined with other information to form various themes and trends. These themes and trends were widely distributed for review and reflection. Several drafts of the evolving Connectional Issues Studies Report were distributed across the church, inviting responses in specific ways, including voice mail, FAX, consultations, and mailings, resulting in further revisions. These findings indicate that:

*Findings of Connectional Issues Study*

BETTE T. TRUMBLE (Nebraska): The United Methodist Church is alive and vital throughout the world. The church wants a clearer vision, focused direction, and Christ-shaped servant leadership. Our people seek a Christ-centered, spiritual foundation;

WILLIAM "BILL" S. HATCHER (South Georgia): The church must be inclusive of all persons. United Methodists are committed to the benefits and the responsibilities of connectionalism. The local congregation is understood to be the primary base for mission and ministry;

KATHI AUSTIN MAHLE (Minnesota): Effective communication is needed throughout the denomination. Worldwide outreach and ecumenical cooperation are essential. Structural flexibility is needed at local church, district, and annual conference;

MEINHARDT: The spiritual and temporal leadership roles of bishops are affirmed. Consistency of a positive variation of how some general agencies resource and serve them. A serious disconnection exists between general program agencies and annual conference Councils on Ministries. The size of general church organizations needs to be reduced.

TRIMBLE: These findings are foundations calling for servant leadership, a greater role of laity.

HATCHER: Decision making, taking place closest to the points of ministry. Utilization of local church conferences as the visioning and policy setting body for mission and ministry of the local church.

BOSE: Organizational flexibility for the conferences. Creation of regional and global conference. Optimum size of general agencies.

*Connectional Issues Study Is Visionary*

MEINHARDT: A vision-led ministry focused on doing God's will in the world. Accountability of all connectional structures.

GORDON GOODGAME (Holston): Yet these recommendations are more than a summary of findings or the ideas of a single task force. A mission-focused vision, biblically grounded and theologically tested, emerged at the heart of this process and is interwoven throughout the recommendation. It has become clear that the church will share in God's redemption of creation by calling, nurturing, equipping, and sending disciples. The discerned promise is a vision, a vision of a world transformed in the likeness of Christ, where faithful persons actively manifest the love of God and neighbor while fostering true community among all.

This vision will include an interactive connection of disciples who live, teach, and model a Christ-like service in and to the world, gathered in congregations that invite, nurture, equip, and send faithful disciples into the world as living witnesses to the sovereignty of Christ; guided by districts and annual conferences that connect local churches in mission by providing support and training, leadership personnel, and resources; by regional conferences that maintain the con-

nection and are responsible for visioning and resourcing the annual conferences in the region to enhance faithful discipleship; and by a global conference that cares sensitively for matters of faith, doctrine, polity, purpose, order, and vision for a global connection.

JAMES R. KING, JR. (Tennessee): Beautiful people, the purpose of all connectional structures is to enable disciples gathered in learning congregations to fulfill the commission of Jesus Christ. Historically the church has taken on shades and practices which represented the best thinking of the day. More recently, much has been discovered about how communities can be guided in focusing on authentic purpose and values, empowered by commitment to a shared vision, and strengthened through servant leadership to move forward for the mutual good. This identity, purpose, and mission has already been voiced through the United Methodist Constitution and other parts of the *Book of Discipline* and is reaffirmed now by the Connectional Issues Study.

*(visual)*

Here you can see this identity and purpose portrayed as roots to a living vine or organism. These roots are from the 1992 *Discipline* of The United Methodist Church, listed on page 558-562 of the *ADCA*. The Connectional Issues Study and its related legislative petitions seek to claim once more the power of a people connected in vision and mission.

Vision is God's will, the work of the Holy Spirit leading the church's mission in transforming the world through faithful disciples. Such a God-called people would best be served through a collaborative process of interdependence, undergirded by a Christ-shaped servant leadership, and knit together by open interactive communication. Being led by the Holy Spirit, we can create together something new and greater than that possible when we work alone.

The United Methodist ideal has always been to work together in conference and through conciliar processes. This study recommends a connectional design which seeks to align the alignment of identity, purpose and ministry through an interactive connection of conferences and involving a pattern of interdependent decision-making within the conferences. This design encourages, empowering each conference to renew its vision and responsibility, shaping its practice of ministry as it deems best.

*(visual)*

*Three Primary Areas of Ministry*

This design stresses minimal functions which can be nurtured and expanded as a sense of mission and the capacity for Christ-like service grows. The focus is on three primary areas of ministry. First, outreach, nurture, and witness. For many in our church the church has lost its sense of purpose.

Our purpose is mission and ministry, going into the world, making disciples of young and old alike, edifying the believer, claiming the poor and the marginalized.

Then the second area of ministry is leadership, a servant leadership ministry. God seeks to use our mouths, to use our hands, to use our feet, as resources enabling mission and ministry to take place in the world.

Then the third area of ministry is administrative and physical. Unfortunately, for too many in our church, we have been administratively led rather than being led by the Holy Spirit. The work of administration, the work of order, the work of finances, are very important to God's work. But they are resources for mission and ministry.

Now these ministries collaborate and focus a unified ministry. At every place, the conference will devise policies and allocate resources consistent with its understanding of identity and values. Our council, comprised of ministry leaders and additional members, will maintain stewardship of the shared vision. Membership within this interactive design will intentionally represent a cross section of the church including ethnicity, youth, young adults, older adults, and persons with disabilities. This design ensures that the whole people be engaged in ministry which calls, nurtures, equips, and sends disciples into the world.

With each part of the body, local church, annual conferences, regional conferences, and global conference, we will ask them prayerfully to be open to an interdependent connection with other parts. The call will be to responsible ministry rather than structural conformity. In our growing trust, grounded in renewed covenants, reason, accountability, and creative communication, there is great potential for creatively responding to God's call in a particular circumstance. Local churches, districts, annual conferences, and general agencies will be encouraged to experiment with effective structures to help a people discern God's will for their ministry and become transformed as missional communities.

*Connectional Process for Transition*

KATHI AUSTIN MAHLE (Minnesota): As we move into this new century, we continue to seek God's unfolding vision. The recommendations before you in this Connectional Issues Study were birthed out of a process of listening and discernment and move us forward as we continue the journey of discerning God's vision for the church.

The transition process in the next quadrennium, led by a broadly representative group called the Connectional Process Team, allows for a comprehensive transformation of the United Methodist organization. We urge the General Conference to avoid adopting a piecemeal or quick fix approach with organization. Instituting partial changes incorrectly assumes a mechanical and independent arrangement of parts. The United Methodist Church is valued for its connection. In

seeking God's vision for the church, conferencing together across the whole church can lead us all forward into that vision.

The Connectional Process Team will bring continuity to the study process. But it will not be another study. It will shepherd, manage, and enrich the reorganization of local churches, districts, annual conferences, and general agencies. We are on a journey together, and these steps towards aligning ourselves with the perceived will of God are before us. Aware that much remains to be done, it is recommended that the 1996 General Conference acknowledge the renewed direction set before this body and call our denomination forward by establishing a 30-member Connectional Process Team, or CPT, to manage, guide, and promote this transformational direction during the 1997 through the year 2000 quadrennium, approving, in principal, the interactive connectional model; affirming greater organizational flexibility for the church; challenging all 13 general agencies to refine and reshape themselves to enable ministry in annual conferences and local churches; encouraging the Council of Bishops to continue discerning and articulating God's vision for ministry for the whole United Methodist Church as guided by the Holy Spirit.

So, what will be the immediate impact on The United Methodist Church by your approval of the Connectional Issues Study and the related implementing petitions? This process will begin a new organizational structure to The United Methodist Church and general agencies for adoption by the 2000 General Conference.

It will establish this Connectional Process Team to manage the renewal and reformation of the church, including concepts developed by the bishops' Global Nature of the Church Committee, the Connectional Issues Study, and other groups that will have input. It will reorganize The United Methodist Church from within, guided by a confirmed identity, purpose, and mission.

It will establish a focus on congregations being resourced and supported by connectional bodies. It will grant greater flexibility through the interactive connectional model for structures in local churches, districts, and annual conferences, empowering them to organize in a manner that best fulfills a unique call to laity-led ministry resourced by servant leaders.

It will initiate a transitional quadrennium during 1997 through 2000 in which general agencies will be transformed organizationally. This will be initiated by, first, reflecting each agency's responsibility and commitment to support and resource the ministries of annual conferences and local churches. And secondly, effecting a reduction of the total membership of general agencies from 950 to approximately 640. It will facilitate the discernment of God's global vision for The United Methodist Church and articulate that vision as a guide for the ministry and organizational forms of United Methodism under the leadership of the Council of Bishops.

BISHOP DEW: You committed this task to the General Council on Ministries four years ago. We now have brought it to you. We trust you, and we trust the spirit of God. It is going to be placed in your hands for your action. Thank you.

BISHOP MORGAN: Bishop Dew, will the legislative committee now come? How will you make your case?

BISHOP DEW: No, the Global Nature of the Church report is coming.

BISHOP MORGAN: All right, Bishop Nacpil?

*Global Nature of the Church*

BISHOP EMERITO P. NACPIL (Baguio and Manilla): Bishop Morgan and members of the General Conference. When I introduced to the College of Central Conference Bishops—of the Council of Bishops in 1988 the resolution that led to the study of the global nature of the church, little did I think that it would reach all the way to the floor of the General Conference, and that I would present a progress report on it. Yet, here am I by the grace of God. Only in The United Methodist Church can such a thing happen. And I want to thank the Council of Bishops and the General Conference for this privilege.

As you all know, the 1992 General Conference asked the Council of Bishops to study the global nature of The United Methodist Church and make a progress report to the 1996 General Conference. The Council of Bishops did make the study, and it is submitting its progress report which appears on pages 168-174 of the *Advance DCA*.

*Three Recommendations for Global Church*

The report makes three suggestions. First, it suggests that this General Conference formally take the giant step of turning transformatively in the direction of becoming a truly global church. There are cogent reasons for doing this. For example, this step is consistent with our global membership which aims at an inclusive global fellowship, our self-understanding as being a part of the universal Church, our heritage of faith which we share with all Christians, our connectional polity which extends around the globe, and our missionary perspective which sees the world as a global parish.

If we do not take this step now, this great church will most likely face the dangerous possibility of becoming fragmented into autonomous or national churches in various parts of the world, with the American segment becoming merely that, namely, an American fragment of the once future global United Methodist Church.

Surely, you do not want this church to break up into Humpty-Dumpty pieces that cannot be put together again? And so, let us go global! Move out of an American to a global map. There are proposals in the report as to how this might be done. For example, there is a proposal to create a global conference, which will deal

mainly with Methodists distinctively connectional and leave matters distinctively national or regional to a regional conference yet to be established.

The second suggestion in the report of the Council of Bishops is to use the period of the next quadrennium, 1997 to the year 2000, as a time for perfecting the concept of the global church, developing the legislation and structures that will put it in place, and educating our constituency in the implications of a global church. These are tasks not easily done, and they require adequate time and wisdom to do them well.

The third suggestion of the Council of Bishops report is the creation of a task force suggested to be called a Connectional Transition Team, appropriately composed and duly authorized to do the work described generally in the second suggestion of the report. The work of this task force will be reported to the General Conference in the year 2000 for consideration and action. Hopefully, we shall enter the next millennium renewed, inspired, strengthened, and prepared to face its challenges.

The Council of Bishops has worked closely with the General Council on Ministries in doing its work and developing its report. Now it finds its work and report absorbed into the Connectional Issues Study as now reported to you by the Legislative Committee on General and Judicial Administration. Our suggestions have been incorporated in this legislative committee report. This is as we had hoped it would be. We desired from the beginning to present to the General Conference one coherent vision for a future global church. So far, it seems that we are not so far off from succeeding. But, of course, it is for General Conference to say the final word on this matter. We trust that you too have seen the vision and will follow after it and will draw our United Methodist Church map to cover the whole wide world. Thank you. *(applause)*

BISHOP MORGAN: Thank you so very much for the presentation. This is something I think the chair has to call. Before we move into the legislative process which is going to take some period of time when the committee moves, I do not believe there is enough time between now and time for lunch break to do this. I've talked to the chairs, and what we will do, we will pick back up on this item. We've got several matters we got to deal with before that. But we will deal with the legislative committee now that you've made the presentation, so you'll have the continuity of doing that. I want to recognize the courtesies chairperson to introduce at this time the central conference delegates. Bill.

This is always a very important moment in the General Conference.

*Introduction of Central Conference Delegates*

WILLIAM B. COOK JR. (Oregon-Idaho): Thank you Bishop Morgan. We have a tradition at conference of recognizing those people who come from the central conferences. At this point, I would like to have them stand up—the bishops, the delegates, and the visitors of the central conferences, so they can be acknowledged by this our 1996 General Conference. Would all the people from the central conferences please stand? [*applause*] Thank you, Bishop.

BISHOP MORGAN: Thank you so very much. I recognize Arturo Fernandez from the Oregon-Idaho for a matter of personal privilege. Microphone 7, please.

ARTURO M. FERNANDEZ (Oregon-Idaho): Bishop, a Bishop Adriel de Souza Maia from Brazil would like to have the personal privilege to address the General Conference and he is seated at the back.

BISHOP MORGAN: Without objection, will you allow Bishop Adriel to come and to speak to us for a few minutes? All right. I do not hear and objection. Please come.

*Strife in Brazil*

BISHOP ADRIEL: [*Translated from the Portugese*] Presiding Bishop of the church, of the bishops of the Methodist Church in Brazil, and the fraternal delegate to this General Conference of The United Methodist Church. Dear Presiding Bishop, dear brothers and sisters, we, the bishops and delegates from the Methodist Church in Brazil with the support of the Council of Latin American and Caribbean Bishops in CIEMAL, have come before you to share what has just occurred this last Thursday, April 18th in Eldorado dos Carajas, State of Para, Brazil, when about 200 military policemen opened fire on families of the landless movement, about 1,200 persons—men, women, children—were demanding a meeting with representatives of the government office of land reform. This incident resulted in 21 men killed, 35 wounded, and 100 have disappeared, among them, women and children. In light of this terrible episode, we ask you now for the prayers of this General Conference and ask for your support for the motion presented by delegate Arturo Fernandez. Thank you, very much.

BISHOP MORGAN: All right. Yes, right here, microphone 7. Arturo.

FERNANDEZ: Bishop Morgan, delegates of the General Conference, I move the General Conference in response to this appeal by the bishops and delegates of the Methodist Church of Brazil and the Council of Evangelical Churches of Latin America and the Caribbean take the following action: One, send a letter to President Fernando Henrique, the minister of justice, Nelson Jobim, and to the president of the National Congress Jose Sarney requesting (a) government verification of the facts and the timely prosecution of those responsible for the massacre, (b), prohibition of the use of arms and all forms of violence by the government against the landless people of Brazil, (c), a celebration of the process of land reform in Brazil.

Two, a copy of this letter be sent to President Clinton, Secretary of State Christopher, the United States ambassador to Brazil, and to the Brazilian ambassador to the United States.

Three, request the General Board of Church and Society to organize a delegation to convey this action of the General Conference to the assistant Secretary of State for Latin American Affairs in the state department and to the Brazilian ambassador to the United States.

Four, request delegates and local congregations to communicate their concerns to Brazilian and United States authorities. If there is a second, I would like to add a brief word.

BISHOP MORGAN: It is supported.

FERNANDEZ: Bishop Adriel has already shared with us the tragic massacre of last week, committed in a remote area of Brazil. We are all well aware of the widespread poverty and human suffering endured by the millions of people in Latin America and the Caribbean. To their daily misery is added this kind of armed violence of which we hear little in the American media.

Let us hear the cries of those who continue to mourn the loss of their loved ones, violently sacrificed to satisfy insatiable appetites of the wealthy and powerful. I move acceptance of this motion.

BISHOP MORGAN: It's a privileged motion. Does anyone wish to speak to this? Do you wish to...are you ready to vote on it? All right, I don't see a card. All right, if you would support the resolution from Arturo Fernandez, regarding the situation in Brazil, vote when the light appears. [848 approved]

You have supported the motion: 848, yes; 58, no. *[applause]* Thank you, Bishop Adriel, and thank you brother Fernandez. I recognize Walter Ellisor at microphone four for a privileged matter.

J. WALTER ELLISOR (Alabama-West Florida): I have another sad report to make. Mr. Robert Powell, lay delegate of the Alabama-West Florida Conference, returned home to discover that his grandson, 20 years old, Wes Powell, had been killed in an automobile accident. I would like to request for brother Robert Powell, who is also national president of the United Methodist Men of our great church, that we send an expression of our sympathy undergirded with our love and prayers to Robert in this difficult time.

BISHOP MORGAN: Thank you. Without objection, will you do this? I see the heads nodding. It will be done. Thank you. Thank you very much. Turn to Mel Talbert, who is going—Bishop Talbert, who has a matter about the nominations. You need to pay close attention. I will, too.

*Changes In Nominations for University Senate*

BISHOP MELVIN TALBERT: Thank you, Bishop. Melvin Talbert, Secretary of the Council of Bishops. If you will turn in your *DCA*, the blue book, to page 86. We placed before you a list of nominees the other day for the University Senate. When we presented these nominees to you, the Council of Bishops, through its nominating committee, faithfully did its work. And when it came to the positions where it says "six holding other positions relative to academic or financial affairs," and you'll find that on page 86, and you'll find six positions. We interpreted that very liberally, but when these names appeared, some delegates communicated with us and challenged our interpretation of that section. They communicated to us very strongly that they thought by placing persons with CEO leadership capacity and seminaries into that position, from their perspective, called into conflict the spirit of this particular section.

The nominating committee met, and we talked about this; and without contesting that request, we are prepared to withdraw three names and to place in nomination, three other names. In light of this conversation and challenge, we are withdrawing the names of Donald Messer, John White, and Lovett Weems. And we're placing in their places three names that have already been nominated: Dr. Frederick Blumer, Baldwin College; Dr. Willa Bing Harris, University of Alabama; and Dr. Justo L. Gonzalez. With that before us, Mr. President, we thought it would be in the spirit of fairness if someone would, from the floor, could move that the three names we are removing: that's Messer, White, and Weems, would be nominated in the first category, six chief executive officers. We already have the bios. And that would then increase your competition in that area, but it would simply not bounce them from the list altogether. With that in mind, I present these nominations.

BISHOP MORGAN: Yes. Microphone 2.

MICHAEL J. COYNER (North Indiana): I move that the names of Messer, White, and Weems be moved to the category of CEO.

BISHOP MORGAN: All right, that's the nomination. All right. Now, it's properly nominated. We do not need to take action. Those biographies will be in the *DCA* tomorrow. All right, if you will approve. Is there—yes? We will vote on it. Microphone 2.

NANCY CARRUTH (Louisiana): Just a question, Bishop Morgan. Which category does Maxie Dunnam, who was nominated from the floor, fall under? CEO or other?

BISHOP TALBERT: We did not deal with that. That was a nomination from the floor.

BISHOP MORGAN: What we are dealing with now are the nominations of the bishops. They erred. The floor nominations are in order. Nancy, is that OK? You understand what I am saying? What he is talking about are the three that the Nominating Committee from the Council of Bishops made that were in error. And now nominations have been made to put them in a general category. Dr. Dunnam will be in another category. Yes? In the back. Microphone 10. Or 7.

*Nominations from Bishops or from the Floor?*

JOHN HORTON (South Georgia): I would speak against the motion to

add these three persons to the list under CEOs, because it would have the affect of giving the Council of Bishops nine nominations in that category when they are entitled only to six.

BISHOP MORGAN: Well, this nomination comes from the floor, so it would be your nomination. So it is before you. Point of order. State your point of order at microphone one. We are not voting on these persons, we are voting on putting these persons in the nomination pool.

PORTER J. WOMELDORFF (Central Illinois): My point of order is very similar to the point just raised. I believe the motion that was just made is improper, for the reason that it moved the nominees to the other category. I think the only appropriate motion would be that these three names be considered nominated from the floor.

BISHOP MORGAN: That is the spirit of the motion as I understood it to be, and he is nodding his head. So it is in order. Yes, microphone 8. We need to move toward a vote here.

WILLIAM QUICK (Detroit): Bishop, a point of inquiry. We were set, in the agenda, to vote tomorrow on the University Senate and Judicial Council. It takes 48 hours by our rule. Do we need to suspend the rule in order that we can have that vote tomorrow? We would have to suspend the rules in order to do that, but I'm asking?

BISHOP TALBERT: If the secretary can speak to that, I think you're right.

BISHOP MORGAN: And Roger Ireson, I understand, wants to speak on microphone 15. The point that I understand Dr. Quick's talking about is the fact that you're up to vote tomorrow, and if it's in the *DCA* tomorrow, you won't have the time to get the bio. Is that it?

QUICK: That is correct.

BISHOP MORGAN: Roger Ireson, can you help us?

ROGER IRESON: Bishop, just a point of clarification. There's been a lot of confusion in the categories. The first set of categories are CEOs of United Methodist institutions, chief executive officers of United Methodist institutions. The second category would be all others related to educational institutions. Therefore, a person could be a chief executive officer of a state institution or another seminary that was not United Methodist, and be included on that list in the second category.

BISHOP MORGAN: All right. I think Dr. Quick's point of order is well taken. We'll either have to delay the vote a day or suspend the rules. Do you have a motion?

QUICK: Bishop, I think there is a motion on the floor. I would like to make a motion when you dispose of this nomination.

BISHOP MORGAN: All right. I'll return to you. Yes. We're on the motion to add these persons to the nomination pool.

JUNE McCULLOUGH (Southern New Jersey): Bishop, I'm in the *Discipline* on page 570 in the paragraph "referred to," and it seems to me that the *Discipline* is clear that those nominations could only have been made the other day when these persons were first submitted. It says "at the same daily session at which the above nominations are announced, additional nominations may be made from the floor, but at no other time." I don't know whether we can suspend the *Discipline* to receive these nominations.

BISHOP MORGAN: I think the point is well taken. I think we're trying to get out of a dilemma. These people were nominated the other day and we're just moving their category to another category. Yes. Right here, microphone 7, can you help us?

SARAH S. MILLER (Wyoming): Yes. The Judicial Council nominees need to be in for 48 hours, I don't see that same language for the University Senate, so I think, in terms of the time, I think we're OK.

BISHOP MORGAN: All right. Thank you. Listen, are you ready to vote on this matter? You can declare yourself by the way you vote. If you would support the recommendation to add these three to the general pool, vote when the light appears. [Results: yes, 677; no, 229]

We're moving toward...yes, here in the middle...toward adjournment for lunch. You know we've shortened your lunch hour. And I have identified this person right here in the middle to go to microphone 8 and I will go to you next, Ann. If you'll move to microphone 8. I'll turn to the secretary for announcements in a moment.

LUCILLE V. VANZANT (Oklahoma): Bishop, in light of our tornadoes in my state of Oklahoma, as well in the state of the First Lady, I wonder if the conference can pause just a minute, either this morning or this afternoon, to offer up a prayer for those victims who have been caught by this disaster.

BISHOP MORGAN: And Kentucky. I'm going to call, in a moment, on Bishop Onema to come and close a prayer, and if Bishop Onema could include that. I turn to microphone 8 now. Thank you Lucille, we will certainly do that.

*Sand Creek Apology*

ANN SAUNKEAH (Oklahoma Indian Missionary): I'm acting on behalf of Rev. Alvin Deer who is ill and at the emergency room at this time. I am addressing Consent Calendar Item 250, the Sand Creek apology, found on page 154 of the blue *DCA*. The full text can be found in the white *DCA* on page 1373.

The 1996 General Conference of The United Methodist Church, the elected representatives of the tribal government of the Cheyenne and Arapahoe tribes of Oklahoma wish to make known to this assembly, our heartfelt gratitude to the Rev. Alvin Deer for his presentation of the three resolutions on your agenda that relate to our tribes. The Rev. Deer is knowledgeable of the circumstances that pertain to the subject matter of these resolutions.

Each of us has reviewed the information and intent of the resolutions,

and we individually, as tribal members, and collectively as the governing body of the tribe, support and endorse this effort. We wish to thank you for this time and consideration. The gesture encompasses the historic past as well as the future of our tribes.

Although the Sand Creek Massacre occurred over 130 years ago, the horrors and the terror of that tragic day are never completely out of our hearts and minds. Fort Reno is also a part of our history, but it also offers opportunities to the future. With these comments, we await the recommendations of the esteemed assembly. Charles Surveyor, Archie Hoffman, Lightfoot Hawkins, Robert Tabor, and James Pedro. Also with us at this time is Patrick Spotted Wolf, Arapahoe tribal chief, and Lawrence Heart, Cheyenne tribal chief. Thank you.

BISHOP MORGAN: Thank you Ann. We are moving toward time for the lunch break, and I need to turn, as the Order of the Day, unless you are going to extend the time. Is there any wish to do that? I do not hear that. I am going to turn to the secretary now. And if Bishop Fama Onema will move here to dismiss us for the announcements.

CAROLYN MARSHALL: There are several for our attention at this particular time. In light of the action which we have just taken, as far as the nominees for the University Senate, the bios for all of those, not required by the *Discipline*, but provided as a result of the action which was taken at the 1992 General Conference, will be published in the *DCA* tomorrow.

Also, to bring to our attention once more, that of the bios which have been published for the Judicial Council, that for Terrell Sessums, the last name of Sessums has been misspelled, and should be "Sessums." Please make note of that.

BISHOP MORGAN: Thank you, Carolyn. Now. Yes.

MARSHALL: Earlier this morning there was a reference made to the number of names, signatures, which were required to remove some action from the Consent Calendar. Please note that that remains at five names. The action that was taken yesterday noted that 10 names or 10 votes was simply on votes, number of votes as far as placement on the Consent Calendar, not for those for removal.

The note that the local church legislative committee will meet in room 207 at 1:30 this afternoon for a brief meeting. And also that the Church and Society Legislative Committee will meet this evening upon adjournment from the plenary. The choir, which we heard this morning, the Indonesian choir of the Methodist Church of Indonesia, will be giving a concert at 1:15 this afternoon, 1:15 in the area downstairs just near the ballrooms.

And a final one, those of you here who are involved in the ecumenical luncheon, just upon adjournment now, please make note of the change in location. The ecumenical luncheon will be held in room A210, A210 for the ecumenical luncheon. Thank you, Bishop.

BISHOP MORGAN: Yes. And we will reassemble at 2:00, not 2:30, 2:00 today. Bishop Onema, if you will dismiss us with prayer.

BISHOP ONEMA: [*prayer in French*]

BISHOP MORGAN: Adjourned.

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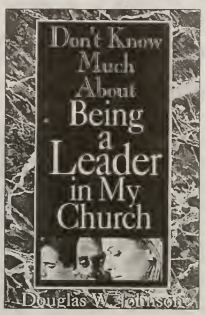
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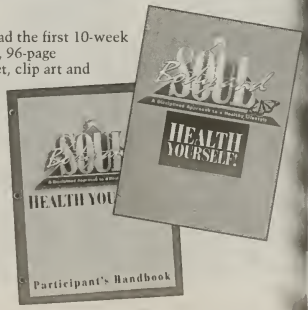
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*Daily Report*

# Daily Christian Advocate

Denver, Colorado | Thursday, April 25, 1996 | Vol. 3 No. 9

## First Lady's Visit a Joyous, Historic Event

Sleepy-eyed delegates received a "wake-up call" as they entered the General Conference plenary hall Wednesday morning. The Lovers Lane [United Methodist Church] jazz band played with vigor and style. Led by Terry Price, the group's home base is Dallas. (See separate worship story.)

Presiding Bishop George W. Bashore, Pittsburgh Area, urged delegates to use the time of one-on-one reflection and prayer to "emphasize the positive" and to celebrate the many good things God is doing in the church and world, as well as their concerns for the conference.

Giving quick approval to a lengthy Consent Calendar, the conference began electronic voting for new Judicial Council members who will serve until the year 2000. Elected were clergy members C. Rex Bevins, Nebraska, and John G. Corry, Tennessee, and lay members Sally Curtis AsKew, North Georgia, and Tom Matheny, Louisiana. A Judicial Council member since 1972, Mr. Matheny has served as president since 1976.

Retired Bishop Paul W. Milhouse gave a capsule history of the Evangelical and United Brethren churches which came together 50 years ago to form the Evangelical United Brethren Church, a forerunner of The United Methodist Church. Celebrations are scheduled this summer in Johannesburg, Pa., and Dayton, Ohio.

### Agenda

**Thursday, April 25**

| | |
|---|---|
| 8:15 a.m. | Choral Music |
| 8:30 a.m. | Worship |
| 9:00 a.m. | Call to Order and Discernment |
| 9:05 a.m. | Phone Call with Bishop Alfred Ndoricimpa of Burundi |
| 9:15 a.m. | Consent Calendar |
| 9:25 a.m. | General Board of Global Ministries Site Location |
| 10:00 a.m. | Calendar Items |
| 10:30 a.m. | Break |
| 10:50 a.m. | Election of University Senate and Judicial Council Alternate |
| | Introduction of Bishops/Presidents of Affiliated Autonomous Churches |
| | Calendar Items |
| 12:25 p.m. | Announcements |
| 12:30 p.m. | Lunch Recess |
| 2:00 p.m. | Call to Order |
| 2:05 p.m. | General Council on Finance and Administration Budget |
| 3:15 p.m. | Break |
| 3:35 p.m. | Calendar Items |
| 4:55 p.m. | Announcements |
| 5:00 p.m. | Dinner Recess |
| 7:00 p.m. | Call to Order |
| 7:05 p.m. | Calendar Items |
| 9:50 p.m. | Committee on Presiding Officers Report |
| | Committee on Agenda and Calendar Report |
| | Announcements |
| 10:00 p.m. | Adjournment |

### A Conference Moment



"I am particularly indebted to the many people who taught Sunday school and Vacation Bible School. I can remember the lessons there, sometimes more vividly that what I have read or seen just last week."

—*Hillary Rodham Clinton*

May all teachers of the faith celebrate the importance of their ministry!

*photo by Mike DuBose*

(continued from front page)

The conference also elected, by a show of hands, members of the General Commission on the General Conference nominated by the Council of Bishops. (See page 25, *DCA*).

Despite a down-sizing mood, the conference created a new General Commission on United Methodist Men which must be self-sustaining by the year 2000. Proponents saw this as a valuable challenge. United Methodist Men (UMM) is currently a division of the General Board of Discipleship. Funding to the board for UMM will transfer to the new commission until it becomes self- sustaining.

The National Association of Korean-American United Methodist Churches had petitioned for creation of three Korean-American missionary conferences. After lengthy discussion in the Committee on Conferences, an alternate proposal was brought, creating an inclusive task force to "conduct a comprehensive study of the concerns and needs presented by" the petition. Delegates approved a $200,000 study budget. The General Board of Global Ministries will administer funds and oversee the task force's work. A report and recommendations will come before the 2000 General Conference.


## Daily Christian Advocate

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### Visit of Hillary Clinton

Anticipation was high as a record 2,700 visitors joined delegates for the historic afternoon session to hear U.S. First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton address the General Conference. Presiding Bishop S. Clifton Ives, West Virginia Area, called on Bishop Hae-Jong Kim, New York West Area, for the opening prayer.

As the 2 p.m. hour drew closer, William K. Quick, clergy delegate, Detroit Conference, shared a history of relationships between American Methodism and the White House. "We are about to hear from the most forthright Methodist witness in the White House in 95 years," he concluded.

A thunderous, standing ovation greeted Mrs. Clinton's arrival. The "first lady's bishop," Richard B. Wilke, Arkansas Area, introduced her. He recalled Mrs. Clinton's role as a "vibrant and vital" member of First United Methodist Church, Little Rock.

A lifelong United Methodist, Mrs. Clinton said growing up in the church helped her understand "the connection between my personal faith and the obligations I faced as a Christian, both to other individuals and to society."

Turning to her concern for world problems and especially children, Mrs. Clinton said, "It is easy to complain about the problems we face. It is harder, but far more rewarding, to roll up our sleeves and work together to solve them." She urged delegates and visitors to "act outside the church as we try to act inside the church" and open the doors "to all those John Wesley sought out."

The full text of the first lady's address appears in the proceedings printed in the *DCA*. Audio tapes and printed copies are available at the *DCA* sales booth. Videotapes may be purchased in the Cokesbury display area.

### Shalom Zone Report

Following recess, delegates received an upbeat report on the Shalom Zone initiative launched by the 1992 General Conference as a response to the Los Angeles riots of that year. Bishop Felton E. May, Harrisburg Area, said: "Shalom is on the loose." He cited a string of statistics, including 800 people trained, 250 churches involved, 71 ecumenical ventures and 24 annual conferences with Shalom sites. A video described specific projects. The initiative has "set in motion one of the most powerful strategies for church and community revitalization," the bishop concluded. Future plans call for 300 sites by the year 2000.

The remainder of the afternoon was devoted to extensive debate on the first of several key votes on the church's stance on homosexuality. Delegates voted (60.4

(continued on next page)

(continued from last page)

percent) to retain the present language in the Social Principles calling homosexuality "incompatible with Christian teaching." A proposal from the Christian Social Concerns Legislative Committee would have dropped that language in favor of a more general statement recognizing differences of opinion on the issue. It had passed the legislative committee by only one vote and was defeated in the plenary 577 to 378.

As the evening session began, a joyous reception was given to the arrival of Bishop Arthur F. Kulah, Liberia Area. His safety was a matter of grave concern as the conference opened. Bishop Kulah tearfully told the conference of the six-year devastation of his country and his people by warring factions. He decried the fate of a country "so rich in natural resources but poor in human relationships.

"Do not give up on Liberia," he concluded, "for our hope is in Jesus Christ, and we, too, will rise from darkness to light."

The conference then turned to legislative proposals related to the bishops' Study on Ministry. After some 30 years of continuing ministry studies, delegates agreed to drop the longtime practice of sequential ordination and established two permanent orders of elders and deacons. The assembly also rejected proposals for a lay ministry steward.

*—Roger and Donah Burgess*

**Judicial Council Identification***

| | Class of 2000 | Class of 2004** | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| Lay | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| Clergy | 3 | 2 | 5 |
| Male | 3 | 3 | 6 |
| Female | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| White | 4 | 3 | 7 |
| African American | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| North Central | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Northeastern | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| South Central | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Southeastern | 3 | 2 | 5 |
| Western | 0 | 0 | 0 |

*number of Judicial Council members in the categories listed
** newly elected (April 24, 1996)

## *Meet the Authors*

*Thursday, April 25*

*Bishop Kenneth Carder*
*1:30 - 2:00 p.m.*
*Sermons on United Methodist Beliefs*

*Sally Geis and Donald Messer*
*1:30 - 2:00 p.m.*
Caught in the Crossfire

Tom McAnally
*1:30 - 2:00*
*Questions and Answers About The United Methodist Church*

*Will Willimon*
*1:30 -2:00 p.m.*
*Where Resident Aliens Live*
*and*
*Search for Meaning*

*Art Guillermo*
*1:00 - 2:00 p.m.*
*Churches Aflame*

*Raquel Martinez*
*1:30 - 2:00*
*Mil Voces (U.M. Spanish Hymnal)*

# Assembly Holds Line on Homosexuality

(UMNS) An attempt to soften The United Methodist Church's proscription against homosexual practice was defeated April 24 by a 378-577 vote.

Delegates rejected a proposal to change the assertion that homosexuality is "incompatible with Christian teaching" with the acknowledgment that United Methodists are "unable to arrive at a common mind" on the subject.

The defeated proposal is almost identical to one considered by the 1992 General Conference. During that session, a four-year study committee also asked delegates to add the "not of a common mind" phrase, but that proposal failed.

With Wednesday's action, the current language in the *Discipline* stands: "Although we do not condone the practice of homosexuality and consider this practice incompatible with Christian teaching, we affirm that God's grace is available to all."

During the impassioned, 90-minute debate on the subject, supporters of the failed proposed change called the church to "humility." Iowa clergy delegate Merlin J. Ackerson, who presented the proposal, said: "Some of us think that homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching; others think it is acceptable in covenantal relationship. This is who we are."

Noting that Jesus himself never spoke on homosexuality in the Bible, Mr. Ackerson urged delegates to accept the Church and Society Legislative Committee's recommendation to adopt language that would admit that ambiguity.

However, the Rev. David Seamands, a retired seminary professor from Nokomis, Fla., presented a minority report that called for retention of the "incompatibility" clause. He said changing the language would be a rejection of "a basic, bottom-line, biblical stance." He also claimed that to condone homosexual practice would be to "reject the biblical standards for all sexual behavior," including that for heterosexuals.

Along with Mr. Seamands, delegates opposing the change cited biblical prohibitions from the Old Testament. The Rev. Mpanga Ngeleka of Zaire, citing Leviticus 18:22, said: "We cannot be divided on the issue of homosexuality. Just as we help people who use drugs and alcohol, we can try to help heal homosexuals, but the Bible is clear: it is wrong."

During the debate, several attempts were made to strengthen the majority report (to include the "not of a common mind" phrase) or soften the minority report (to retain the "incompatibility" language).

Lay woman Nancy D. Duel of Arlington Heights, Ill., rejected the idea of "saying which side is the majority and which is the minority." Such language "defeats the purpose" of claiming a spirit of humility and reconciliation, she said.

*— M. Garlinda Burton*

# First Lady Praises United Methodism for Its Role in Her Faith Journey

In a historic address before the 1996 General Conference, Hillary Rodham Clinton told an enthusiastic Denver audience of United Methodism's influence on her "faith journey."

During an introduction by Arkansas Area Bishop Richard B. Wilke, and Mrs. Clinton's 30-minute address, delegates learned of her long association with the denomination including her baptism at Court Street United Methodist Church, Scranton, Pa.; her childhood experiences at First United Methodist Church, Park Ridge, Ill.; and her current association with Foundry United Methodist Church, Washington, D.C.

"I am particularly indebted to the many people who taught Sunday school and Vacation Bible School," said Mrs. Clinton in her April 24 address. "I can remember the lessons there, sometimes more vividly than what I have read or seen just last week. How many times did I sing the song, `Jesus Loves the Little Children of the World — red and yellow, black and white, they are precious in His sight.' Those words have stayed with me more personally and longer than many earnest lectures on race relations. And to this day I find myself wondering how anyone who ever sang them could be prejudiced against any group."

Mrs. Clinton told the crowded assembly hall she "almost couldn't even list all the ways" the church influenced her. "It taught me practical lessons as well," she said. "For example, how to recover from the embarrassment of passing out in an overheated sanctuary when I was playing an angel during the Christmas pageant."

Discussing her youth, Mrs. Clinton told of opportunities provided by her pastor to leave her "middle-class, all-White suburb of Chicago" to go into "the inner city, to have exchanges with church groups of Black and Hispanic children and to babysit for migrant workers.

The first lady also expressed gratitude for the fact that her daughter is now having similar experiences at Foundry Church. "Just this past year Bill and I went to a meeting of the teen-age Sunday school group where the teen-agers talked about what bugged them about their relationships with their parents. And it helped to have another child say what your own child didn't want to say to you directly. It was one of the many experiences that we have had because of the loving and faithful adults who care for young people in the [United] Methodist Church."

Turning her attention to the need for society to care for the marginalized, the author of *It Takes a Village*, said: "Here in the United States and certainly in the other countries represented here, we see too many children and people who remain on the margins of society. We see children who are unloved, unfed, unhealthy and unschooled. We see women and people of color who are marginalized because they are denied the opportunities they deserve to become full participants in society. Those are the continuing challenges, and yet we now know much more about what we can do together to meet those challenges. Despite the problems of poverty and illiteracy and violence, there are solutions being born . . . in churches and communities throughout the world."

Visitors and delegates alike applauded her observation: "It is easy to complain about the problems we face; it is harder but far more rewarding to roll up our sleeves and work together to solve them." She said all of us need to follow the golden rule and "act on the outside of church the way we try to act inside." She praised the Council of Bishops for renewing its call to make the welfare of children a top priority.

Noting that the legislative body is struggling with "hard issues," Mrs. Clinton said one of the reasons she is a United Methodist is the fact that "disagreements are part of life. . . . It's part of how we grow together.

"In the name of Jesus Christ," she said, "we are called to work within our diversity, while exercising patience and forbearance with one another. Such patience stems neither from indifference toward truth, nor from an indulgent tolerance of error, but from an awareness that we know only in part and that none of us is able to search the mysteries of God, except by the spirit of God."

She urged the assembly to recognize that we have "much in common" and we need to "summon our energy to work on behalf of our children. If we were to do that," she said, "I know we would see changes before our very eyes. And that the church you serve, and that has served us, would continue to grow because it was serving the world, living out the gospel and being a servant for those who need to hear that message."

Following the presentation, Mollie M. Stewart, lay delegate, North Alabama Conference, presented the first lady with a commemorative hymnal and a wooden box which bears the General Conference logo. "This has been a historical moment in the life of our denomination," said Ms. Stewart. "It has been an afternoon we will not soon forget."

*— J. Richard Peck*

## NCC Exec Lauds United Methodist Commitment to Ecumenical Work

"The United Methodist Church is a strong church; it is in good spirits, and its commitment to ecumenical work is very firm," according to Dr. Joan Brown Campbell, general secretary of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA (NCC).

Dr. Campbell attended General Conference Monday and Tuesday, along with ecumenical guests from a wide range of denominations and religious organizations. "The broad representation of global church life in the assembly is impressive," she said.

She expressed gratitude for the vote on the Covenant Communion petition. Her sentiments were echoed by Philip Jenks of the World Council of Churches, who said the proposal "is gaining . . . momentum for the ecumenical movement."

Bishop Thomas L. Hoyt Jr., Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, believes the morning's discussion of Pan-Methodism was a diversionary tactic by those who oppose the Consultation on Church Union (COCU). He noted that funding provided to implement COCU will impact the movement toward Pan-Methodism.

Because of power issues, Bishop Hoyt considers it necessary for the African Methodist Episcopal Church, the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church and the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church to come together in unity before solidifying ties with The United Methodist Church. "Issues of participation, power and authority have to be clarified," he said. "COCU has to deal with, and has dealt with, safeguards. But there must be covenanting and a contract with the people."

Dr. Campbell praised the "open and friendly" attitude evident in the General Conference. "Even though [delegates] have disagreements, they seem to be approaching one another in love."

"The conference is raising issues that matter for the future of Methodism, and the unity of the church is helpful to see," Bishop Hoyt commented. "As The United Methodist Church moves into the 21st century," he noted, "there is much evidence of a broad perspective, [inclusiveness] and an ecumenical spirit."

The proposed move of the General Board of Global Ministries was also on Dr. Campbell's mind. She also said she hopes the board will remain headquartered in New York City, where its proximity to other organizations, such as the NCC, contributes to effective interaction.

She also expressed pleasure that Albany Area Bishop William Boyd Grove will serve the NCC as head of the United Methodist participants, joining San Francisco Area Bishop Melvin G. Talbert, who recently took over as the council's president.

*—Joan Shoup*

## Coats and Cancellations

"Coats" and "cancellations" were the common words spoken in several languages by Central Conference delegates during the first day of General Conference.

Changes in itineraries delayed arrival times which, in turn, resulted in a cancellations of hotel rooms. This was particularly true, according to local committee members, if the delegates had not sent a deposit. Thanks to some quick shuttling of the roomless from hotel to hotel, most delegates had rooms by bedtime even if it meant bunking four and six to a room the first night.

Some Central Conference delegates were not prepared for the brisk mornings and cool evenings. When one of the Africa delegations requested 17 coats, local committee members answered the need within two hours. Now 45 coats that were awaiting shipment to Bosnia are being worn by delegates from Zaire and the Philippines.

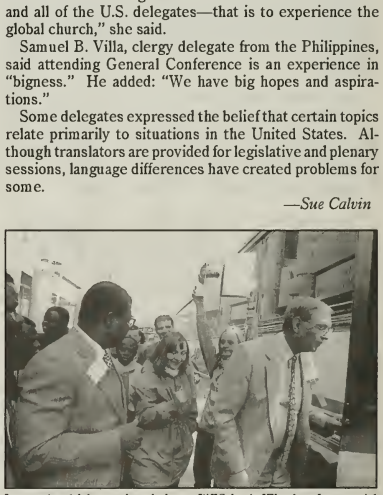
While the cold might have been a problem for some, snow was the delight of others. For some delegates who took one of the mountain trips offered on special-events day, snow is a new phenomenon. "To see snow, feel snow, taste snow is a highlight," said Ntambo Nkulu, a clergy delegate from North Shaba.

Ute Minor, a German North lay delegate, has a new insight into the outreach of the denomination. "To be here with 130-some delegates from the Central Conferences and all of the U.S. delegates—that is to experience the global church," she said.

Samuel B. Villa, clergy delegate from the Philippines, said attending General Conference is an experience in "bigness." He added: "We have big hopes and aspirations."

Some delegates expressed the belief that certain topics relate primarily to situations in the United States. Although translators are provided for legislative and plenary sessions, language differences have created problems for some.

*—Sue Calvin*



International delegates board a bus to Iliff School of Theology for a special luncheon.

*—photo Brad Motta*

## *Prayer Requests*

Please raise these persons in prayer:

- People of Liberia
- Lamark J. Cox Sr., lay leader of Liberia
- Arthur F. Kulah, bishop in Liberia
- Henry Greene
- Walter Carpenter - recovering from brain tumor surgery
- O'Dell Thompson and family - daughter-in-law died unexpectedly
- David Sakers - lung transplant surgery in Pennsylvania
- Andre' Pieters of Belgium - critical condition
- Nathaniel T. Grady - 10th year of imprisonment, awaiting appeal
- Alexandra - 4 years old, undergoing treatment
- Karen and Bob - Karen is pregnant, and undergoing chemotherapy
- Isaiah Johnson, 16, awaiting sentence for armed robbery. Our prayer is that he will be tried and sentenced as a juvenile.
- Hazel Bell
- Rev. John Innis - Liberia - In hiding for his own safety.
- Charles Yrigoyen - He flew home to be with his son, who was rushed to the hospital today.
- Please keep Dana and Lilanthi Ward in your prayers. Lilanthi had a miscarriage.
- Ron Bailey, Barb's husband, has shingles.
- Martha Page, wife of Central Pennsylvania lay delegate Conrad M. Page Jr., and Gary D. Sowers, a lay delegate from the same conference, were taken to the hospital April 23.

** Please stop by the *DCA* booth and the *DCA* office to leave your prayer concerns to be included in tomorrow's *DCA*.

### ♀♀ *Blessed Be the Women: Be Counted!* ♀♀

- Nominations for Univ Senate: In CEO group, 3 women of 9 or 33%; in Academic/FI group, 1 woman of 6 or 14%.

Observations in Plenaries:

- Tue eve calendar items - Men are 65% of body & made 84% of comments. Clergy are 50% of body & made 62% of comments (only 2 clergy women spoke).
- Wed am on Korean American Missionary Conf - Men are 65% of body & made 60% of comments. Laity made 57% of comments & racial/ethnic minority persons made 47% of comments.
- Wed afternoon on ¶71F - Men are 65% of body & made 75% of comments. Laity are 50% of body & made 40% of comments. Racial/ethnic minority persons made 30% of comments. Youth & young adults made 9% of all comments.

General Observations: Men's comments are consistently longer than women's comments. Youth and young adult delegates are seeking to be recognized more often than last week. There is a general sense that women are requesting opportunities to speak less often than men.

Information provided by the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women

### Elected April 24, 1996

**COMMISSION ON THE GENERAL CONFERENCE**

1. North Central clergy: Kenneth Chalker
2. North Central lay: Aileen Williams
3. Northeastern clergy: James Perry
4. Northeastern lay: Robert Brandt
5. South Central clergy: Carole Cotton-Wwinn
6. South Central lay: Nancy Foster
7. Southeastern clergy: Charles White, Jr.
8. Southeastern lay: Mollie Stewart
9. Western clergy: Anita Iceman
10. Western lay: Kimball Salmon
11. Central Conferences: Maximo Dizon
12. At-large: Harry Shaner (W)
13. At-large: Robero Gomez SC
14. At-large: Phylemon Titus NC

## Correction

The *DCA* story (page 431) about Carolyn M. Marshall, General Conference secretary, has an error. Ms. Marshall is from Veedersburg, Ind. We regret the error.

African-American Clergywomen's luncheon is on April 25th.

# VIM and Habitat Pool Efforts, Build House

United Methodists joined with Habitat for Humanity to build a house while the General Conference is in session. More than 325 people, 155 of them United Methodists involved in Volunteers in Mission (VIM), came from nine states and 11 countries, raised this 1,200-square-feet, three-bedroom house in just two weeks. Workers came from as far away as India and Kenya and six countries in South America. U.S. teams came from the country's three corners—Florida, Vermont, Washington—and states in between, as well as several churches in the Rocky Mountain Conference, according to Jon Laughlin, VIM project coordinator and Cheyenne, Wyo., pastor.

The house will be sold to the new owners for $62,000—$35,000 in land and materials and $27,000 (estimated) in contributed labor. The new owners will have contributed 500 hours of volunteer labor before total completion. More than 75 homes have been built in the Denver area since 1979.

The "General Conference House," located at 3rd and Decatur, will be dedicated this Saturday at 10 a.m. Conference participants are invited to attend.

*You are cordially invited to the*
*DEDICATION*
*of a home built*
*in partnership*
*with families*
*by*
*Habitat*
*for*
*Humanity*
*of Metro Denver,*
*Saturday, April 27, 1996,*
*10 a.m.,*
*2800 W. 3rd Ave., Denver.*
*Reception following the dedication.*





# Lay Missioners Enrich Hispanic Ministry

Ana Velasquez Stone wears many hats. She's a teacher, a preacher and a counselor. She helps the homeless, youth and women. In many ways, she serves as a pastor, but she's not one. She is a lay missioner for the National Plan for Hispanic Ministry. Like the original lay movement that accelerated church growth during John Wesley's lifetime, the National Plan relies on lay missioners for church revitalization.

Ms. Stone illustrates how effective a lay missioner can be. As director of the multicultural program at Grace United Church (United Methodist and Presbyterian), she ministers to Hispanics in northeast Kansas City. A member of Linwood United Church, she was referred to Grace by her pastor. What started as a part-time position immediately became full time. "The need for Hispanic ministry was overwhelming," she said.

Within a year, Ms. Stone was assisting 30 to 40 families from the community. Her first task was to translate for those who did not speak English. Gradually, her work became more substantial. She began to address immediate needs, such as food and clothing. From this initial contact, the church also began to minister to spiritual needs. The result was a small Hispanic congregation.

Not quite comfortable with the responsibility of leading a congregation, Ms. Stone requested that a Hispanic pastor be appointed. The Rev. Juan Carlos Ramon was hired. Meanwhile, Ms. Stone helped create English-as-a-second-language classes, provided counseling, started a Hispanic women's support group, and began budgeting and cooking classes. She also is committed to helping youth. "One of our most exciting programs is our peacemaking academy," Ms. Stone said. This eight-week summer program builds self-esteem and stresses conflict resolution and anger control.

Designed for children and youth, grades one through eight, the academy emphasizes the importance of retaining cultural identity. In doing so, Grace United Church has produced Sunday school curriculum that reflects the complexion of the community. "Working to empower the Hispanic community is what I do," Ms. Stone said proudly.

*—Adrian Vega*




The choir of The Methodist Church of Indonesia filled the morning session with song and color.

*photo by John Goodwine*

## Can You Top This?

If you can't top yesterday's entries, we won't say you didn't try. Here are today's contributions. Keep them coming!

### A FAMILY AFFAIR

Louisville Conference delegates Jack J. Scott (lay reserve) and Rachel Scott James (clergy) are a father-daughter team. From the Virginia Conference come lay delegates Roger C. Dowdy and Kristen E. Dowdy, another father-daughter team. Roger is attending his third General Conference, Kristen her first.

Eastern Pennsylvania Conference lay delegate Ruth Daugherty and her brother, Lee B. Sheaffer, clergy delegate, Virginia Conference, are attending their 13th General Conference.

True to the term "dynamic duo," Bill and Joan Hataway of the Texas Conference have together participated in four General Conferences. Bill served as a reserve lay delegate in 1984 and as a delegate in 1988 and 1992. This year marks a new era in the "Hataway General Conference legend" as Joan takes her turn as a first-time lay delegate.

Donald W. "Don" Underwood, clergy delegate, North Texas Conference, has a long family history of General Conference representation. His grandfather, J.E. Underwood, was elected to General Conference in the 1930s and 1940s. His father, Bishop Walter L. Underwood, was a delegate 1968-84 and was elected to the episcopacy in 1984. His uncle, Lloyd Ramer, represented the Memphis Conference 1968-76.

### GOD BLESS THE SMALL-MEMBERSHIP CHURCH!

In the New England Conference delegation are two persons, both diaconal ministers, who have roots in the same 60-member church in Penobscot on the Maine coast. Dot McMahan currently is a member of Penobscot Church. Richard Gross grew up there, but now is a member of Calvary United Methodist Church, Lewiston, Maine.

Margie M. Briggs, first alternate for the Missouri West Conference comes from Creighton United Methodist Church, a 68-member congregation.

### MOST DELEGATES FROM ONE CHURCH

St. Luke United Methodist Church, Houston (Texas Conference), claims three delegates and two bishops: Julian L. Byrd (clergy), Houston Area Bishop J. Woodrow Hearn, James W. "Jim" Moore (clergy), retired Bishop Benjamin R. Oliphint and Randy Smith (lay).

Claremont [Calif.] United Methodist Church is represented by one delegate, two alternates and one page who is a retired missionary from Japan. All represent the California-Pacific Conference.

Tom L. Christian, lay delegate, and Donald W. Underwood, clergy delegate, from the North Texas Conference, share the same local church—Christ United Methodist, Plano.

### SOMETHING IN THE WATER?

Millsaps College, Jackson, Miss., may hold a record for educating future bishops. Claiming the United Methodist-related college as their alma mater are retirees Bishops Roy C. Clark, Bishop H. Ellis Finger Jr. and Bishop Joel D. McDavid, as well as Holston Area Bishop Clay F. Lee Jr. and Denver Area Bishop Mary Ann Swenson.

*—Barbara Dunlap-Berg*

## How Firm a Foundation?

The Rev. Jeanie Burton, clergy delegate, Little Rock Conference, learned just how grounded in the faith she could become during the 1996 General Conference.

During a recent lunch break, Ms. Burton was walking down 17th Street, and her mind was wandering. "I was thinking about how many coffee bars are in Denver," she admitted sheepishly. Unaware that she had walked between two saw horses tagged with yellow caution tape, she waded, ankle deep, into smooth, wet cement.

"The construction workers were trying not to laugh," she said. But when she also dropped her purse in the sticky gray goo, they quickly lost their composure.

The workers tried to remedy the situation by hosing her down a bit, "then I squished back to the hotel," she said.

The owner of the construction company has agreed to replace the ruined shoes. And as Ms. Burton heads back to Arkansas, she laments: "I've still got concrete in my toes."

Her new favorite hymns are—not surprisingly—"How Firm a Foundation," "Standing on the Promises" and "It Is Well With My *Sole*." Any other ideas?

*—Jane Dennis*

# Top Hymns and Prayers for General Conference

The preface to *The United Methodist Hymnal* says we are "a singing people." Here are some hymns and the occasions when they might be sung.

"And Are We Yet Alive": Exhausted legislative committee members finish four days of late-night petition processing.

"And Can It Be That I Should Gain": Dieting delegates contemplate two straight weeks of restaurant food.

"Camina, Pueblo de Dios" ("Walk On, O People of God"): Pages clock their miles.

"Close to Thee": Delegates sit 12 to a table.

"Come, All of You," "Come Back Quickly to the Lord," "O Come, All Ye Faithful," "Shall We Gather at the River": Presiding bishop tries to reconvene plenary session.

"Come, Divine Interpreter": Translators polish their craft.

"Come, O Thou Traveler Unknown": Airport arrivals wait patiently for a ride to the hotel.

"Come, Ye Disconsolate, Where'er Ye Languish": Marshals sing to those who couldn't get in to observe legislative committees.

"Fill My Cup, Lord": Caffeine addicts wait in line at the espresso stand.

"Finding Rest in God": *DCA* and secretarial staffs enjoy vague memories of sleep.

"He Never Said a Mumbalin' Word": (1) Council of Bishops respond. (2) Delegates lament that they never made it to the microphone.

"Heal Me, Hands of Jesus": Conference memories include a trip to the hospital emergency room.

"Help Us Accept Each Other": Caucuses try to see eye to eye.

"I'll Praise My Maker While I've Breath": High altitude inspires singing.

"Leave It There": Delegates tire of hauling three *DCA*s, *The Book of Discipline,* and other material.

"Let Us Now Depart in Thy Peace": Delegates beg presiding bishop during an exhausting day of deliberations.

"Nobody Knows the Trouble I See": Technicians work behind the scenes.

"Now the Silence": Convention center staff rejoices after the final gavel.

"O Food to Pilgrims Given": Cookie-bakers finish their last batch.

"O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing": Song leaders hope for a miracle.

"Open My Eyes, That I May See": Delegates stumble from their hotel rooms during the second week of General Conference.

"Pass It On": Delegation heads send notes to their delegations.

"Shackled by a Heavy Burden": Delegates lug fully loaded gray tote bags.

"Stand Up and Bless the Lord": Delegates eagerly rise after sitting all day.

"Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying": Legislative committees ponder unfinished work.

"We'll Understand It Better By and By": First-time delegates share their confusion.

"What a Friend We Have in Jesus," Denver Chamber of Commerce sees dollar signs.

"Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life": Hungry delegates stampede to the refreshment table during a break.

"Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones": Persons sitting outside the bar know just where they stand.

*—Philip D. Brooks and Karen Nesius*

# 'Denver Will Never Be the Same'

The good news is we will adjourn. We will get through the business.

These assurances come from Roger F. Kruse, business manager for the General Conference.

Even though Mr. Kruse is directing his first General Conference, he knows the end is near, if for no other reason than another convention is scheduled to move into the Colorado Convention Center on Sunday. The former director of a teacher's organization and professional meeting planner said he has had a lot of help to put on this "show" as he refers to the General Conference.

"I have worked with staff from the General Council on Finance and Administration who have been wonderful," Mr. Kruse said. In addition, assisting him are one full-time volunteer from Missouri, the 12 members of the volunteer Commission on the General Conference, various adjunct staff such as Mark and Laura Wharf who shepherd the pages and the marshals, travel agents and musicians.

"The host committee is wonderful, and the area committee is great," Mr. Kruse said. "They have really modeled local hospitality."

Mr. Kruse brought changes to the workings of the General Conference. For the first time, an in-house computer center and commercial print shop are available for delegates. The translation equipment was upgraded, and the addition of three languages emphasize the truly global nature of the church. In addition, travel to and from the General Conference was handled through his office, which meant delegates didn't have to purchase their own tickets.

"The biggest glitch has been with the hotel community," Mr. Kruse said, adding it has been a longstanding problem for all General Conference sessions. Traditionally, hotels who cater to conventions overbook their facilities, counting on a percentage of "no shows." Unfortunately for the hotels, United Methodists showed up. There was also a problem with the reservations made for international delegates. Another frustration was with gallery seating for conference visitors and guests.

Mr. Kruse and the Commission on the General Conference spent countless hours attending to small and large challenges — the most noticeable of which was the visit made by First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton.

"We didn't know Mrs. Clinton was coming until we got here. Her appearance was upbeat and helpful and did some good for us as a church, I think," Mr. Kruse said.

The convention center staff has been pleased to host the General Conference. "The housekeeping staff says we're the cleanest, most polite convention they've ever had," he said.

Mr. Kruse and his staff are already working on plans for the 2000 General Conference. "We started working on it as soon as we knew it was going to be in Cleveland," he said. Throughout the conference, Mr. Kruse and his staff have kept track of things that will be different in Cleveland.

"First, we'll be in an arena, so that will solve some of the visitor seating problems," he said. "I also think we'll change the floor layout and contract for longer food service hours." In addition, he plans an additional move-in day to allow for more set-up time. He'll also have more direct contact with the hotel community in an attempt to counter some of the housing problems.

"I was surprised how many people came in and thanked our staff for putting this on," Mr. Kruse said. "They realized we were rookies at this. That's been a nice surprise."

"I really love this job," he added. "Because of the witness of the General Conference, Denver will never be the same."

*—Kristin Knudson Harris*




**Does General Conference really do anything to change lives? The answer was a resounding "yes" as we celebrated the success of Africa University. The presentation proved "dreams can come true."**

*photo Mike Dubose*

### Top Ten Reasons for Plenary Sessions to Go Late Into the Night

10. You can be glad you use Dial. Don't you wish everybody did?
9. You won't be tempted to stay up late and watch "Cheers" reruns.
8. Carriage rides to the hotel are cheaper after 11 p.m.
7. Non-United Methodist hotel guests get a chance to ride the elevator alone.
6. Hotel housekeeping have plenty of time to clean your room.
5. Quorum includes the delegates that are sleeping in their seats.
4. The one delegate who hasn't had a chance to speak on the floor of General Conference finally gets to do so.
3. Dizziness is no longer caused by high altitude.
2. You get to see all the colors made by your mood ring.
1. God never sleeps; why should the delegates?

*—Brad Motta and the DCA staff*

### Top 10 Things the Presiding Bishop Says to the Two Bishops Behind Her/Him

10. What do I do now?
9. Can you get me more water?
8. Use a Kleenex next time!
7. I have to go to the bathroom.
6. If s/he stands up one more time . . .
5. So what are we voting on now?
4. Stop popping your gum; I can't hear.
3. Do I sound like I know what's going on?
2. Stop laughing; it's you tomorrow.
1. Do I have anything in my teeth?

*—Tracy Collins, Methodist Theological School*

### Top 10 Things You Can't Do With Your Voting Box, But Wish You Could

10. Call your office.
9. Order lunch.
8. Check your blood pressure and pulse rate.
7. Buzz your bishop on stage when s/he dozes off.
6. Calculate your per diem.
5. Access voice mail in your hotel room.
4. Play tic-tac-toe with your neighbor.
3. Adjust the volume of the stage mike (or the thermostat!).
2. Get more cash.
1. Eject your seat!

*—Rebecca Youngblood, clergy delegate, Mississippi Delegation*

## Words Have Limitations, Morning Preacher Asserts

In a conference nearly overwhelmed with words, Portland Area Bishop William W. Dew Jr. told conference delegates: "There are no words adequate to describe our deepest experiences or to answer our questions and doubts."

Quoting T.S. Eliot about the difficulty of depending on words to convey deep truth, the bishop said,

"Words strain; crack and sometimes break
under the burden, under the tension,
slip, slide, perish, decay with imprecision,
will not stay in place, will not stay still."

To Christians who demand dogmatic assurance that they have the right answer, he affirmed that the mystery of God surrounds us at every point. Words which are meant to convey the deep truths of God are always limited. "No one ever came into faith through reciting the words of a creed or confession," Bishop Dew said.

Giving nonverbal spirit to the worship service was the sound of big-band gospel music by the Lovers Lane jazz band from Dallas. The band gave new life to favorite hymns such as "Just a Closer Walk with Thee."

The 25-person band does not usually play for worship but gives special programs in their local church and are booked more than a year in advance in neighboring churches.

Worship leaders were liturgist Philadelphia Area Bishop Susan M. Morrison and Scripture reader Ann Saunkeah of the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference.

*—Dick Thornburg*

# The Tour Continues

As the Consent Calendar lengthens, we at *DCA* continue to highlight some of the legislation passed on the Consent Calendar. For those *rare* times when you delegates might get behind in your reading, we hope these summaries are helpful.

Calendar Item 103

An Amendment on Men and Women

We affirm with Scripture the basic similarity of the sexes and assert that it is human similarities and not differences that allow persons to find intimacy and partnership in accordance with God's intention. We reject the erroneous notion that one gender is superior to another, and that one gender must strive against another, and that members of one gender may receive love, power and esteem only at expense of another.

Calendar Item 104

Divorce

When a married couple is estranged beyond reconciliation, even after thoughtful consideration and counsel, divorce is a *regrettable* alternative in the midst of brokenness. Divorce doesn't preclude a new marriage. We encourage an intentional commitment of the church and society to minister compassionately to those in process of divorce, as well as members of divorced and remarried families, in a community of faith where God's grace is shared by all.

Calendar Item 133

Admission Into the Church—amends 216

The church draws new persons into itself as it seeks to remain faithful to its commission to proclaim and exemplify the gospel. Baptism is the sacrament of initiation and incorporation into the body of spirit. Baptism is the sacrament of initiation and incorporation into the body of Christ. Becoming a professing member requires the answer of faith of the baptized, made visible in a service of profession of Christian faith and confirmation using the vows of the baptismal covenant. All baptized persons—*including infants,* children, *youth* and adults shall be listed on the *roll of baptized members.*

Calendar Item 195

The Mission and Ministry of the Church

I. The Mission

The mission of the church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:19-20). This mission is our grace-filled response to the reign of God in the world announced by Jesus. God's grace is active everywhere, at all times, carrying out this purpose as revealed in the Bible.

*The Process for Carrying out Our Mission*—We make disciples as we:

—Proclaim the gospel, seek, welcome and gather persons into the body of Christ.

—Lead persons to commit their lives to God through Jesus Christ.

—Nurture persons in Christian living through worship, baptism, communion, Bible study, prayer and other means of grace.

—Send persons into the world to live lovingly and justly as servants of Christ.

—Continue the mission of seeking, welcoming and gathering persons into the community of the body of Christ.

*The Global Nature of Our Mission*

—The church seeks to fulfill its global mission through the spirit-given servant ministries of all Christians, both lay and clergy.

Calendar Item 576

Communities of Shalom

Whereas, the General Conference response to the Los Angeles crisis of 1992 by creating a new strategy called Communities of Shalom which incorporates evangelism and community action by focusing on spiritual renewal, congregational development, community economic development, health and strengthening race and class relationships, therefore, be it resolved that The United Methodist Church strongly urge the continual expansion of Shalom Ministries throughout the United States and the world for churches in urban and rural communities in crisis and transition. Through the General Board of Global Ministries resource, "Communities of Shalom" in the United States and around the world through training and technical assistance.

Calendar Item 809

Abortion

We commit our church to continue to provide nurturing ministries to those who terminate a pregnancy, to those in the midst of a crisis pregnancy and to those who give birth.

Calendar Item 1018

Establishment of Parish Health Nurse Program

Be it resolved that annual conferences be directed to encourage the establishment of parish health nurse programs in each local congregation on a charge.

Calendar Item 1030

Drug and Alcohol Concerns

We direct the General Board of Discipleship and The United Methodist Publishing House to incorporate educational material on alcohol and other drug problems, including the material on prevention, intervention, treatment and the value of abstinence throughout its literature.

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Calendar Item 1090

Sexism, Eradication of Sexism in the Church

Whereas sexism continues to be a pervasive and systematic force within our church and our society, and when not monitored rears its ugly head and deprives the majority of women in The United Methodist Church the opportunity to participate fully and equally in all areas of the church, therefore, be it resolved, that the General Conference affirm the work and the necessity for continuance of the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women and of the annual conference commissions on the status and role of women that each annual conference commission give financial backing to projects and that General Conference make it mandatory for each annual conference, United Methodist seminary and all United Methodist-related institutions to have policies on sexual harassment in force by General Conference 2000.

Calendar Item 1101

Support "Racism in Rural Areas" Task Force Report

Be it resolved that the 1996 General Conference designates the elimination of racism in its many forms as a special emphasis of the church to be addressed by every level of the church and to be included by every general board and agency as one of the continuing priorities for the 1997-2000 quadrennium.

Calendar Item 1102

Racism in Rural Areas of United States and the Church's Response

The general church recommends that training be made available by the General Commission on Religion and Race to enable each annual conference commission on religion and race to serve as a resource and support for promoting cross-cultural understanding in rural areas. Also that the General Board of Discipleship provide new rural-oriented resources on racism and interethnic conflict for all age-level educational work of the church.

Calendar Item 1704

National Youth Ministry Organization (NYMO) Steering Committee

The NYMO Steering Committee shall consist of youth and adults who are baptized and professing members of The United Methodist Church. All youth elected shall be at time of election in the 11th grade or under or their age shall be 16 or under. It is strongly suggested that one youth with a disability and one racial ethnic youth be elected.

Calendar Item 1712

Conference Board of Laity

In every annual conference there would be a board of laity or other equivalent structure to provide for these functions and maintain the connectional relationship.

Calendar Item 1730

Men's Division Membership

The General Board of Discipleship will assign one bishop, the national president of United Methodist Men, the five jurisdictional presidents of United Methodist Men, the Central Conference president of United Methodist Men and five additional General Board of Discipleship to include one woman and ethnic representation to the division. In addition, NACPUMM may provide five at-large members to the Men's Division with voice and vote in Men's Division. The NACPUMM will be responsible for expenses of the at-large members.

Calendar Item 1731

Lay Missioners

Lay Missioners are committed lay persons, mostly volunteers, who are willing to be trained and will work in teams with a pastor-mentor to develop faith communities, establish community missions, develop church school extension programs and engage in congregational development. While lay missioners are engaged in a variety of ministries, their purpose is to complement and not replace pastors.

Calendar Item 1752

Membership of General Council on Ministries

The membership of the council shall consist of 64 members in accordance with P. 805.3a of the General Provisions. Jurisdictional members—clergy, lay women and lay men shall be elected to the council by the Jurisdictional Conference upon nomination from the annual conference (805.3b) using the following formula: North Central—6, Northeastern—7, South Central—8, Southeastern—11, Western—3. It is further recommended that the council elect at least one member without vote from among the member churches of the Consultation on Church Union other than The United Methodist Church as an additional member. There will be one member from Iglesia Metodista Autonoma Afilada de Puerto Rico. In order to insure representation of youth and young adults, it is recommended that the total membership be constituted of at least 5-percent youth and young adults.

Calendar Item 1753

Organization of the General Board of Church and Society

The board shall have 63 members constituted according to P. 805.a and organized as specified in its bylaws and harmony with P. 802-810 of the General Provisions.

Calendar Item 1774

Eliminate Local Church Age-level and Family Councils

The size of the church will indicate need for these councils. The membership of these councils shall be elected by the church council or other appropriate body.

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Calendar Item 1775

Mandated Youth Member on Committee on Nominations and Personnel

There must be a youth on this committee.

Calendar Item 1782

Mission of the Church

The mission of the church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ by proclaiming the good news of God's grace and thus seeking the fulfillment of God's reign and realm in the world. The fulfillment of God's reign and realm in the world is the vision which Scripture holds before us. The church seeks to fulfill its global mission through the Spirit-given servant ministries of all Christians, both lay and clergy.

Calendar Item 1800

Rights of All Persons

It is crucially important that Christians insist that all people are God's children who deserve the protection their human and civil rights.

Calendar Item 1806

Care of Members

The pastor is responsible to see that the membership secretary adds each baptized child to the church's roll of baptized members. Information is to include full name of the child, date of birth, date and place of baptism, full names of the parents, guardians, sponsors or godparents and their places of residence and phone numbers.

# Legislative Committee Reports

**Church and Society** — (4/23/96, 12:15 a.m.)

*The Committee recommended concurrence:*

- Amending Social Principles Para. 73D on "Poverty," adding concern about low wages;
- Lifting up the National Coalition Against Legalized Gambling in an amendment to the current resolution on gambling;
- Asking Congress to eliminate tax provisions penalizing legally married couples;
- Highlighting economic development in Puerto Rico and opposing elimination of Section 936 of the Internal Revenue Code;
- Recognizing the work of the National Campaign for a Peace Tax Fund;
- Amending Social Principles Para. 73D on "Consumption" and Para. 73F on "Migrant Workers";
- Pointing out the relationship between the world economy and sustainability of the environment;
- Calling for a rebirth of compassion, including service to persons in need and advocacy for just public policies;
- Presenting a statement of shared principles of welfare reform;
- Calling on candidates for political office to avoid "political mudslinging";
- Adding all persons' "right to a job" to Social Principles Para. 73C;
- Urging continued use of the resources from the Study on Homosexuality;
- Reaffirming the first sentence of Social Principles Para. 71C;
- Inserting in Social Principles 71C a statement indicating that ceremonies celebrating homosexual unions "shall not be conducted in our churches";
- Supporting restitution to the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes of Oklahoma for the Sand Creek Massacre; returning the Ft. Reno, Oklahoma lands to those tribes; supporting economic development efforts for Native Americans;

*The committee recommended referral:*

- To the General Board of Church and Society, petitions urging "human intervention" rather than military, supporting actions on tobacco by the Federal Drug Administration, urging reworking of the "Status of Women" resolution because of "obsolete data," adding new text to the introductory paragraph of Social Principles Para. 71;
- To the General Board of Global Ministries, a petition urging support for the prison ministry of Western North Carolina Conference and urging a National Criminal Justice and Mercy Ministries office.

*—Lee Ranck and Shanta M. Bryant*

## UMC Airport Shuttle Schedule
## Friday, April 26, 1996

Departures from your hotel *must be* at least two hours prior to your flight time.*

Shuttle Hours: Noon - 8:00 p.m.

| | Marriott | Hyatt | Adams Mark | Arrive DIA |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | 12 noon | 12:15 p.m. | 12:30 p.m. | 1:30 p.m. |
| 2. | 2:30 p.m. | 2:45 p.m. | 3:00 p.m. | 4:00 p.m. |
| 3. | 5:00 p.m. | 5:15 p.m. | 5:30 p.m. | 6:30 p.m. |
| 4. | 7:30 p.m. | 7:45 p.m. | 8:00 p.m. | 9:00 p.m. |

| | ETI | Holtz | Holiday Inn | Arrive DIA |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | 12 noon | 12:15 p.m. | 12:30 p.m. | 1:30 p.m. |
| 2. | 2:30 p.m. | 2:45 p.m. | 3:00 p.m. | 4:00 p.m. |
| 3. | 5:00 p.m. | 5:15 p.m. | 5:30 p.m. | 6:30 p.m. |
| 4. | 7:30 p.m. | 7:45 p.m. | 8:00 p.m. | 9:00 p.m. |

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Autographed copies of

*Acts for Our Time*
and
*John Wesley: Holiness of Heart and Life*

both written by Charles Yrigoyen Jr.

## UMC Airport Shuttle Schedule
## Saturday, April 27, 1996

Departures from your hotel *must be* at least two hours prior to your flight time.*

Shuttle Hours: 5:00 a.m. - 7:45 p.m.

| | Marriott | Hyatt | Arrive DIA |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | 5:00 a.m. | 5:15 a.m. | 6:15 a.m. |
| 2. | 7:15 a.m. | 7:30 a.m. | 8:30 a.m. |
| 3. | 9:30 a.m. | 9:45 a.m. | 10:45 a.m. |
| 4. | 11:45 a.m. | 12 noon | 1:00 p.m. |
| 5. | 2:00 p.m. | 2:15 p.m. | 3:15 p.m. |
| 6. | 4:15 p.m. | 4:30 p.m. | 5:30 p.m. |
| 7. | 6:30 p.m. | 6:45 p.m. | 7:45 p.m. |

| | ETI | HOLTZ | Arrive DIA |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | 5:00 a.m. | 5:15 a.m. | 6:15 a.m. |
| 2. | 7:15 a.m. | 7:30 a.m. | 8:30 a.m. |
| 3. | 9:30 a.m. | 9:45 a.m. | 10:45 a.m. |
| 4. | 11:45 a.m. | 12 noon | 1:00 p.m. |
| 5. | 2:00 p.m. | 2:15 p.m. | 3:15 p.m. |
| 6. | 4:15 p.m. | 4:30 p.m. | 5:30 p.m. |
| 7. | 6:30 p.m. | 6:45 p.m. | 7:45 p.m. |

| | Adams Mark | Holiday Inn | Arrive DIA |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | 5:00 a.m. | 5:15 a.m. | 6:15 a.m. |
| 2. | 7:15 a.m. | 7:30 a.m. | 8:30 a.m. |
| 3. | 9:30 a.m. | 9:45 a.m. | 10:45 a.m. |
| 4. | 11:45 a.m. | 12 noon | 1:00 p.m. |
| 5. | 2:00 p.m. | 2:15 p.m. | 3:15 p.m. |
| 6. | 4:15 p.m. | 4:30 p.m. | 5:30 p.m. |
| 7. | 6:30 p.m. | 6:45 p.m. | 7:45 p.m. |

** International flights require you be at the airport two hours before departure.*

## Delegates, 16-21, Offer Skill, Experience

"Don't call us youth delegates," said Janelle Thompson, Detroit Conference. "We are delegates who happen to be youth. We weren't elected because we're youth. We were elected because we have the abilities and the same voice and right to vote."

"We're full delegates," added Deborah Wilcock, Eastern Pennsylvania. "I wasn't elected because of my age. I was elected because somebody respected what I have to say. None of us speaks for the youth or young adults as a whole. The issues that are most universally important to us are the issues that are most universally important to the church as a whole."

Stefanie Gray, California-Pacific Conference, is a second-time delegate. "I feel a lot more together and more respected for what I know and what I think," she said. "I think when people are meeting . . . that youth and young adults shouldn't just fill youth and young adult slots. We young adults can serve and fill leadership positions."

Cathy Stedman, Central Illinois, is attending her first General Conference. "Before I came here, I was told General Conference was one of the few remaining democratic processes left in the United States. I agree with that. Even someone who disagrees just a little gets a chance to get their voice heard. It's an awesome process to watch and be a part of."

Jason Paulsmeyer, Missouri East Conference, is also experiencing his first conference. "I've been taken aback," he said. "There are so many people expressing so many opinions on so many issues that you have to . . . try [to] get a broad perspective before you can have any idea what the issues really are."

The delegates echoed a concern heard in Ohio West Area Bishop Judith Craig's Episcopal Address: the church's future. "We are the church of tomorrow," they said, "—and the church of today!"

*—Erik Alsgaard*

## Announcements

An informational video explaining coverages and services of the UM Insurance Program tape will be shown in Room A-207 on Thursday 4/25 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.; and on Friday 4/26 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

All women, laity and clergy are invited to the Women's Caucus brown-bag luncheon meeting Friday, April 26, 12:45 p.m. (or 15 min. after a.m. session).

Order a video copy of Hillary Clinton's speech to General Conference: including William Quick's brief history of Methodists in the Whitehouse; Bishop Richard Wilke's introduction to Mrs. Clinton and more—$30 plus shipping. Copies will be shipped next week. To order: go to Cokesbury Information inside the bookstore.

An audiotape of Hillary Clinton's address is available at the DCA Sales Booth for $7.

Please report to A-113: Kiessling, D. (Germany) regarding refund and Turbyfill, Margaret regarding address.

May all clergy women/bishops of this General Conference join in a chorus of "thanks" — in many harmonies: "much as gracias, danke, merci . . ." and in all other represented languages — to the Women's Caucus for the yellow roses as symbols of our journey in ministry.

Denver International Airport returns:

1. The General Conference Shuttle will pick up at the Marriott, Hyatt, Adam's Mark, Holiday Inn, Holtz and Executive Tower Inn from 12 noon to 7:30 p.m. on Friday, April 26 and from 5:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 27. Cost is $5 and tickets are available at the information desk. Specific schedules are available at the hotels.

2. Dash has given us the special rate of $12 from the Convention Center to DIA. Call 342-5252 to make assignments.

3. Cabs are $35 for one person, $35.40 for two people, $35.80 for three and $36.20 for four people.

> The paragraphs in our *Book of Discipline* relative to homosexuality express sound biblical interpretation, theology, and tradition, as I understand them. I stand by them.
>
> *—Bishop Monk Bryan (retired)*

# General Council on Finance and Administration

## Report No. 15
## Response to Referrals from the 1996 General Conference

The 1996 General Conference has adopted nine legislative committee reports which call for the allocation of funds from general apportioned fund budgets. The General Council on Finance and Administration makes the following recommendations in response to those referrals.

In making these recommendations GCFA has kept within its promised "0-0-2-2" limits, which were established after listening to the church. As a result, it may not be possible to be fully responsive to concerns expressed in the various legislative committees. The "0-0-2-2" budget established after GCFA's listening process was intended to enable local churches and annual conferences to increase the percentage of apportionments paid. If the General Conference adds funds to the budget, apportionments will have to be raised. (Based on present and proposed commitments, it is estimated that the World Service Contingency balance will be $580,000 in the year 2000.)

1. ***National Plan for Hispanic Ministries.*** (Calendar No. 442, page 174; Petition #21343-GM-NonDis-O$, Advance *DCA*, page 771). The petition requests funding in the amount of $3,100,000 for the 1997-2000 quadrennium. The legislative committee report recommended concurrence with the petition, which was adopted by the General Conference and referred to GCFA on April 22, 1996.

GCFA, in its Report No. 1 on the World Service Fund, has recommended budgeted support for the National Plan for Hispanic Ministries within the regular budget allocations to the four general program boards, in a total amount of $2,800,000 (Advance *DCA*, page 287, under the heading "The Mission Initiatives Fund"). The amount allocated for this program from general apportioned funds during the 1993-1996 quadrennium was $2,716,000.

**GCFA recommends that the $2,800,000 included in its existing World Service Fund recommendation be approved without change.**

2. ***Native American Comprehensive Plan.*** (Calendar No. 444, page 174; Petition #21345-GM-NonDis-O$, Advance *DCA*, page 778). The petition requests funding in the amount of $1,200,000 for the 1997-2000 quadrennium. The legislative committee recommended concurrence with the petition, and the report was adopted by the General Conference and referred to GCFA on April 22, 1996.

GCFA, in its Report No. 1 on the World Service Fund, has recommended budgeted support for the Native American Comprehensive Plan in a total amount of $1,075,000, within the regular budget allocation of the General Board of Global Ministries (Advance *DCA*, page 287, under the heading "The Mission Initiatives Fund"). The amount allocated for this program from general apportioned funds during the 1993-1996 quadrennium was $1,020,000.

**GCFA recommends that the $1,075,000 included in its existing World Service Fund recommendation be approved without change.**

3. ***Historically Black Colleges and Universities Related to The United Methodist Church and the Black College Fund.*** (Calendar No. 452, page 175; Petition # 21280-HE-NonDis-O$, Advance *DCA*, page 826). The petition requested that, for the 1997-2000 quadrennium, $46,708,480 be apportioned for support of the Black College Fund. On April 22, 1996, the General Conference referred that funding request to GCFA.

GCFA, in its Report No. 3 (Advance *DCA*, page 293), has recommended that the 1997-2000 apportionment for the Black College Fund be in a total amount of $43,309,000. The Legislative Committee on Financial Administration, in Calendar No. 1051 (p. 333), has recommended an apportionment which totals $43,682,000 for the quadrennium.

**GCFA recommends that the 1997-2000 apportionment for the Black College Fund be whichever of those two latter amounts is approved by the General Conference.**

4. ***Executive Summary of Proposed Korean American Missionary Conference.*** (Calendar No. 751, page 234; Petition # 21731-CO-NonDis-O$). The legislative committee report consists of a "Resolution Strengthening Korean Ministry." It proposes the establishment of a task force to conduct a comprehensive study of the concerns and needs presented in the original petition. The task force

would include fifteen persons, in specified categories, to be appointed by the Council of Bishops, plus up to three bishops.

The legislative committee report estimated that the cost of the task force's work would be $150,000. The General Conference amended the legislative committee report to request funding in the amount of $200,000; the report, as amended, was adopted and referred to GCFA on April 24, 1996.

It is the judgment of GCFA that, because of meeting cost savings resulting from reduced board membership, the General Board of Global Ministries will be able to provide for the expenses of this task force.

**GCFA therefore recommends that the quadrennial total of $200,000 be provided from within the Board's existing budget.**

5. ***Strengthening the Black Church.*** (Calendar No. 762, page 235; Petition # 21677-GJ-NonDis-C$, Advance *DCA*, page 579). The petition requested funding in a quadrennial amount of $1,779,400. The legislative committee recommended concurrence, and the report was adopted by the General Conference and referred to GCFA on April 22, 1996.

GCFA's Report No. 1 on the World Service Fund includes funding in the amount of $1,316,000 in that fund's recommended budget (Advance *DCA*, pages 287, 290). In Calendar No. 1810, the Legislative Committee on Financial Administration recommends funding in the amount of $1,310,000 from the World Service Fund budget.

**GCFA recommends that funding for Strengthening the Black Church be in whichever of these two amounts is approved by the General Conference in its action on the World Service Fund budget.**

6. ***Connectional Process Team.*** (Calendar No. 764, pages 235-258; Petition # 21676-GJ-NonDis-O$, Advance *DCA*, page 551). The legislative committee, in Calendar No. 764, recommended the establishment of a Connectional Process Team (CPT) of up to 38 members, plus 3 non-voting members from affiliated and autonomous churches, as a response to the GCOM's Connectional Issues Study and the Council of Bishops' study on the Global Nature of the Church. No cost estimate for the work of the CPT was included in the legislative committee report.

The General Conference adopted the report on April 23, 1996, with a recommendation that funding be provided by GCFA (*DCA*, page 253). Working from assumptions and cost estimates provided by GCOM, GCFA estimates that the work of the CPT will cost $660,000.

**GCFA recommends that $450,000 of the estimated cost be from the Contingency Reserve line item in the World Service Fund budget, and that the remaining $210,000 be from within the approved budget of the General Council on Ministries, based on estimated meeting cost savings resulting from its reduced membership.**

7. ***National United Methodist Native American Center.*** (Calendar No. 777, page 257; Petition # 22037-HE-NonDis-O$, Advance *DCA*, page 1356). The petition requests additional funding in the amount of $316,000, beyond current funding from the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry and the General Board of Global Ministries. The legislative committee recommended concurrence with the petition, and the report was adopted by the General Conference on April 23, 1996.

GCFA understands that, for the 1997-2000 quadrennium: 1) the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry will provide funding in the amount of $164,000; 2) the General Board of Global Ministries will provide funding in the amount of $160,000 (designated for a staff person for congregational development).

**GCFA recommends that an amount of not more than $75,000 per year, for a total of not more than $300,000, be provided from the Contingency Reserve line item of the World Service Fund.**

8. ***Commission on Union (Pan-Methodist).*** (Calendar No. 781, page 258; Petition # 21726-IC-NonDis-O$, Advance *DCA*, page 931). The petition includes a quadrennial budget estimate for the work of the Commission in the amount of $100,000, to be divided among the four denominations. The legislative committee recommended concurrence with the petition, and the report was adopted by the General Conference on April 23, 1996.

Based on the formula by which expenses of the Commission on Pan-Methodist Cooperation have been allocated among the four participating denominations, it is estimated that the United Methodist share of the expenses of this Commission on Union will be approximately $45,000.

**GCFA recommends that funds to meet the United Methodist share of these expenses be from the Contingency Reserve line item of the Interdenominational Cooperation Fund budget, on recommendation of the General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns (Advance *DCA*, page 306).**

9. ***General Commission on United Methodist Men.*** (Calendar No. 1681, p. 386; Petition # 20712-DI-NonDis-O$, Advance *DCA*, page 1285). The General Conference has adopted Calendar No. 856 (*DCA*, pages 310-313), setting the total membership of all general agencies at 640. The General Commission on United Methodist Men would have 43 voting members not included in that total. It appears to GCFA that these actions are in conflict, and GCFA therefore seeks specific direction from the General Conference as to how it wishes to reconcile these two actions. Until that issue has been clarified, GCFA is deferring funding recommendations related to the General Commission on United Methodist Men.

## Summary of Financial Recommendations Related to General Conference Referrals

| Item Referred | Request | Legislative Committee | GCFA |
|---|---|---|---|
| National Hispanic Plan | $3,100,000 | $3,100,000 | $2,800,000 |
| Native American Comprehensive Plan | 1,200,000 | 1,200,000 | 1,075,000 |
| Black College Fund (see note below) | 46,708,480 | 43,682,000 | 43,309,000 |
| Strengthening Korean American Ministry | 200,000 | 150,000 | 200,000 |
| Strengthening the Black Church | 1,316,000 | 1,310,000 | 1,316,000 |
| National UM Native American Center | 316,000 | 316,000 | 300,000 |
| Connectional Process Team | | | 660,000 |
| Commission on Union (Pan-Methodist) | 45,000 | 45,000 | 45,000 |
| **Totals** | $52,835,480 | $49,809,000 | $49,699,000 |

Note: For the Black College Fund, the "Request" represents the action of the Higher Education Legislative Committee; the "Legislative Committee" column shows the recommendation of the Financial Administration Committee.


# *A behind-the-scenes look at Russia*

Who are the Russian United Methodists? What impact is all the change having on the people of Russia? What are the problems and opportunities faced by Russian women?

Lydia Istomina, lay pastor of the First United Methodist Church of Russia in Ekaterinburg, tells about the challenges and opportunities for the church in Russia. With a church 1,000 members strong, two soup kitchens, a prison ministry, a school, a special education program for the hearing-impaired, and an out-patient clinic, United Methodists are rising to the challenges of ministry in Russia in the 1990s. With special attention to the role of women in the new Russian society, this book will be especially suited for UMW groups.




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DCA-352-6

# Additional Petition

20021-CC-NonDis-0$; Nigeria Annual Conference

**Hausa translation of the *Book of Discipline*, the *Book of Worship* and the Hymnal**

WHEREAS a great number of our clergy and laity understand and communicate better in the *Hausa* Language than they do in English AND,

WHEREAS the *Hausa* language is widely used, not only within the area covered by the Nigeria Annual Conference, but also in the entire country (Nigeria), as well as a large portion of the coastal cities of West Africa, AND,

WHEREAS there are available and willing language experts and interpreters/translators from within the Nigeria Annual Conference,

WE the Nigeria Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church are desirous of a Hausa translation of the *Book of Discipline*, the *Book of Worship* and Hymnal to cater to the numerous Hausa users.

90 percent of the conference population attached, speak Hausa only.


## *Limited Edition Chalices & Bread Plates*

The opening Communion service of the 1996 General Conference will be a cherished time for years to come. To mark this special occasion, Cokesbury is making available to you the limited edition chalice and bread plate used to serve the elements in the opening worship session.

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DCA-342-6

## Consent Calendar Explanation

There are three consent calendars: A) concurrence with proposed changes to the *Discipline*. B) concurrence with petitions on non-Disciplinary matters. C) non-concurrence on Disciplinary and non-Disciplinary items. The first day items will be listed as **01**. The second day will be listed **02**, and so forth. Items can be placed on the consent calendar if: 1) no more than five votes were cast against the prevailing position; 2) it has no financial implications; 3) the proposal does not require a constitutional amendment. Any five delegates may have a consent calendar item removed by signing the appropriate form found in Room 204. This form must be returned to the secretary by 3 p.m. on the day it appears in the *DCA*.

# Consent Calendar A06

### Correction

**2371**-316
**This calendar item was incorrectly recorded on PETS and was given a calendar item out of sequence.**
**Subject: The Ordained Deacon**
Committee Item: MN545-316-C
Petition:
22933-MN-316-D, Pg. 1503
Membership: 113; Present: 102;
For: 100; Against: 2; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /-

**2001**-726
**Subject: Flexibility in Annual Conference structure**
Committee Item: CO137-726-A
Petition:
20067-CO-726-D, Pg. 193
Membership: 86; Present: 76;
For: 63; Against: 7; Not Voting: 6;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Delete all of Paragraph 726 through 726(10) and insert the following:

**Each Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church shall organize to develop, administer, and evaluate the missional life, advocacy needs and ministries of the Church in and through the Annual Conference. It shall maintain connectional relationships, organize to develop and strengthen ethnic ministries including ethnic local churches and concerns, and provide encouragement, coordination and support for conference agencies, districts, and local churches in their ministries of nurture, outreach, and witness in accordance with the mission of The United Methodist Church.**

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**2002**-74
**Subject: Political Responsibility**
Committee Item: CS101-74-C
Petition:
20931-CS-74-D, Pg. 125
Membership: 102; Present: 67;
For: 66; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/23

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**2003**-73
**Subject: Right to a Job**
Committee Item: CS129-73-A
Petition:
20866-CS-73-D, Pg. 124
Membership: 102; Present: 60;
For: 56; Against: 2; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/23

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Delete the U.S. Constitution quote and reference in the added text so that it reads:

Delete the first sentence of ¶ 73*C* and substitute the following new text:

**Every person has the right to a job at a living wage. Where the private sector cannot or does not provide jobs for all who seek and need them, it is the responsibility of government~~, organized to provide for the general welfare (U.S. Constitution)~~ to provide for the creation of such jobs.**

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**2004**-73
**Subject: Poverty**
Committee Item: CS134-73-C
Petition:
22450-CS-73-D, Pg. 1228
Membership: 102; Present: 67;
For: 66; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/23

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**2005**-73
**Subject: Migrant Workers**
Committee Item: CS137-73-C
Petition:
22451-CS-73-D, Pg. 1228
Membership: 102; Present: 66;
For: 64; Against: 1; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/23

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**2006**-73
**Subject: Consumption**
Committee Item: CS138-73-C
Petition:
22449-CS-73-D, Pg. 1227
Membership: 102; Present: 66;
For: 64; Against: 1; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/23

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**2007**-73
**Subject: Gambling**
Committee Item: CS152-73-C
Petition:
20930-CS-73-D, Pg. 124
Membership: 102; Present: 66;
For: 64; Against: 1; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/23

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**2008**-73
**Subject: Poverty**
Committee Item: CS154-73-C
Petition:

20929-CS-73-D, Pg. 124
Membership: 102; Present: 67;
For: 66; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/23

The Committee recommends concurrence. -

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2009-73
**Subject: Consumption**
Committee Item: CS155-73-A
Petition:
20928-CS-73-D, Pg. 124
Membership: 102; Present: 60;
For: 56; Against: 2; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/23

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Do not delete the last sentence (Committees additions are underlined) so that the petition reads:

Amend ¶73*D*:

D)Consumption. ~~We support efforts to ensure truth in pricing, packaging, lending, and advertising. We assert that the consumers primary responsibility is to provide themselves with needed goods and services of high quality at the lowest cost consistent with economic practices. They~~ **Consumers** should exercise...~~Those who manufacture goods and offer services serve society best when they aid consumers in fulfilling these responsibilities.~~ Consumers should evaluate...express dissatisfaction with harmful economic, **social, or ecological** practices...~~For example, these methods can be used to influence better television and radio programming.~~ **For example, these methods can be used to influence better television and radio programming.**

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2010-71
**Subject: Violence against Abortionists**
Committee Item: CS179-71-A
Petition:
20288-CS-71-D, Pg. 120
Membership: 102; Present: 86;
For: 77; Against: 7; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Instead of amending paragraph 71H, amend 74E *( Civil Obedience and Civil Disobedience)* and delete the word Furthermore so that the petition reads:

(Additions by the committee are underlined)

~~Add~~ **Insert** the following sentence ~~at the end of~~ **into** ~~¶71*H*~~ **74E (at the editors discretion)**:

~~Furthermore,~~ **We do not encourage or condone, under any circumstances, any form of violent protest or action against anyone involved in the abortion dilemma.**

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2011-71
**Subject: The Marriage Covenant**
Committee Item: CS200-71-C
Petition:
22300-CS-71-D, Pg. 1212
Membership: 102; Present: 60;
For: 57; Against: 2; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/23

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2012-1211
**Subject: Evangelism**
Committee Item: DI29-1211-A
Petition:
21405-DI-1211-D, Pg. 250
Membership: 112; Present: 70;
For: 68; Against: 1; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Amend ¶ 1211:

*Evangelism.*—— ~~1.~~ The board shall have general oversight of the evangelism ministries of the Church as directed by the General Conference. ~~The Christian evangelism program of The United Methodist Church shall be developed by the board.~~**Evangelism is central to the mission of the church. Evangelism, is defined in** *The Book of Discipline* **¶729.1.**

~~2.~~ The board shall share the blessing...throughout The United Methodist Church ~~worldwide~~.

3. [Delete.]

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2013-1213
**Subject: Worship Responsibilities**
Committee Item: DI70-1213-A
Petition:
21407-DI-1213-D, Pg. 251
Membership: 112; Present: 70;
For: 70; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Amend ¶ 1213:

*Worship Responsibilities*——1. **The board shall:** ~~To~~ **Set forth and interpret the biblical and theological basis for corporate worship through resources, programs, and training materials consistent with the doctrines of The United Methodist Church, and** to cultivate the fullest possible meaning in the corporate worship celebrations of the Church to the glory of God, including liturgy, preaching, the Sacraments, music, ~~and~~ related arts, **and the observance of the liturgical seasons of the Christian year.** ~~The Section on Worship shall encourage observance of the seasons of the Christian year, emphasizing the surprising and inspirational opportunities for glorifying God everywhere in creation in a profusion of variety.~~

2. ~~To d~~Develop standards and resources...

3. ~~To m~~Make recommendations...The hymnals of The United Methodist Church ~~is~~ **are** *The United Methodist Hymnal* (1989) **and** *Mil Voces Para Celebrar: Himnario Metodista* **(1996)**. The ritual of the Church is that contained in ~~*Cultos Principales de la Iglesia* (1984),~~ *The United Methodist Hymnal* (1989), ~~and~~ *The United Methodist Book of Worship* (1992), **and** *Mil Voces Para Celebrar: Himnario Metodista* **(1996)**.

4. ~~To p~~Prepare revisions of the Ritual of the Church...

5. ~~To w~~Work with other North American...

6. ~~To p~~Prepare and sponsor the publication...

7. ~~To m~~Maintain a cooperative but not exclusive...

8. ~~To a~~Advise the general agencies...the imprint of The United Methodist Church, ~~including~~ **encouraging use of** racial and ethnic worship resources ~~and other language publications, incorporating sensitivities to language which embodies~~ **incorporation of language which recognizes** ~~paragraph 4 (Article IV) of the Constitution of The United Methodist Church and serves the needs of~~ the several constituencies of the Church. **(See ¶ 4 of** *The Book of Discipline*.**)**

9. ~~To c~~Counsel with the editors...

10. ~~To p~~Participate in and cooperate with...

11. ~~To e~~Encourage in the schools of theology...

12. ~~To c~~Counsel with those responsible...

13. ~~To g~~**Give guidance to, provide** ~~develop, in cooperation with the General~~

~~Board of Higher Education and Ministry; performance standards~~ resources for, and ~~that~~ encourage the continuing growth of those persons responsible for music leadership in the local church, i.e., directors, ordained ministers, ~~and~~ associates, ~~of music;~~ music assistants; and those volunteering in music ~~others in the local church~~

~~related to music~~ and the other worship arts. (*See* ¶¶ 1209.4, 1505.7, 1562.2)

14. ~~To c~~Cooperate with t~~t~~The Fellowship of United Methodists in ~~Worship,~~ Music~~,~~ and ~~Other~~ Worship Arts and The Order of St. Luke...

15. ~~To give guidance to, and d~~Develop performance standards for associates, directors, and ministers of music,...with the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry in the development of standards and requirements for ~~in their~~ certification of directors, associates, and ministers of music as provided in ¶ 1526.2.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2014-275.6
**Subject: General Provisions Regarding Churchwide Special Sundays with Offerings**
Committee Item: GJ106-275.6-A
Petition:
21555-GJ-275.6-D, Pg. 1325
Membership: 98; Present: 82;
For: 82; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Amend Paragraph 275.6d:

d. ... provide scholarships for Native Americans attending United Methodist schools of theology and schools of theology approved by the University Senate of The United Methodist Church.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2015-2625
**Subject: Committee on Investigation**
Committee Item: GJ225-2625-A
Petition:
21269-GJ-2625-D, Pg. 1093
Membership: 98; Present: 73;
For: 73; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Amend ¶ 2625:

*Committee on Investigation ~~Procedures~~.*1. *Generale)* The investigation procedure is the first step in the judicial process. The appropriate Committee on Investigation (¶ 2625.2*c*, .3*c*, .4*c*) shall conduct the investigation, and if in the judgment of a majority of the committee there is reasonable ground for such charges, they shall sign and certify the charges as proper for a trial (the general offense or offenses under ¶ 2623) and the specifications (*e.g.*, the date, place, and specifics of the events alleged to have taken place). They shall then forward a copy to the person charged, the person making the complaint, and to appropriate church officials (¶ 2625.2*c*, .3*c*, and .4*c*). ~~All charges shall be submitted in writing and signed by the chairperson of the appropriate entity or body (¶¶ 2625.2c, 2625.3c, 2625.4c). A copy of all charges, specifications, and documentary evidence under consideration shall be sent to the respondent, the bishop, and the secretary of the Cabinet. All charges against a layperson under ¶ 2623.3 shall be submitted in writing, signed by the person(s) making the charge, and delivered to the pastor in charge of the local church of which the respondent is a member and a copy sent to the respondent.~~

[Delete *b-g*]

2.a) Substitute paragraph There shall be a Committee on Investigation elected by each Jurisdictional or Central Conference on nomination of the College of Bishops in consultation with the Jurisdictional Episcopacy Committee. The committee shall consist of seven (7) elders in full connection (with not more than one (1) elder from each Annual Conference, if possible), two (2) lay observers and six (6) alternate members, five (5) of whom shall be elders in full connection (with not more than one (1) elder from each Annual Conference, if possible) and one (1) of whom shall be a lay person. The committee should reflect racial, ethnic, and gender diversity . The committee shall elect a chairperson and organize at the Jurisdictional or Central Conference. Seven (7) elders or alternates seated as members of the committee shall constitute a quorum and the vote to adopt any charge or specification shall require five (5) votes.

*b)* If a written complaint is made against a bishop for ~~bishop shall be charged in writing of~~ any of the offenses in ¶ 2623, the counsel for the church, as appointed under ¶ 513.3*a*, ~~chairperson of the Jurisdictional Committee on the Episcopacy~~ shall forward the complaint ~~charge~~ and all documentary evidence under consideration to the chairperson of the Committee on Investigation, the person making the complaint, and the bishop being charged. The counsel for the church shall be entitled to choose one assistant counsel without voice who may be an attorney. The bishop shall be given an opportunity to submit to the Committee on Investigation a written response to the complaint ~~charges~~ within thirty (30) days of receipt of the complaint ~~charges~~. The chairperson shall convene the Committee on Investigation within sixty (60) days of receiving the complaint ~~such charges~~ (*see* ¶ 513.3*a* ~~513.5~~).

*c)* Any charges and specifications adopted shall be sent to the bishop ~~*bishop*~~ charged,...

*d)* If five (5) or more members of the Committee on Investigation so recommend, the bishop may suspend the person charged from all clergy responsibilities pending ~~trial~~ the outcome of the judicial process.

3.*a*) There shall be a Committee on Investigation consisting of seven (7) elders in full connection, two (2) lay observers, and six (6) alternate members, ~~and~~ five (5) of whom shall be elders in full connection and one (1) of whom shall be a lay person. ~~alternates~~. The committee shall be nominated by the presiding bishop in consultation with the Board of Ordained Ministry and elected quadrennially by the Annual Conference. The committee should reflect ~~the~~ racial, ethnic, and gender diversity ~~of The United Methodist Church~~...None of the members or alternates shall be members of the ~~Joint Review Committee or the~~ Board of Ordained Ministry,...Seven (7) elders ~~members~~. . .

*b)* If a determination is made that a complaint is a judicial complaint against a clergy person under the provisions of ¶ 454.1*e*(1), the bishop shall appoint an elder in full connection as counsel for the church. ~~Upon completion of the procedures of ¶ 453.1, if a clergy member of an Annual Conference, located clergy, or a local pastor shall be charged in writing of any of the offenses in ¶ 2623, the~~ Counsel for the church ~~chairperson of the Board of Ordained Ministry~~ shall prepare, sign and refer the complaint ~~refer those charges~~ with all relevant material ~~from the Joint Review~~ to the chairperson of the conference Committee on Investigation and represent the interests of the church in pressing the claims of the person making the complaint in any proceedings before the Committee. Counsel for the church shall be entitled to choose one assistant counsel without voice who may be an attorney. ~~who shall within~~

~~sixty (60) days of receiving such charges convene the Committee on Investigation (¶ 453.2).~~ The respondent shall be given an opportunity to submit to the Committee on Investigation a written response to the **complaint** ~~charges~~ within thirty (30) days of receipt of the **complaint** ~~charges~~ (*cf.* ¶ 454.1*c* ~~454.1*b*~~ and ¶ 2624.1).[10] **The Chairperson of the conference Committee on Investigation shall have sixty (60) days to convene the Committee on Investigation after receiving the complaint.**

*c)* Any charges and specifications...to the respondent, the **person making the complaint**, secretary of the Annual Conference, the ~~chairperson of the Board of Ordained Ministry,~~ **counsel for the church** ~~the respondents district superintendent~~, and the presiding bishop.

*d)* If five (5) or more **members** of the Committee on Investigation so recommend, the bishop may suspend the person charged from all clergy responsibilities pending ~~trial~~ **the outcome of the judicial process**. The person charged retains all rights and privileges as stated in ¶ 441 ¶ 443.

4.*a*)[First sentence] There . . .presiding bishop, **in consultation with the Board of Diaconal Ministry** and. . .

[Third sentence] The Committee should reflect ~~the~~ racial, ethnic, and gender diversity ~~of The United Methodist Church~~.

*c)* If a **written complaint is made against** a diaconal minister ~~shall be charged in writing of~~ **for** any of the offenses in ¶ 2623, the charged persons district superintendent shall within sixty (60) days of receiving such **complaint** ~~charges~~ convene the Committee on Investigation.

*e)* ...charged from all professional responsibilities pending ~~trial~~ **the outcome of the judicial process.**

5.*a*) **If a complaint is** ~~charges are properly~~ made in compliance...The committee should reflect ~~the~~ racial, ethnic, and gender diversity ~~of The United Methodist Church~~....The ~~charged~~ member shall be given an opportunity to submit to the Committee on Investigation a written response to the **complaint** ~~charges~~ within thirty (30) days of a receipt of the **complaint** ~~charges~~ and the appointing of the Committee and before

consideration of the **complaint** ~~charges~~ by the committee. The district superintendent shall preside at all meetings of the committee and shall be given a copy of the **complaint** ~~charges~~ and any response...

*c)* If five (5) or more **members** of the committee so recommend, the pastor may suspend the charged lay person from exercising any church office pending ~~trial~~ the outcome of the judicial process.

~~This paragraph, as it relates to the process for nomination, appointment or election of individuals, officers, courts, administrative bodies, review bodies, or committees shall become effective immediately upon the conclusion of the 1992 General Conference.~~

6. *Investigation Procedures——a).* **A copy of the complaint and documentary evidence under consideration shall be sent to the respondent, the person making the complaint, and the bishop. All complaints against a clergy person shall be submitted in writing and signed by the appropriate person (¶¶ 2625.2*c*, 2625.3*c*, 2625.4*c*). All complaints against a layperson under ¶ 2623.3 shall be submitted in writing, signed by the person(s) making the complaint and delivered to the pastor in charge of the local church of which the respondent is a member and a copy sent to the respondent. The Committee on Investigation may have legal counsel present, who shall not be the conference chancellor, for the sole purpose of providing advice to the Committee.**

*b)* **The parties may be represented by counsel, who shall not be an attorney, at an investigation. A respondent who is a bishop, clergy person or a diaconal minister shall be entitled to select an elder in full connection to serve as respondents counsel. A lay respondent shall be entitled to select a lay member or clergy person to serve as respondent's counsel. A respondent shall be entitled to choose one assistant counsel without voice who may be an attorney. Basic procedural decisions shall be made in a preliminary meeting. During this meeting, the respondent and the respondent's counsel, the person making the complaint, and the counsel for the church (in the case of a clergy person or bishop respondent) shall have the right to argue procedural points before a decision is made by the chair. All advance procedural decisions and such unanticipated decisions as may come in the course of the meeting of the Committee on Investigation shall be rendered in writing so as to be available for consideration in all further possible stages of the case.**

*c)* **No complaint or charge shall be considered for any alleged occurrence which shall not have been committed within six (6) years immediately preceding the filing of the initial complaint except in the case of sexual or child abuse (¶ 454.1*b*)[*] Time spent on leave of absence shall not be considered as part of the six (6) years. The introduction of any material relating to events happening before the six-year time period as evidence, as preface to evidence, or as build-up for evidence in the procedures of the Committee on Investigation or the trial proceedings shall be permitted when the presiding officer, after consultation with counsel for both parties, rules that such material is relevant and reliable.**

*d)* **If possible, the respondent and the person(s) bringing the initial complaint shall be brought face to face, but the inability to do this shall not invalidate an investigation. Notice of the hearings shall be given to all parties and they shall be permitted to be present during testimony but not during deliberations. There shall be no right of cross examination by either the respondent or the person(s) bringing the original complaint.**

*e)* **The Committee on Investigation may call such persons as it deems necessary to establish whether or not there are reasonable grounds for formulating a charge or charges. The chairperson shall have the power, whenever it is appropriate in the Committees own discretion, to appoint a member(s) of the Committee to interview any witness(es), provided that all parties may be present (without voice) and that three days notice of the time and place of such interview shall have been given to all parties. The person(s) so appointed shall create a verbatim record of the interview and certify the record by signature for transmittal to the chairperson.**

*f)* **There shall be a verbatim record of all proceedings of the Committee on Investigation except when the Committee meets in Executive Session. The term Executive Session shall mean the Committee meeting alone or with its legal counsel.**

*g)* **Proceedings in the investigation shall be informal. No oaths shall be taken. All procedural decisions shall be made by the chairperson.**

Amend paragraph 2(d) ...suspend the bishop pending

Amend paragraph 3(d) ...clergy responsibilities

Amend paragraph 4(e) ...professional responsibilities

Amend paragraph 5(c) ...church office

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2016-406
**Subject: Authority and Duties of Local Pastor**
Committee Item: MN1-406-C
Petition:
21798-MN-406-D, Pg. 989
Membership: 113; Present: 69;
For: 69; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2017-316
**Subject: Review of Diaconal Minister's Performance**
Committee Item: MN22-316-C
Petition:
21784-MN-316-D, Pg. 989
Membership: 113; Present: 104;
For: 104; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2018-510
**Subject: Status of Retired Bishop**
Committee Item: MN41-510-C
Petition:
21256-MN-510-D, Pg. 1077
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2019-410
**Subject: Existing, Reinstatement, and Retirement of Local Pastors Who Are Not Ordained Deacons**
Committee Item: MN47-410-A
Petition:
21865-MN-410-D, Pg. 1009
Membership: 113; Present: 65;
For: 64; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Re-number proposed Par. 343 as Par. 344.

Amend title to read: Exiting, Reinstatement, and Retirement of Local Pastors Who Are Not Probationary Members

Amend Par. 5 by deletion after subtitle On recommendation of the Board of Ordained Ministry and by vote of the clergy members in full connection... Paragraph will begin, A local pastor...

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2020-409
**Subject: Continuance As a Local Pastor**
Committee Item: MN49-409-A
Petition:
21864-MN-409-D, Pg. 1008
Membership: 113; Present: 61;
For: 61; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

In renumbered paragraph 343.1, change the word deacons to **probationary members**. Also, after the words shall continue, add the words **in college**.

In renumbered paragraph 343.2, after the words local pastor, substitute the phrase not ordained a deacon for **who is not a probationary member**.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2021-105
**Subject: The Ministry of All Christians**
Committee Item: MN67-105-C
Petition:
21737-MN-105-D, Pg. 982
Membership: 113; Present: 83;
For: 83; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/23

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2022-104
**Subject: The Heart of Christian Ministry**
Committee Item: MN68-104-C
Petition:
21736-MN-104-D, Pg. 982
Membership: 113; Present: 83;
For: 83; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2023-524
**Subject: Responsibilities of the District Superintendent**
Committee Item: MN95-524-C
Petition:
21645-MN-524-D, Pg. 1080
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2024-321
**Subject: The Ordained Deacon in Full Connection**
Committee Item: MN103-321-C
Petition:
21838-MN-321-D, Pg. 1000
Membership: 113; Present: 86;
For: 86; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2025-449.1
**Subject: Family Leave**
Committee Item: MN108-449.1-A
Petition:
20400-MN-449.1-D, Pg. 1066
Membership: 113; Present: 101;
For: 101; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Following After consultation and with the Insert the word **written**

Following with the approval of the district superintendent delete ~~the bishop~~

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2026-439.1
**Subject: Reponsibilities and Duties of a Pastor**
Committee Item: MN111-439.1-C
Petition:
21190-MN-439.1-D, Pg. 1058
Membership: 113; Present: 101;
For: 101; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2027-449.4
**Subject: Extension of Family Leave**
Committee Item: MN114-449.4-C
Petition:
21219-MN-449.4-D, Pg. 1067
Membership: 113; Present: 101;
For: 101; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2028-439.1
**Subject: Responsibilities and Duties of a Pastor**
Committee Item: MN115-439.1-C
Petition:
21458-MN-439.1-D, Pg. 1058
Membership: 113; Present: 101;
For: 101; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2029-439.3
**Subject: Responsibilities and Duties of a Pastor**
Committee Item: MN116-439.3-C
Petition:
21459-MN-439.3-D, Pg. 1059
Membership: 113; Present: 101;
For: 101; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2030-449
**Subject: Family Leave**
Committee Item: MN117-449-C
Petition:
21487-MN-449-D, Pg. 1066
Membership: 113; Present: 101;
For: 101; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2031-453.1
**Subject: Honorable Location**
Committee Item: MN123-453.1-C
Petition:
21225-MN-453.1-D, Pg. 1069
Membership: 113; Present: 101;
For: 101; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2032-453.1
**Subject: Honorable Location**
Committee Item: MN126-453.1-A
Petition:
20401-MN-453.1-D, Pg. 1069
Membership: 113; Present: 101;
For: 101; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

In the sentence beginning with After consultation and with... add the word written before consent and delete the bishop, and amend the end of the sentence so that the whole sentence should read, After consultation and with the written consent of the pastor in charge and with the approval of the district superintendent, and the Staff/Parish Relations Committee of a local church, located clergy members...Documentation of this consent and approvals shall be filed with the Board of Ordained Ministry.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2033-453.1
**Subject: Honorable Location**
Committee Item: MN127-453.1-C
Petition:
20302-MN-453.1-D, Pg. 1069
Membership: 113; Present: 101;
For: 101; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2034-453
**Subject: Honorable Location**
Committee Item: MN128-453-C
Petition:
21882-MN-453-D, Pg. 1011
Membership: 113; Present: 93;
For: 93; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2035-112
**Subject: Servant Ministry**
Committee Item: MN134-112-C
Petition:
21745-MN-112-D, Pg. 983
Membership: 113; Present: 83;
For: 83; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2036-112
**Subject: The Journey of a Connectional People**
Committee Item: MN136-112-C
Petition:
21740-MN-112-D, Pg. 982
Membership: 113; Present: 83;
For: 83; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2037-113
**Subject: Called to Inclusiveness**
Committee Item: MN139-113-C
Petition:
21753-MN-113-D, Pg. 985
Membership: 113; Present: 83;
For: 83; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2038-453.2
**Subject: Withdrawal to Unite with Another Denomination**
Committee Item: MN143-453.2-C
Petition:
21227-MN-453.2-D, Pg. 1070
Membership: 113; Present: 101;
For: 101; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2039-453.3
**Subject: Surrender of the Ordained Ministerial Office**
Committee Item: MN144-453.3-C
Petition:
21228-MN-453.3-D, Pg. 1070
Membership: 113; Present: 101;
For: 101; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2040-453.4
**Subject: Withdrawal under Complaints or Charges**
Committee Item: MN145-453.4-C
Petition:
21229-MN-453.4-D, Pg. 1070
Membership: 113; Present: 101;
For: 101; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2041-453.5
**Subject: Withdrawal between Conferences**
Committee Item: MN146-453.5-C
Petition:
21230-MN-453.5-D, Pg. 1070
Membership: 113; Present: 101;
For: 101; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2042-519
**Subject: The normal term of a District Superintendent**
Committee Item: MN164-519-A
Petition:
20831-MN-519-D, Pg. 1079
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 84; Against: 4; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

In the last sentence, amend by adding after the word cabinet, and the District Committee on Superintendency.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2043-510.1
**Subject: Status or Retired Bishops**
Committee Item: MN170-510.1-C
Petition:
21730-MN-510.1-D, Pg. 1077
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2044-517
**Subject: Selection and Assignment of Superintendents**
Committee Item: MN174-517-A
Petition:
22082-MN-517-D, Pg. 1476
Membership: 113; Present: 76;
For: 73; Against: 1; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Change word disability to **physically challenged**

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2045-114
**Subject: The Fulfillment of Ministry Through The United Methodist Church**
Committee Item: MN183-114-C
Petition:
21755-MN-114-D, Pg. 985
Membership: 113; Present: 83;
For: 83; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2046-270
**Subject: Administrative Committees**
Committee Item: MN187-270-C
Petition:
21968-MN-270-D, Pg. 1019
Membership: 113; Present: 101;
For: 101; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2047-445
**Subject: Continuing Formation and Spiritual Growth**
Committee Item: MN189-445-C
Petition:
21871-MN-445-D, Pg. 1010
Membership: 113; Present: 73;
For: 72; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2048-445
**Subject: Evaluation for Continuing Formation**
Committee Item: MN190-445-C
Petition:
21870-MN-445-D, Pg. 1010
Membership: 113; Present: 74;
For: 72; Against: 2; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2049-445
**Subject: Continuating Education and Spiritual Growth**
Committee Item: MN191-445-C
Petition:
21206-MN-445-D, Pg. 1063
Membership: 113; Present: 101;
For: 101; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2050-530.1
**Subject: Responsibility**
Committee Item: MN215-530.1-C
Petition:
21285-MN-530.1-D, Pg. 1083
Membership: 113; Present: 87;
For: 84; Against: 2; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2051-523
**Subject: Specific Responsibilities of District Superintendents**
Committee Item: MN220-523-A
Petition:
21462-MN-523-D, Pg. 1080
Membership: 113; Present: 76;
For: 75; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Delete to promote

Add that includes promotion for...

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2052-520.5
**Subject: Supervision of clergy**
Committee Item: MN223-520.5-C
Petition:
20393-MN-520.5-D, Pg. 1080
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;

Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2053-412
**Subject: General Provisions**
Committee Item: MN227-412-C
Petition:
21890-MN-412-D, Pg. 1012
Membership: 113; Present: 69;
For: 69; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2054-412
**Subject: General Provisions**
Committee Item: MN228-412-C
Petition:
21891-MN-412-D, Pg. 1012
Membership: 113; Present: 69;
For: 69; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2055-312
**Subject: Transfers**
Committee Item: MN264-312-C
Petition:
21780-MN-312-D, Pg. 988
Membership: 113; Present: 81;
For: 80; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2056-317
**Subject: Termination Procedures**
Committee Item: MN265-317-C
Petition:
21785-MN-317-D, Pg. 989
Membership: 113; Present: 81;
For: 80; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2057-301
**Subject: Relation to the Ministry of All Christians**
Committee Item: MN266-301-C
Petition:
21769-MN-301-D, Pg. 988
Membership: 113; Present: 83;
For: 83; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2058-301
**Subject: Ministry of the Ordained**
Committee Item: MN267-301-C
Petition:
21814-MN-301-D, Pg. 991
Membership: 113; Present: 83;
For: 83; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2059-722.2
**Subject: Equitqble Compensation**
Committee Item: MN268-722.2-C
Petition:
21990-MN-722.2-D, Pg. 1022
Membership: 113; Present: 93;
For: 93; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2060-529.6
**Subject: The Cabinet's Responsibility in United Methodist presence in Ecumenical Shared Ministries**
Committee Item: MN274-529.6-C
Petition:
21109-MN-529.6-D, Pg. 1082
Membership: 113; Present: 105;
For: 104; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2061-519
**Subject: Specific Responsibilities of District Superintendents**
Committee Item: MN275-519-C
Petition:
21107-MN-519-D, Pg. 1079
Membership: 113; Present: 105;
For: 104; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2062-524.2
**Subject: Program Responsibilities of the District Superintendent**
Committee Item: MN276-524.2-C
Petition:
21108-MN-524.2-D, Pg. 1080
Membership: 113; Present: 105;
For: 104; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2063-522
**Subject: Spiritual and Pastoral Leadership**
Committee Item: MN282-522-C
Petition:
21283-MN-522-D, Pg. 1080
Membership: 113; Present: 105;
For: 104; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2064-446
**Subject: Sabbatical Leave**
Committee Item: MN318-446-C
Petition:
21207-MN-446-D, Pg. 1064
Membership: 113; Present: 101;
For: 101; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2065-446
**Subject: Sabbatical Leave**
Committee Item: MN320-446-C
Petition:
21872-MN-446-D, Pg. 1010
Membership: 113; Present: 68;
For: 68; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2066-733.1
**Subject: Membership of the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry**
Committee Item: MN337-733.1-C
Petition:
21261-MN-733.1-D, Pg. 1087
Membership: 113; Present: 105;
For: 104; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2067-733.1
**Subject: Terms of Members of the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry**
Committee Item: MN338-733.1-C
Petition:
21260-MN-733.1-D, Pg. 1086
Membership: 113; Present: 105;
For: 104; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2068-447
**Subject: Change of Conference Relationship**
Committee Item: MN348-447-C
Petition:
21208-MN-447-D, Pg. 1064
Membership: 113; Present: 101;
For: 101; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2069-455
**Subject: Readmission to Probationary Membership**
Committee Item: MN352-455-A
Petition:
21243-MN-455-D, Pg. 1075
Membership: 113; Present: 101;
For: 101; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Exchange the word members for the word Persons to make the first sentence read Persons who have been discontinued as probationary members...

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2070-456
**Subject: Readmission after Honorable or Administrative Location**
Committee Item: MN354-456-C
Petition:
21244-MN-456-D, Pg. 1075
Membership: 113; Present: 101;
For: 101; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2071-457
**Subject: Readmission after Surrender of the Ministerial Office**
Committee Item: MN356-457-C
Petition:
21245-MN-457-D, Pg. 1075
Membership: 113; Present: 101;
For: 101; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2072-459.3
**Subject: Readmission after Termination by Action of the Annual Conference**
Committee Item: MN360-459.3-C
Petition:
21253-MN-459.3-D, Pg. 1076
Membership: 113; Present: 101;
For: 101; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2073-448.1
**Subject: Leave of Absence**
Committee Item: MN364-448.1-C
Petition:
21209-MN-448.1-D, Pg. 1064
Membership: 113; Present: 101;
For: 101; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2074-448.1
**Subject: Involuntary Leave of Absence**
Committee Item: MN365-448.1-C
Petition:
21211-MN-448.1-D, Pg. 1064
Membership: 113; Present: 101;
For: 101; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2075-448.6
**Subject: Effective Date of Process**
Committee Item: MN366-448.6-C
Petition:
21217-MN-448.6-D, Pg. 1066
Membership: 113; Present: 101;
For: 101; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2076-448.5
**Subject: Leave of Absence**
Committee Item: MN367-448.5-C
Petition:
21216-MN-448.5-D, Pg. 1066
Membership: 113; Present: 101;
For: 101; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2077-448.4
**Subject: Leave of Absence**
Committee Item: MN368-448.4-A
Petition:
21215-MN-448.4-D, Pg. 1065
Membership: 113; Present: 101;
For: 101; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

In the last sentence, insert amendments between the words the request and member be to make the sentence read, When the Board has determined that the circumstances of the voluntary leave have not been alleviated or resolved and the request is denied, the Board may recommend to the clergy session of the clergy members in full connection that the clergy member either be continued on voluntary leave of absence or be placed on involuntary leave of absence, administrative location, or involuntary retirement.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2078-448.3
**Subject: Voluntary Leave of Absence**
Committee Item: MN369-448.3-C
Petition:
21214-MN-448.3-D, Pg. 1065
Membership: 113; Present: 101;
For: 101; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2079-421
**Subject: Progression into Full Membership**
Committee Item: MN386-421-C
Petition:
21813-MN-421-D, Pg. 990
Membership: 113; Present: 86;
For: 86; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2080-451.2
**Subject: Disability Leave**
Committee Item: MN391-451.2-C
Petition:
21222-MN-451.2-D, Pg. 1067
Membership: 113; Present: 101;
For: 101; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2081-451.3
**Subject: Medical Evidence for Disability Leave**
Committee Item: MN392-451.3-C
Petition:
21223-MN-451.3-D, Pg. 1067
Membership: 113; Present: 101;
For: 101; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2082-448.2
**Subject: Leave of Absence**
Committee Item: MN393-448.2-A
Petition:
21213-MN-448.2-D, Pg. 1065
Membership: 113; Present: 101;
For: 101; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Delete the first sentence through the words leave of absence and amend it to read 2. After consultation and with the written consent of the pastor in charge and with the approval of the district superintendent, and the Staff-Parish Relations Committee of a local church, clergy members shall designate a Charge Conference...

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2083-1526.2
**Subject: Responsibilities of the Division of Diaconal Ministry**
Committee Item: MN398-1526.2-A
Petition:
21291-MN-1526.2-D, Pg. 1089
Membership: 113; Present: 98;
For: 97; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Second sentence to read: Certification is available to laity, diaconal ministers, commissioned and ordained ministers. Continuing: **The GBHEM is responsible to work with conference boards of ordained ministry in their responsibilities for administering the standards and requirements for certification in professional ministry careers.**

In the last sentence, change the word Diaconal to Ordained.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2084-756.1
**Subject: District Committee on Ordained Ministry**
Committee Item: MN401-756.1-C
Petition:
22945-MN-756.1-D, Pg. 1508
Membership: 113; Present: 105;
For: 104; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2085-402
**Subject: Ministry of Service, Word, Sacrament, and Order**
Committee Item: MN418-402-C
Petitions:
21794-MN-402-D, Pg. 989;
21795-MN-403-D, Pg. 989
Membership: 113; Present: 86;
For: 86; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2086-735.1
**Subject: Conference Committee on Episcopacy**
Committee Item: MN426-735.1-C
Petition:
20340-MN-735.1-D, Pg. 1088
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2087-443.2
**Subject: Conference Members are Amenable to the Annual Conference**
Committee Item: MN451-443.2-C
Petition:
21199-MN-443.2-D, Pg. 1062
Membership: 113; Present: 105;
For: 104; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2088-1528
**Subject: Division of Ordained Ministry - Laity as Members**
Committee Item: MN456-1528-C
Petition:
22099-MN-1528-D, Pg. 1484
Membership: 113; Present: 105;
For: 104; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2089-759.1
**Subject: Membership of Committee on District Superintendency**
Committee Item: MN461-759.1-C
Petition:
20341-MN-759.1-D, Pg. 1089
Membership: 113; Present: 105;
For: 104; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2090-1527.3
**Subject: Enlisting and Supporting the Effective Ministry of Women**
Committee Item: MN462-1527.3-A
Petition:
21293-MN-1527.3-D, Pg. 1090
Membership: 113; Present: 95;
For: 94; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Delete the words Division of Ordained Ministry and replace with General Board of Higher Education and Ministry.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2091-1529.7
**Subject: Specific Responsibilities of the Division of Ordained Ministry**
Committee Item: MN468-1529.7-C
Petition:
21294-MN-1529.7-D, Pg. 1090
Membership: 113; Present: 105;
For: 104; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2092-443.2
**Subject: Responsibility of an Annual Conference**
Committee Item: MN470-443.2-C
Petition:
21200-MN-443.2-D, Pg. 1062
Membership: 113; Present: 105;
For: 104; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2093-452
**Subject: Retirement of Clergy Members**
Committee Item: MN474-452-C
Petition:
21488-MN-452-D, Pg. 1068
Membership: 113; Present: 68;
For: 68; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2094-452
**Subject: Ad Interim Clergy Retirement**
Committee Item: MN477-452-C
Petition:
20682-MN-452-D, Pg. 1067
Membership: 113; Present: 101;
For: 101; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2095-452.3
**Subject: Involuntary Retirement**
Committee Item: MN478-452.3-C
Petition:
21224-MN-452.3-D, Pg. 1068
Membership: 113; Present: 101;
For: 101; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2096-452.5
**Subject: Annual Reporting for Retired Clergy**
Committee Item: MN479-452.5-C
Petition:
20301-MN-452.5-D, Pg. 1068
Membership: 113; Present: 101;
For: 101; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2097-452.5
**Subject: Charge Conference Membership Requirement**
Committee Item: MN482-452.5-C
Petition:
20339-MN-452.5-D, Pg. 1069
Membership: 113; Present: 101;
For: 101; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2098-440.5
**Subject: Consistency in Responsibilities & Privileges of Ordained and Local Pastors**
Committee Item: MN487-440.5-A
Petition:
23035-MN-440.5-D, Pg. 1464
Membership: 113; Present: 86;
For: 86; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Change the word ministers to clergy.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2099-441
**Subject: Support for Ordained Ministers**
Committee Item: MN489-441-C
Petition:
21192-MN-441-D, Pg. 1059
Membership: 113; Present: 86;
For: 86; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2100-441
**Subject: United Methodist Ordained Clergy in Ecumenical Appointments**
Committee Item: MN491-441-A
Petition:
21101-MN-441-D, Pg. 1059
Membership: 113; Present: 85;
For: 85; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

At the end of the paragraph, amend by adding the following sentences, Persons in these appointments remain in the itineracy and shall be accountable to the Annual Conference. Their effectiveness shall be evaluated in the context of the specific setting in which their ministry is performed.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2101-440.5
**Subject: Special Provisions**
Committee Item: MN493-440.5-C
Petition:
21191-MN-440.5-D, Pg. 1059
Membership: 113; Present: 86;
For: 86; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2102-440.1
**Subject: Special Provisions**
Committee Item: MN494-440.1-A
Petition:
21460-MN-440.1-D, Pg. 1059
Membership: 113; Present: 86;
For: 86; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Change the word regular to clergy.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2103-423
**Subject: Rights and Responsibilities**
Committee Item: MN503-423-C
Petition:
22063-MN-423-D, Pg. 1455
Membership: 113; Present: 86;
For: 86; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2104-422
**Subject: Members in Full Connection**
Committee Item: MN504-422-C
Petition:
21176-MN-422-D, Pg. 1054
Membership: 113; Present: 86;
For: 86; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2105-423.1
**Subject: Rights and Reponsibilities of Clergy Members**
Committee Item: MN505-423.1-C
Petition:
21177-MN-423.1-D, Pg. 1054
Membership: 113; Present: 85;
For: 85; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2106-423.2
**Subject: Rights and Responsibilities of Pastors**
Committee Item: MN506-423.2-C
Petition:
21179-MN-423.2-D, Pg. 1054
Membership: 113; Present: 86;
For: 86; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2107-423.2
**Subject: Professional Responsibilities of Clergy Members**
Committee Item: MN508-423.2-C
Petition:
21178-MN-423.2-D, Pg. 1054
Membership: 113; Present: 86;
For: 86; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2108-427.1
**Subject: Transfer from other Annual Conferences**
Committee Item: MN511-427.1-C
Petition:
21184-MN-427.1-D, Pg. 1056
Membership: 113; Present: 86;
For: 86; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2109-426.2
**Subject: Ministers from other Denominations**
Committee Item: MN512-426.2-C
Petition:
21183-MN-426.2-D, Pg. 1055
Membership: 113; Present: 86;
For: 86; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2110-426.2
**Subject: Ministers from other Denominations**
Committee Item: MN513-426.2-C
Petition:
21098-MN-426.2-D, Pg. 1055
Membership: 113; Present: 85;
For: 85; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2111-426
**Subject: Appointments**
Committee Item: MN514-426-C
Petition:
21182-MN-426-D, Pg. 1055
Membership: 113; Present: 86;
For: 86; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2112-424
**Subject: Requirements for Admission**
Committee Item: MN518-424-C
Petition:
21180-MN-424-D, Pg. 1054
Membership: 113; Present: 86;
For: 86; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2113-424
**Subject: Requirements for Admission**
Committee Item: MN521-424-A
Petition:
21181-MN-424-D, Pg. 1054
Membership: 113; Present: 85;
For: 85; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Amend ¶ 424*b*(4):

b)(4) Are you willing to ~~relate yourself to~~minister with all persons without regard to race, color, national origin, ~~or~~ social status, or disabilities?

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2114-210
**Subject: Member of the Global United Methodist Connection**
Committee Item: MN536-210-A
Petition:
21904-MN-210-D, Pg. 1014

Membership: 113; Present: 83;
For: 83; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

A member of any local United Methodist church is a member of the ~~total~~ **global** United Methodist connection.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2115-255
**Subject: Membership of the Administrative Board**
Committee Item: MN538-255-A
Petition:
21953-MN-255-D, Pg. 1018
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 87; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Delete the following phrase, persons elected to the office of Lay Ministry Steward (Paragraph 201) by the Charge Conference,.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2116-214
**Subject: Members Called to Share the Ministry**
Committee Item: MN539-214-C
Petition:
21908-MN-214-D, Pg. 1015
Membership: 113; Present: 81;
For: 80; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2117-282
**Subject: Lay Preacher**
Committee Item: MN540-282-C
Petition:
21980-MN-282-D, Pg. 1020
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2118-443.3
**Subject: Relation to the Local Church**
Committee Item: MN582-443.3-C
Petition:
21201-MN-443.3-D, Pg. 1062
Membership: 113; Present: 86;
For: 86; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2119-443.1
**Subject: Categories of Appointment**
Committee Item: MN583-443.1-C
Petition:
21339-MN-443.1-D, Pg. 1061
Membership: 113; Present: 86;
For: 86; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2120-443.1
**Subject: Categories of Appointments**
Committee Item: MN585-443.1-C
Petition:
21198-MN-443.1-D, Pg. 1061
Membership: 113; Present: 86;
For: 86; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2121-443.1
**Subject: Categories of Appointments**
Committee Item: MN586-443.1-C
Petition:
21197-MN-443.1-D, Pg. 1061
Membership: 113; Present: 85;
For: 85; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2122-431.6
**Subject: The Ordained Ministry**
Committee Item: MN589-431.6-C
Petition:
22842-MN-431.6-D, Pg. 1459
Membership: 113; Present: 85;
For: 85; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2123-437.2
**Subject: Less than Full-Time Service**
Committee Item: MN594-437.2-C
Petition:
21188-MN-437.2-D, Pg. 1057
Membership: 113; Present: 86;
For: 86; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2124-434.4
**Subject: Certificate of Ordination to those Ordained as Deacons**
Committee Item: MN596-434.4-C
Petition:
20044-MN-434.4-D, Pg. 1056
Membership: 113; Present: 85;
For: 85; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2125-436
**Subject: General Provisions**
Committee Item: MN602-436-C
Petition:
21186-MN-436-D, Pg. 1056
Membership: 113; Present: 85;
For: 85; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2126-432
**Subject: The Act of Ordination**
Committee Item: MN605-432-C
Petition:
21185-MN-432-D, Pg. 1056
Membership: 113; Present: 86;
For: 86; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2127-438
**Subject: Definition of a Pastor**
Committee Item: MN606-438-A
Petition:
21189-MN-438-D, Pg. 1058
Membership: 113; Present: 85;
For: 85; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Omit entire footnote.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2128-442

**Subject: Appointment Beyond the Local United Methodist Church**
Committee Item: MN607-442-A
Petition:
21193-MN-442-D, Pg. 1060
Membership: 113; Present: 86;
For: 86; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Amend ¶ 442:

Appointments ~~Beyond~~**Extending the Ministry of** the ~~Local~~ United Methodist Church.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2129-442.3

**Subject: Appointment Beyond the Local United Methodist Church**
Committee Item: MN608-442.3-C
Petition:
21194-MN-442.3-D, Pg. 1060
Membership: 113; Present: 86;
For: 86; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2130-443

**Subject: Clergy in Appointment Beyond the Local United Methodist Church**
Committee Item: MN609-443-C
Petition:
21103-MN-443-D, Pg. 1060
Membership: 113; Present: 86;
For: 86; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2131-443

**Subject: Clergy in Appointment Beyond the Local Church**
Committee Item: MN610-443-C
Petition:
21195-MN-443-D, Pg. 1060
Membership: 113; Present: 85;
For: 85; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2132-443.1

**Subject: Categories of Appointments**
Committee Item: MN614-443.1-A
Petition:
21196-MN-443.1-D, Pg. 1061
Membership: 113; Present: 86;
For: 86; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

In the last paragraph, substitute the words extension ministry in place of appointment beyond the local church.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2133-443.3

**Subject: Affiliate Relations to a Local Church**
Committee Item: MN615-443.3-C
Petition:
21202-MN-443.3-D, Pg. 1063
Membership: 113; Present: 86;
For: 86; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2134-443.4

**Subject: Affiliate Relations to Annual Conference**
Committee Item: MN616-443.4-C
Petition:
21203-MN-443.4-D, Pg. 1063
Membership: 113; Present: 86;
For: 86; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2135-443.5

**Subject: Conference Members Appointed Beyond the Local Church**
Committee Item: MN617-443.5-C
Petition:
21204-MN-443.5-D, Pg. 1063
Membership: 113; Present: 86;
For: 86; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2136-443.1

**Subject: Categories of Appointment**
Committee Item: MN619-443.1-C
Petition:
21461-MN-443.1-D, Pg. 1062
Membership: 113; Present: 86;
For: 86; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2137-442.1

**Subject: Appointment Beyond the Local Church**
Committee Item: MN623-442.1-C
Petition:
21102-MN-442.1-D, Pg. 1060
Membership: 113; Present: 86;
For: 86; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2138-454.1

**Subject: Notification of Congregation**
Committee Item: MN654-454.1-A
Petition:
20144-MN-454.1-D, Pg. 1071
Membership: 113; Present: 98;
For: 98; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Delete the first two sentences and change the remaining paragraph to read: The Bishop and Cabinet shall provide a process for healing within the congregation if there has been significant disruption to congregational life by the complaint. This may include a mediation process for unresolved conflicts, support for victims, and reconciliation for parties involved.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

# Consent Calendar B06

## 2139-NonDis
**Subject: Use of the Church Studies on Homosexuality**
Committee Item: CS56-NonDis-C
Petition:
20032-CS-NonDis-O, Pg. 136
Membership: 102; Present: 59;
For: 53; Against: 2; Not Voting: 4;
Date: 4/23

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2140-NonDis
**Subject: Against Political Mudslinging**
Committee Item: CS83-NonDis-A
Petition:
21480-CS-NonDis-O, Pg. 150
Membership: 102; Present: 60;
For: 56; Against: 2; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/23

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Delete the second paragraph which starts Whereas, negative campaigning undermines ...

Add a paragraph at the end (bold text), so that the petition reads::

Whereas, the use of character assassination and the misrepresentation of another candidates position and record is deceptive and manipulative, preying on our worst human qualities instead of building on our best; and

~~Whereas, negative campaigning undermines the faith of the public in all political leaders and creates a climate of hostility and divisiveness, making it difficult for our elected officials to work together; and~~

Whereas, instead of distorting the truth for political gain we should speak the truth to our neighbors (Ephesians 4:25), and the General Rules of The Methodist Church condemns Uncharitable or unprofitable conversation; particularly speaking evil of magistrates or of ministers;

Be it resolved, that The United Methodist Church call upon all candidates for public office to focus their campaigns on the issues, and on their own qualifications to serve in office; that they refrain from personal attacks and name-calling of opponents; that they do not distort an opponents views by taking quotes out of context or misrepresenting the opponents positions or voting record; and that they set an example of truthfulness and integrity for the public.

Be it further resolved, that The United Methodist Church call upon all candidates for the office of President of the United States to lead the country in this style of campaigning by conducting their campaigns with honesty and respect.

**Be it further resolved that the General Conference write a letter communicating this concern to the President of the United States, both houses of Congress, and to all the National Political parties.**

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2141-NonDis
**Subject: Taxation Fairness**
Committee Item: CS140-NonDis-C
Petition:
20156-CS-NonDis-O, Pg. 146
Membership: 102; Present: 67;
For: 66; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/23

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2142-NonDis
**Subject: Resolution for Economic Development of Puerto Rico**
Committee Item: CS141-NonDis-C
Petition:
22704-CS-NonDis-O, Pg. 1253
Membership: 102; Present: 67;
For: 66; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/23

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2143-NonDis
**Subject: Principles of Welfare Reform**
Committee Item: CS146-NonDis-A
Petition:
20524-CS-NonDis-O, Pg. 147
Membership: 102; Present: 58;
For: 53; Against: 1; Not Voting: 4;
Date: 4/23

The Committee recommends concur rence as amended as follows:

Delete the word Whereas at the beginning of the first four paragraphs and substitute a period for ; in the body of the paragraph and for the words ; and at the end of the paragraphs.

In the second paragraph, third sentence, delete a whole range of such and insert such between issues and as.

In the fourth paragraph, remove the periods in the sentences and the word The and replace them with , but these, delete nonetheless and delete in the coming national welfare debate.

Rewrite and add to the sentence which begins with Therefore, so that it now reads:

**We call upon the 1996 General Conference of the United Methodist Church to adopt** ~~that~~ the following statement, Principles of Welfare Reform, **and have it** be sent to the President of the United States, **the** Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the United States Senate Majority Leader. **In addition, Annual Conferences are asked to send this statement to appropriate state officials.**

The statement itself was not changed.

The amended introduction now reads:

~~Whereas, a~~As people of faith and religious commitment, we are called to stand with and seek justice for people who are poor.~~;c~~Central to our religious traditions, sacred texts, and teachings is a divine mandate to side with and protect the poor.~~;w~~We share a conviction, therefore, that welfare reforms must not focus on eliminating programs but on eliminating poverty and the damage it inflicts on children (who are 2/3 of all welfare recipients), on their parents, and on the rest of society.~~; and~~

~~Whereas, w~~We recognize the benefit to the entire community of helping people move from welfare into the job market when possible and appropriate.~~; w~~We fear, however, that reform will fail if it ignores labor market issues such as unemployment and an inadequate minimum wage and important family issues such as the affordability of child care and the economic value of care giving in the home.~~; s~~Successful welfare reform will depend on addressing these concerns as well as a ~~whole range of such~~ related issues such as pay equity, affordable housing, and the access to health care.~~; and~~

~~Whereas, w~~We believe that people are more important than the sum of their economic activities.~~; s~~Successful welfare reform demands more than economic incentives and disincentives. It depends on overcoming both biased assumptions about race, gender, and class that feed

hostile social stereotypes about people living in poverty and suspicions that people with perspectives other than our own are either indifferent or insincere.~~;~~ sSuccessful welfare reform will depend ultimately upon finding not only a common ground of policies but a common spirit about the need to pursue them for all.~~;~~ ~~and~~

~~Whereas,~~ tThe following principles do not exhaust our concerns nor resolve all issues raised,~~.~~ ~~The~~**but these** principles will serve ~~nonetheless~~ as our guide in assessing proposed legislation. ~~in the coming national welfare debate; w~~We hope they may also serve as a rallying point for a common effort with others throughout the nation.

~~Therefore, be it resolved,~~ **We call upon the 1996 General Conference of the United Methodist Church to adopt** ~~that~~ the following statement, Principles of Welfare Reform, **and have it** be sent to the President of the United States, **the** Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the United States Senate Majority Leader.~~:~~ **In addition, Annual Conferences are asked to send this statement to appropriate state officials.**

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2144-NonDis
**Subject: Call for a Rebirth of Compassion**
Committee Item: CS148-NonDis-A
Petition:
20523-CS-NonDis-O, Pg. 146
Membership: 102; Present: 63;
For: 61; Against: 1; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/23

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Delete paragraph 4 and delete the word such in the first sentence of paragraph 5 so that those paragraphs will read:

...

~~Encouraged by demagogic politicians, mean spirited talk show hosts, and millionaire tele evangelists, the social contract which has bound this nation together since the Civil War is being systematically unraveled, with the result that increasing numbers of Americans are forced into poverty, unemployment, low wage jobs, and homelessness, while their children are denied the education which once promised that children of poverty could aspire to a better life than their parents. The direction is clear: as economic and social conditions worsen, those who benefit from injustice and inequality will become increasingly strident in placing blame on the poor and the powerless, and the downward spiral will continue until the nation explodes in civil unrest and the repression of a police state.~~

In ~~such~~ a climate of anger, violence and stridency, even Jesus would be derided were he to call in to one of the popular talk shows and call for a rebirth of compassion. There are few politicians in either major party who are willing to challenge the ethics of selfishness, greed and scapegoating which characterize politics today. Too few voices challenge the culture of sex, violence, self-indulgence and instant gratification spewed into millions of homes 24 hours a day. ...

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2145-NonDis
**Subject: Global Economy and the Environment**
Committee Item: CS149-NonDis-C
Petition:
22507-CS-NonDis-O, Pg. 1254
Membership: 102; Present: 67;
For: 66; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/23

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2146-R412
**Subject: Gambling**
Committee Item: CS151-R412-C
Petition:
21048-CS-R412-U, Pg. 148
Membership: 102; Present: 67;
For: 66; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/23

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2147-NonDis
**Subject: The U.S Campaign for a Peace Tax Fund**
Committee Item: CS156-NonDis-C
Petition:
21043-CS-NonDis-O, Pg. 155
Membership: 102; Present: 66;
For: 64; Against: 1; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/23

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2148-R125
**Subject: Responsible Parenthood: Abortion**
Committee Item: CS173-R125-A
Petition:
20155-CS-R125-U, Pg. 137
Membership: 102; Present: 90;
For: 87; Against: 0; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

(Committee additions are underlined)

Amend the introduction so that it reads:

Amend Responsible Parenthood, *The Book of Resolutions*, p. 125-128 by adding the ~~following sentence~~ reference (refer to paragraph 71H) on page 126 at the end of the third full paragraph, following the word abortion ~~at the end of the 4th paragraph, before the last sentence of the 5th paragraph, and at the end of proposals 7 and 9:~~ ~~We cannot affirm abortion as an acceptable means of birth control and we unconditionally reject it as a means of gender selection.~~

The section in *The Book of Resolution*s will read:

When, through contraceptive or human failure, an unacceptable pregnancy occurs, ... medical procedures without moral significance. ~~We cannot affirm abortion as an acceptable means of birth control and we unconditionally reject it as a means of gender selection.~~

When an unacceptable pregnancy occurs, a family, ... We support the legal right to abortion as established by the 1973 Supreme Court decision.

~~We cannot affirm abortion as an acceptable means of birth control and we unconditionally reject it as a means of gender selection.~~ We encourage women in counsel with husbands, doctors, and pastors to make their own responsible decisions concerning the personal and moral questions surrounding the issue of abortion (refer to paragraph 71H) .

1. Provide ...

7. Safeguard the legal option of abortion under standards of sound medical practice, and make abortions available to women without regard to economic standards of sound medical practice, and make abortions available to women without regard to economic status.

8. ...

9. Assist the states to make provisions in law and practice for treating as adults minors who have, or think they have, venereal diseases, ...Parental support is crucially important and most desirable on such occasions, but needed treatment ought not be contingent on such support.

10. Understand ...

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2149-NonDis

**Subject: Resolution to Support the Return of the FT. Reno, Oklahoma Lands to the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes**

Committee Item: CS194-NonDis-C
Petition:
22486-CS-NonDis-O, Pg. 1365
Membership: 102; Present: 59;
For: 49; Against: 2; Not Voting: 8;
Date: 4/23

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2150-NonDis

**Subject: To Support Restitution to the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma for the Sand Creek Massacre**

Committee Item: CS206-NonDis-C
Petition:
22487-CS-NonDis-O, Pg. 1366
Membership: 102; Present: 59;
For: 49; Against: 2; Not Voting: 8;
Date: 4/23

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2151-NonDis

**Subject: Support Efforts to Provide Economic Development for Native Americans**

Committee Item: CS207-NonDis-C
Petition:
20547-CS-NonDis-O, Pg. 716
Membership: 102; Present: 59;
For: 49; Against: 2; Not Voting: 8;
Date: 4/23

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2152-NonDis

**Subject: "Guidelines" the UMC and the Charismatic Movement be Printed in the Book of Resolutions**

Committee Item: DI58-NonDis-A
Petition:
22748-DI-NonDis-O, Pg. 1305
Membership: 112; Present: 100;
For: 100; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Include the most recent version of Guidelines as follows:

### GUIDELINES

### THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH AND THE CHARISMATIC MOVEMENT

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### INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT

Since its beginning in the early 1960s, the ecumenical charismatic renewal has exerted a continuing influence upon mainline Christian bodies, both Protestant and Roman Catholic. Recent studies by George Gallup indicate approximately 18 percent of United Methodists identify with the movement.

At the 1972 session of the General Conference of The United Methodist church, the Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference brought a petition asking that a position statement be prepared on the posture of The United Methodist Church toward the charismatic movement.

A General Board of Discipleship task force consisting of Don Cottrill, director of services, Youth Ministry Coordinators; T. Poe Williams, assistant general secretary, Local Church Education Training Enterprises; Maxie Dunnam, editor, *The Upper Room*; Horace Weaver, executive editor, Adult Publications; and Ross E. Whetstone, assistant general secretary for Evangelism, admitted the Guidelines for consideration by the Board of Discipleship and the General Conference. The task force felt that this position statement should be couched in the context of the theological pluralism which characterizes The United Methodist Church; the current culturally conditioned demands for experiential Christianity, insofar as we respond to them with integrity; and the doctrinal statements, the General Rules and Doctrinal Guidelines as set forth in Paras. 68-70 of the 1972 *Discipline*.

The Guidelines portion of this paper was approved by action of the 1976 General Conference. The paper, The Charismatic Movement: Its Historical Base and Wesleyan Framework, derived by the Executive Committee of the Division of Evangelism, Worship, and Stewardship and the editors from a paper by Dr. Robert G. Tuttle, is a separate piece not considered to be official in nature but commended to the church for study as background to the Guidelines.

### GLOSSARY

Terminology associated with the charismatic movement is confusing because of varying usage.

*Pentecostal* refers to the movement which began late in the nineteenth century, resulting in the formation of a number of Pentecostal denominations in the early years of the twentieth century. Classic Pentecostalism affirms what is sometimes spoken of as initial evidence, which includes the concept of a requisite baptism in the Holy Spirit that may be expressed by glossolalia or speaking in tongues. The inference that one who does not speak in tongues is guilty of withholding a full surrender of self to the will and purpose of God can be divisive among United Methodists.

*Charismatic*. While in popular usage the term *charismatic* is often closely associated with *glossolalia*, or speaking in tongues, most persons within the charismatic movement recognize the importance of all the gifts of the Spirit, affirming that to each is given the manifestation of the Spirit of the common good (1 Cor. 12:7). Many elevate the gifts of prophecy, healing, tongues, and interpretation of tongues because of a conviction that these gifts have been neglected by the church and should be reaffirmed.

*Charismatic Movement*. Throughout this report the term *charismatic movement* is used to identify the movement which began about 1960 in mainline Christian bodies, both Protestant and Roman Catholic, reemphasizing the importance of the gifts of the Spirit in the life of the church.

In a biblical sense there is no such person as a noncharismatic Christian, since the term *charismata* refers to the gracious gifts of God bestowed upon all Christians to equip them for ministry. The terminology above is used throughout this paper as a concession to popular usage.

### GUIDELINES

We believe the church needs to pray for a sensitivity to be aware of and respond to manifestations of the Holy Spirit in our world today. We are unmindful that the problems of discrimination between the true and fraudulent are considerable, but we must not allow the problems to paralyze our awareness of the Spirits presence; not should we permit our fear of the unknown and the unfamiliar to close our minds against being surprised by grace. We know the misuse of mystical experience is an ever-present possibility, but that is no reason to preclude authentic and appropriate relationships with the Spirit.

In facing the issues raised by charismatic experiences, we plead for a spirit of openness and love. We commend to the

attention of the church the affirmations of First Corinthians 13, as well as the 1972 *Discipline of The United Methodist Church*, Para. 70: United Methodists can heartily endorse the classical ecumenical watchword: In essentials, unity in non-essentials, liberty; and, in all things charity (love that cares and understands). Without an active, calm, objective, and loving understanding of the religious experience of others, however different from ones own, reconciliation is impossible.

The criteria by which we judge the validity of anothers religious experience must include its compatibility with the mind and the spirit of our Lord Jesus Christ, as revealed in the New Testament. If the consequence and quality of a reported encounter with the Holy Spirit be manifestly conducive to division, self-righteousness, hostility, and exaggerated claims of knowledge and power, then the experience is subject to serious question. However, when the experience clearly results in new dimensions of faith, joy, and blessings to others, we must conclude that this is what the Lord hath done and offer him our praise.

*Guidelines for All*

I. Be open and accepting of those whose Christian experiences differ from your own.

II. Continually undergird and envelop all discussions, conferences, meetings, and persons in prayer.

III. Be open to new ways in which God by his Spirit may be speaking to the church.

IV. Seek the gifts of the Spirit which enrich your life and you for ministry.

V. Recognize that, even though spiritual gifts may be abused, this does not mean that they should be prohibited.

VI. Remember that, like other new movements in church history, the charismatic renewal has a valid contribution to make to the ecumenical church. *For Pastors Who Have Had Charismatic Experiences*

VII. Combine with your charismatic experience a thorough knowledge of, and adherence to, United Methodist polity and tradition. Remember your influence will, in large part, be earned by your loving and disciplined use of the gifts, by your conduct as a pastor of *all* your congregation, as well as by your participation as a responsible pastor.

VIII. Seek a deepening and continued friendship with your clergy colleagues within and without the charismatic experience.

IX. Remember your ordination vows, particularly the vow to maintain and set forward, as much as lieth in you, quietness, peace, and love among all Christian people, and especially among those that shall be committed to your charge. Also, to reverently heed them to whom the charge over you is committed, following with a glad mind and will their godly admonitions.

X. Avoid the temptation to force your personal views and experiences on others. Seek to understand those whose spiritual experiences differ from your own.

XI. Seek to grow in your skills as a biblical exegete, a systematic theologian, and a preacher in all the fullness of the gospel (Para. 304, *The Book of Discipline*, 1972).

XII. Pray for the gifts of the Spirit essential for your ministry; continually examine your life for the fruits of the Spirit.

XIII. Find significant expressions of your personal experience through ministries of social witness. *For Pastors Who Have Not Had Charismatic Experiences*

XIV. Continually examine your understanding of the doctrine and experience of the Holy Spirit so you can communicate this with clarity.

XV. Remember the lessons of church history when Gods people rediscover old truths; that the process is often disquieting, that is usually upheaval, change, and a degree of suffering and misunderstanding.

XVI. Seek firsthand knowledge of what the charismatic renewal means to those who have experienced it. Keep your judgments open until this firsthand knowledge is obtained (i.e., by attending and understanding their prayer meetings, etc.). Then observe and respond as a Christian, a United Methodist minister, and as a sympathetic, conscientious pastor. Keep an openness to scriptural teaching regarding the charismatic gifts.

XVII. When speaking in tongues occurs, seek to know what it means to the speaker in his or her private devotional life and what it means when used for intercessory prayer, especially in group worship. We should be aware that speaking in tongues is considered a minor gift of the Spirit by many who have charismatic experiences.

XVIII. Seek to know the meaning of the other gifts of the Spirit in the charismatic experience, such as the utterance of wisdom, knowledge, the gift of faith, healing, miracles, or prophesying.

XIX. United Methodist pastors should be intentional about the benefits to be derived by a mutual sharing of a variety of experiences which have biblical support. Accordingly, the pastor should seek to keep all meetings called for prayer and fellowship open to all interested members of the congregation.

*For Laity Who Have Had Charismatic Experiences*

XX. Remember to combine with your enthusiasm a thorough knowledge of an adherence to the United Methodist form of church government. The charismatic movement is closely related to the holiness movement, which is a part of our tradition. Consult with your pastor (or pastors) and if he or she has not also had your experience, help him or her to understand what it means to you. Invite your pastor to attend your group meetings.

XXI. Pray that the Spirit will help you understand, and that he may help you to maintain empathy with your colleagues and all your fellow United Methodists.

XXII. Strive for a scholarly knowledge of scriptural content in combination with your spiritual experiences. Seek to unite knowledge and vital piety (Wesley). Strive to integrate your experiences with the theological traditions of our church.

XXIII. Avoid undisciplined undiplomatic enthusiasm in your eagerness to share your experiences with others. Resist the temptation to pose as an authority on spiritual experiences. Failure in this area often causes your fellow United Methodists to accuse you of spiritual pride.

XXIV. Keep your prayer meetings and other gatherings open to all members of your congregation. When noncharismatics do attend, discuss with them the purpose of the meeting with an interpretation of the significance of the content.

XXV. Remember that there are many types of Christian experiences which lead to spiritual growth; charismatic experience is one of these.

XXVI. Accept opportunities to become personally involved in the work and mission of your own congregation. Let the results of your charismatic experience be seen in the outstanding quality of your church membership. Be an obvious enthusiastic supporter of your congregation, its pastor and lay leadership; of your district, your Annual Conference, the General Conference, and mission of each. This may well be the most effective witness you can offer to the validity and vitality of your charismatic experience. Strive to integrate your experience with the theological traditions of our church.

XXVII. It is not necessary to embrace all the usual physical and verbal expres-

sions of Pentecostalism. These singular expressions may at times be a barrier to your witness.

XXVIII. Keep your charismatic experience in perspective. No doubt it has caused you to feel that you are a better Christian. Remember that this does not mean you are better than other Christians, but that you are, perhaps, a better Christian than you were before. *For Laity Who Have Not Had Charismatic Experiences*

XXIX. In our Western tradition, we believe God is constantly seeking to renew his church, including The United Methodist Church. Pray that God may make known to your own place in the process of renewal. The advent of the Charismatic movement into our denomination is only one aspect of renewal.

XXX. Should some fellow members of your congregation have charismatic experiences, accept them as Christians. Should it edify, thank God.

XXXI. Be aware of the tendency to separate ourselves from those who have experiences which differ from our own. Observe personally the charismatics in their prayer meetings, in your congregation, and in the mission of your church. Examine scriptural teaching about this. Pray about it. Discuss your concern with your pastor. The United Methodist Church is theologically pluralistic.

XXXII. Do not be disturbed if your experience is different from others. This does not mean that you are an inferior Christian. Your function in the work and mission of your congregation calls for many gifts (1 Cor. 12-14). Each Christian is a unique member of the body of Christ.

XXXIII. Should your pastor be a charismatic, help her or him to be mindful of the spiritual needs of all the congregation, to be a pastor and teacher to all, and encourage her or him in preaching to present the wholeness of all aspects of the gospel. *For Connectional Administration*

XXXIV. Refer prayerfully and thoughtfully to the other sections of these Guidelines.

XXXV. Remember your pastoral responsibilities toward ordained persons and congregations within the connection, particularly toward those whose spiritual experience may involve charismatic gifts.

XXXVI. Each administrator should consider whether any teaching or practice regarding the charismatic movement involving an ordained minister of a congregation is for the edification of the church.

XXXVII. If there is divisiveness involved in a particular situation, make as careful an evaluation as possible, remembering that there are other kinds of issues which may divide our fellowship. Sometimes tensions and conflicts may result in the edification and greater purity of the church and need. Therefore, to be handled wisely and prayerfully by all concerned.

XXXVIII. Administrators and connectional bodies will be required to deal with expressions of the charismatic movement. We urge all involved to seek first-hand evidence about the movement, its meaning for those involved in it, and its value of the particular congregation.

XXXIX. Where an ordained person seems to overemphasize some charismatic doctrines/practices, she or he should be counseled to preach the wholeness of the gospel, to minister to the needs of all the congregation, and as a pastor to grow in understanding of our polity in the mission of the particular Annual Conference.

XL. Annual Conferences may also be faced with a situation where there is a charismatic group within a congregation whose pastor, or whose lay leadership, or both, may be hostile to or ignorant of the charismatic movement. The Annual Conference Board of the Ministry, the bishop, and the district superintendent have a pastoral responsibility to mediate and to guide in reconciliation.

XLI. Pray continuously for sensitivity to the will of, and the leading of, the Holy Spirit.

## THE CHARISMATIC MOVEMENT ITS HISTORICAL BASE AND WESLEYAN FRAMEWORK

Within the last quarter of the twentieth century we have witnessed a unitarian emphasis on the fatherhood of God, a radical evangelical faith in the person of Jesus Christ, and the charismatic expression of the Holy Spirit. Charismatic gifts and experiences, however, are not new to the church. History has revealed certain manifestations of the gifts and experiences of the Spirit, in every century since Pentecost.

In our own time, the work of the Holy Spirit is apparent. Increasingly, United Methodists are holding healing services, participating in prayer and praise groups, and attending Holy Spirit conferences across the country. Interest is high, with testimonies coming from bishops, lay persons, district superintendents, seminary professors, and local pastors. Yet many United Methodist charismatics feel isolated and misunderstood; many non-charismatics feel threatened and/or alienated and hostile. If we can gain perspective from our Wesleyan heritage significant contribution to the charismatic movement reconciliation can take place.

Azusa Street, where American Pentecostalism was launched, is to this movement what Aldersgate is to Methodism. The Pentecostal doctrine of subsequence was derived from Wesleys teachings concerning the second blessing, or entire sanctification.

*The Historical Base*

Methodism provides a highly important tradition for the student of charismatic origins. Wesleys theology of grace is in fact a theology of the Holy Spirit. The terms *grace* and *Holy Spirit* are associated in all of Wesleys writings. Although Frederick Dale Bruner exaggerated a bit to insist that the Pentecostal/charismatic movements are primitive Methodisms extended incarnation, the fact remains that eighteenth century Methodism gave rise to the nineteenth century American holiness movement, which gave rise to the twentieth century Pentecostal/charismatic phenomena. It was the eighteenth century Methodist quest for an instantaneous experience of sanctification, or second work of grace (rightly or wrongly interpreted), that inspired the nineteenth century American holiness movement. Revivalists like Charles Finney (born in 1792, the year after Wesleys death) used Wesleys theological writings as grist for a holiness emphasis designed to revive religion in America. Although Finneys methodology was more significant than his theology upon the Pentecostal/charismatic movement, his popularization of the phrase baptism of the Holy Ghost had a close parallel to the Pentecostal emphasis arising out of Azusa Street.

There is some question whether Pentecostalism per se would have occurred had the holiness tradition retained its influence within the local church. By the turn of the twentieth century, however, the decline of Wesleys emphasis on perfection among Methodists, the development of theological views in response to changing cultural conditions, and the apparent wealth and worldliness of the church created considerable spiritual insecurity.

It was also a period of tremendous social change. The American scene was shifting rapidly from an agrarian to an industrial society. The move was from a rural to an urban-centered population, from a relatively homogeneous to a polygenetic people. Anticolonialism was giving way to imperialism, and the laissez-faire policy to the first stages of governmental social regulation. Those changes registered shock most severely, accordingly to W. G. McLoughlin, on the

"country-bred, evangelically oriented, intellectually unsophisticated and sentimentally insecure individuals who made up the bulk of the nations churchgoers.

Many, however, sensed the need to individualize and to create an excitement for the Christian faith in a depersonalized civilization. Pentecostalism, viewed by some as closely akin to a Methodist experiential *theology* and a revivalist experiential *methodology*, was to meet that need, at least in part, and to find response in an experience-hungry world.

Pentecostalism might never have severed itself from mainline denominations, and revivalism might have remained within the established churches, had not many Christians overreacted. The social gospel, born out of revivalism, aligned itself with a more liberal tradition which saw the necessity of stamping out anything that was suggestive of the priest and Levite bypassing suffering humanity. The church became polarized in response to the Pentecostal emphasis. The Pentecostal doctrine, which insists on speaking in tongues as initial evidence of baptism in the Holy Spirit, remains divisive to the present time.

Pentecostal beginnings were spontaneous, scattered, and little noticed. As early as 1896 some revivalists reported experiences of glossolalia in North Carolina. It was not until 1900, however, that any significance was attached to this experience. Charles F. Parham, a young Methodist minister frustrated by the sterility of his own ministry in contract with the power of the apostles, started the Bethel Bible College at Topeka, Kansas. Parham and his students quickly identified Wesleys doctrine of subsequent instantaneous sanctification with Finneys baptism of the Holy Spirit and concluded that it should be sought with the evidence of tongues. Parham then opened a second school in Houston, Texas. Among those who came seeking the baptism of the Holy Spirit was W. J. Seymour, a black minister from Los Angeles. After several months of study and prayer he returned to Los Angeles where a revival broke out during a mission at a former Methodist chapel at 312 Azusa Street. That revival lasted three years and the American Pentecostal movement was officially launched.

About twenty-five years ago pastors and lay persons within mainline denominations began to confess experiencing various gifts of the Spirit more openly. Rather than leaving for Pentecostal congregations, they chose to remain within their established churches. Thus, the charismatic movement began when individuals across denominational lines Protestant and Roman Catholic realized that they shared common experiences. While continuing to support their local churches, they began meeting to discuss those experiences openly.

There are several areas where charismatics identify with their Pentecostal cousins the emphasis on religious experiences beyond conversion with an openness to spiritual gifts, for example. *But there are significant differences as well.* Pentecostals organize their converts into separate churches; charismatics do not. Charismatics encourage their number to remain within their local churches. Pentecostals have a fairly well-defined theological system. They maintain, for instance, that subsequent to justification there is an instantaneous sanctification experience known as the baptism of the Holy Spirit which *must* be confirmed by speaking in tongues. Charismatics do not. Although charismatics are open to all spiritual gifts and experiences subsequent to conversion, they try not to isolate those gifts and experiences as marks of spirituality. They choose, rather, to interpret them in the light of their own traditions. John Wesley writes:

In [Acts IV] we read, that when the Apostles and brethren had been praying, and praising God, the place was shaken where they were assembled together, and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost. Not that we find any visible appearance here, such as a had been in the former instance: nor are we informed that the *extraordinary gifts* of the Holy Ghost were then given to all or any of them: such as the gifts of healing, of working other miracles, of prophecy, of discerning spirits, the speaking with divers kinds of tongues, and the interpretation of tongues (I Cor. XII, 9, 10).

Whether these gifts of the Holy Ghost were designed to remain in the Church throughout all ages, and whether or not they will be restored at the nearer approach of the restitution of all things, are questions which it is not needful to decide. But it is needful to observe this, that even in the infancy of the church, God divided them with a sparing hand. Were all even then prophets? Were all workers of miracles? Had all the gifts of healing? Did all speak in tongues? No, in no wise. Perhaps not one in a thousand. Probably none but the teachers in the Church, and only some of them (I Cor. XII, 28-30). It was, therefore, for a more excellent purpose than this, that they were all filled with the Holy Ghost.

It was, to give them (what none can deny to be essential to all Christians in all ages) the mind which was in Christ, those holy fruits of the Spirit, which whosoever hath not, is one of His; to fill them with love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness (Gal. V.22-24); to endue them with faith (perhaps it might be rendered *fidelity*), with meekness and temperance; to enable them to crucify the flesh, with its affections and lusts, its passions and desires; and in consequence of that inward change, to fulfill all outward righteousness; to walk as Christ also walked, in the work of faith, in the patience of hope, the labour of love (I Thess. I. 3).

John Wesley, *Sermons*: Scriptural Christianity,Introduction, 2-4 (S, I, 92-94)

*It is in a failure to see the importance of this that some charismatics get into trouble.* Ideally, Presbyterian charismatics, for example, interpret their gifts and experiences in light of the sovereignty of God, Roman Catholic charismatics in light of their sacramental theology, and United Methodists in light of John Wesleys theology of grace. Problems arise when charismatics, knowingly or unknowingly, attempt to adopt a more classical Pentecostal line in conflict with their own tradition, and division occurs. Equally devastating is the circumstance in which some charismatics adopt no line at all and become floaters vulnerable to exploitation. They substitute experience for doctrine and are no longer rooted in the traditions that could sustain them.

Our task, therefore, is to provide United Methodists with a clear understanding of our heritage a heritage that will enable them to interpret charismatic gifts and experiences in a way that is healthy and sound.

*A Wesleyan Framework*

Charismatics interpret their gifts and experiences in light of their own traditions. When this does not occur, division and/or exploitation sets in. When United Methodists charismatics adopt a classical Pentecostal line, they are no longer United Methodists at least in the Wesleyan sense. John Wesley said:

The gift of tongues may, you say, be considered as a proper test or criterion for determining the miraculous pretensions of all Churches. If among their extraordinary gifts they cannot show us this, they have non to show which are genuine.

Now, I really thought it had been otherwise. I thought it had been an adjudged rule in the case, All these worketh one and the self-same Spirit, dividing to every man, severally as he will; and as to every man, so to every Church, every collective body of men. But if this be so, then yours is no proper test for determining the pre-

tensions of all Churches; seeing He who worketh as He will, may with your good leave, give the gift of tongues, where He gives no other; and may see abundant reasons so to do, whether you and I see them or not. For perhaps we have not always known the mind of the Lord; not being of the number of his counsellors. On the other hand, he may see good to give many other gifts, where it is not his will to bestow this. Particularly where it would be of no use; as in a Church where all are of one mind, and all speak the same language.

*The Works of John Wesley, Vol X, p. 56*

Charismatics must be brought *gently* to an awareness of the inherent possibility of division. When United Methodist charismatics have no theological basea disease common not only among charismaticsthey need to know that, properly understood within the context of our own tradition, their charismatic gifts and experiences will be considered as fresh wind in a church that still has more trouble with ice than fire. John Wesleys theory of grace, properly understood, *can* ground charismatic United Methodists in a tradition that can give direction to their enthusiasm. Let us, therefore, reexamine Wesleys theology of grace in light of the charismatic gifts and experiences.

Wesleys theology of grace is in fact a theology of the Holy Spirit. He believed that Reformation theology was built upon the cardinal doctrine of original sin and that it is Gods sovereign will to reverse our sinful, devilish nature by the work of his Holy Spirit. He called this prevenient, justifying, and sanctifying grace.

Bound by sin and death, one experiences almost from the moment of conception the gentle wooing of the Holy Spirit*prevenient grace*. This grace prevents one from wandering so far from the Way that when a person finally understands what it means to be justified, the Holy Spirit prompts ones freedom to say yes. For Wesley, this yes was a heartfelt faith in the merit of Christ alone for salvation. It allows the Holy Spirit to take the righteousness that was in Christ and attribute or impute it to the believer*justifying grace*. For Wesley this begins a *lifelong movement* from imputed to imparted righteousness in which the Holy Spirit moves the believer from the righteousness of Christ attributed through faith to the righteousness of Christ realized within the individual*sanctifying grace*.

Most students of Wesley are keenly aware of the emphasis he placed upon sanctification. It is precisely at this point, however, that we must not make the same mistake by classical Pentecostals, namely that of isolating sanctification as one other experience beyond conversion. Harald Lindstrom writes in *Wesley and Sanctification* that investigation of Wesleys concept of salvation has been concentrated too often on the new birth and complete sanctification (Christian perfection) as two isolated phenomena unconnected organically with this doctrine of salvation as a whole. Since both of these events in Wesleys thought may be instantaneous, the gradual process of general sanctification is often minimized. Yet Wesleys emphasis upon the gradual process is obvious, for, though entire sanctification is a possibility and goal for all believers, by far the greater number of Christian believers will always be involved in the process. Admittedly, Wesley was a bit unguarded at times when referring to sanctification as an instantaneous experience subsequent to justification. If he were writing today, he would probably place even more emphasis on sanctification as a gradual work of grace characterized by many experiences that keep conversion contemporary.

To understand Wesleys experience of entire sanctification is to know how far the Pentecostal baptism of the Holy Spirit falls short, if there are not continuing works of grace. Grace is continual, though it may be perceived episodically. In our study of the charismatic movement it is essential that we do not confuse being filled with the Holy Spirit with Wesleys mature doctrine of sanctification. The Spirit-filled life is, rather, a sustained line of gifts, experiences, and divine support, beginning with conversion, constantly moving us toward that goal.

Many charismatics have come to believe that being filled with the Holy Spirit is an experience which begins with justification and continues as a lifelong motivating experience for the believer. For the charismatic, Spirit-baptism is not one but many gifts, not two but many experiences, intended to sustain one day after day. The relevance of Wesleys doctrine can be demonstrated by his statement: The only way to keep Methodists alive is to keep them moving. Wesley took the expression *moi progressus ad infinitum*—my progress is without end—from Francois Fenelon, the seventeenth century theologian and mystic. Thus, United Methodist charismatics, within the context of their own rich tradition, can never interpret gifts and experiences as signs of superior spirituality making them better than others. Rather, the power of God being sustained within them makes them better than they were.

*Conclusion*

Pentecostals have a predictable interpretation of the Wesleyan revival. Although Pentecostalism has its roots imbedded within that tradition, it has little in common with Wesleys theology. Charismatics, on the other hand, have a point of reference for understanding their gifts and experiences in a way that is both guarded and open.

United Methodist charismatics and noncharasmatics alike should be encouraged. There is no need for battle lines to be drawn. Albert Outler has stated that the charismatic movement might be the catalyst for a third great awakening. He concludes: What if their charismatic renewal should prove more than a passing fad? Would they be our allies or rivals in our commitments to a church catholic, evangelical, and reformed: catholic in its human outreach, evangelical in its spiritual upreach, reformed in its constant openness to change? If nothing comes of all this, put my comments about it down to a softening of the brain. But if something does come of it, dont say you werent warned!

There are blind spots in all of us. Charismatics, for example, have a tendency to exalt a personal gospel; noncharismatics need to remember that opposite of *personal* is not *social* but *impersonal*. The social dimension of the gospel does not bypass the personal; it harnesses it and rides it to the stars. It provides an opportunity for witness and service in the world. In fact, the term *noncharismatic* Christian is a misnomer. All Christians have gifts. *Charismatic*, as earlier defined, refers to those who more explicitly acknowledge and emphasize teaching concerning the power of the Holy Spirit at work within them through such gifts. Surely there are lessons to be learned as well as lessons to be taught, sometimes from mistakes and sometimes from successes. In the meantime, God help us all if we do not practice love and openness. After all, that is what the Spirit-filled life is all about.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2153-NonDis

**Subject: Regarding the Service of Holy Communion**

Committee Item: DI142-NonDis-A
Petition:
22225-DI-NonDis-O, Pg. 1296
Membership: 112; Present: 70;
For: 69; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/23

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Whereas, it has been our practice for two centuries to use what the ritual printed in our hymnals has referred to as the pure, unfermented juice of the grape for Holy Communion; and

Whereas, this terminology was inadvertently omitted when the present hymnal was adopted;

Therefore, be it resolved, that the 1996 General Conference restore this phrase to our ritual by ordering that the words The pure, unfermented juice of the grape **or an equivalent** shall be used during the service of Holy Communion be added beneath the heading of A Service of Word and Table I, A Service of Word and Table II, and A Service of Word and Table III.

**And be it further resolved that this petition as amended be referred to the General Board of Discipleship and the United Methodist Publishing House of the United Methodist Church requesting that future development, writing and publication of worship resources related to the Eucharist convey responsible sensitivity and instructions on behalf of participants in Holy Communion for whom fermented elements would be a stumbling block to a drug-free lifestyle and that any future revisions of *The United Methodist Hymnal* and *The Book of Worship* convey this same sensitivity and instruction for unfermented elements in an appropriate manner.**

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2154-NonDis
**Subject: The Order of Elder**
Committee Item: MN484-NonDis-C
Petition:
20915-MN-NonDis-O, Pg. 1104
Membership: 113; Present: 86;
For: 77; Against: 9; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2155-NonDis
**Subject: African American Clergywomen**
Committee Item: MN721-NonDis-A
Petition:
22101-MN-NonDis-O, Pg. 1496
Membership: 113; Present: 69;
For: 63; Against: 3; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Delete the following: 2. The nature and extent of stress-related illness suffered by African American Clergywomen related to these disparities.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

# Consent Calendar C06

## 2156-NonDis
**Subject: Use of "The Church Studies Homosexuality"**
Committee Item: CS55-NonDis-N
Petition:
20858-CS-NonDis-O, Pg. 136
Membership: 102; Present: 60;
For: 59; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/23

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2157-NonDis
**Subject: Restore Religious Freedom**
Committee Item: CS98-NonDis-N
Petition:
22619-CS-NonDis-O, Pg. 1249
Membership: 102; Present: 66;
For: 65; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/23

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2158-NonDis
**Subject: Worth of a Life of Service**
Committee Item: CS99-NonDis-N
Petition:
23024-CS-NonDis-O, Pg. 1245
Membership: 102; Present: 59;
For: 57; Against: 1; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/23

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2159-75
**Subject: The World Community**
Committee Item: CS100-75-N
Petition:
22539-CS-75-D, Pg. 1230
Membership: 102; Present: 66;
For: 65; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/23

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2160-75
**Subject: The World Community. Amend 75**
Committee Item: CS102-75-N
Petition:
20060-CS-75-D, Pg. 1228
Membership: 102; Present: 66;
For: 65; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/23

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2161-74
**Subject: The Political Community**
Committee Item: CS103-74-N
Petition:
22538-CS-74-D, Pg. 1229
Membership: 102; Present: 66;
For: 65; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/23

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2162-NonDis
**Subject: World-Wide Celebration on Population**
Committee Item: CS104-NonDis-N
Petition:
22460-CS-NonDis-O, Pg. 1255
Membership: 102; Present: 66;
For: 65; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/23

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2163-73
**Subject: The Rights of all Persons**
Committee Item: CS130-73-N
Petition:
20024-CS-73-D, Pg. 124
Membership: 102; Present: 60;
For: 58; Against: 1; Not Voting: 1;

Date: 4/23

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2164-73
**Subject: Work and Leisure**
Committee Item: CS131-73-N
Petition:
22323-CS-73-D, Pg. 1227
Membership: 102; Present: 67;
For: 66; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/23

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2165-73
**Subject: Right to a Job: Work and Leisure**
Committee Item: CS132-73-N
Petition:
22446-CS-73-D, Pg. 1227
Membership: 102; Present: 60;
For: 58; Against: 1; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/23

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2166-73
**Subject: Poverty**
Committee Item: CS133-73-N
Petition:
22324-CS-73-D, Pg. 1227
Membership: 102; Present: 66;
For: 65; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/23

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2167-73
**Subject: The Economic Community**
Committee Item: CS135-73-N
Petition:
22537-CS-73-D, Pg. 1228
Membership: 102; Present: 66;
For: 65; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/23

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2168-73
**Subject: The Economic Community**
Committee Item: CS136-73-N
Petition:
22321-CS-73-D, Pg. 1227
Membership: 102; Present: 66;
For: 65; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/23

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2169-73
**Subject: The Economic Community**
Committee Item: CS139-73-R
Petition:
22448-CS-73-D, Pg. 1228
Membership: 102; Present: 62;
For: 53; Against: 7; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/23

The Committee recommends referral to the General Board of Church and Society.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2170-NonDis
**Subject: Land Value Taxation**
Committee Item: CS142-NonDis-N
Petition:
22620-CS-NonDis-O, Pg. 1248
Membership: 102; Present: 66;
For: 65; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/23

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2171-NonDis
**Subject: In Support of the United States Food and Drug Administration**
Committee Item: CS143-NonDis-R
Petition:
22618-CS-NonDis-O, Pg. 1255
Membership: 102; Present: 60;
For: 56; Against: 3; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/23

The Committee recommends referral to the General Board of Church and Society.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2172-R634
**Subject: Regarding Recognition of Cuba**
Committee Item: CS144-R634-N
Petition:
22338-CS-R634-U, Pg. 1252
Membership: 102; Present: 62;
For: 61; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/23

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2173-R634
**Subject: Recognition of Cuba**
Committee Item: CS145-R634-N
Petitions:
20026-CS-NonDis-O, Pg. 159;
20031-CS-R634-U, Pg. 160;
20863-CS-R634-U, Pg. 161
Membership: 102; Present: 62;
For: 61; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/23

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2174-NonDis
**Subject: In Favor of Human Intervention: No Military Involvement**
Committee Item: CS147-NonDis-R
Petition:
22341-CS-NonDis-O, Pg. 1249
Membership: 102; Present: 67;
For: 64; Against: 1; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/23

The Committee recommends referral to the General Board of Church & Society.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2175-NonDis
**Subject: Call for a Rebirth of Compassion**
Committee Item: CS150-NonDis-N
Petition:
22454-CS-NonDis-O, Pg. 1245
Membership: 102; Present: 63;
For: 62; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/23

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2176-73
**Subject: Collective Bargaining**
Committee Item: CS153-73-N
Petition:
22322-CS-73-D, Pg. 1227
Membership: 102; Present: 66;
For: 65; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/23

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2177-75
**Subject: National Power and Responsibility**
Committee Item: CS157-75-N
Petition:
22327-CS-75-D, Pg. 1229
Membership: 102; Present: 66;
For: 65; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/23

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2178-NonDis-$
**Subject: Denominational Office and Director of Prison Ministry**
Committee Item: CS191-NonDis-R$
Petition:
21126-CS-NonDis-O$, Pg. 142
Membership: 102; Present: 59;
For: 57; Against: 0; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/23

The Committee recommends referral to the General Board of Global Ministries.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2179-R372
**Subject: Regarding Obsolete Data**
Committee Item: CS192-R372-R
Petition:
22653-CS-R372-U, Pg. 1247
Membership: 102; Present: 59;
For: 57; Against: 1; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/23

The Committee recommends referral to the General Board of Church and Society.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2180-71
**Subject: The Nurturing Community**
Committee Item: CS193-71-R
Petition:
22296-CS-71-D, Pg. 1212
Membership: 102; Present: 59;
For: 51; Against: 5; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/23

The Committee recommends referral to the General Board of church & Society.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2181-71
**Subject: Families Take Many Forms**
Committee Item: CS195-71-N
Petition:
22297-CS-71-D, Pg. 1212
Membership: 102; Present: 59;
For: 48; Against: 9; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/23

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2182-NonDis
**Subject: Regarding Whether Same Sex Unions are Properly Called Christian Marriage**
Committee Item: CS198-NonDis-N
Petition:
22652-CS-NonDis-O, Pg. 1244
Membership: 102; Present: 60;
For: 57; Against: 1; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/23

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2183-71
**Subject: Marriage**
Committee Item: CS199-71-N
Petitions:
22298-CS-71-D, Pg. 1212;
22299-CS-71-D, Pg. 1212
Membership: 102; Present: 60;
For: 57; Against: 2; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/23

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2184-NonDis
**Subject: Study on homosexuality**
Committee Item: CS201-NonDis-N
Petitions:
20123-CS-NonDis-O, Pg. 1239;
20975-CS-71-D$, Pg. 1214;
22347-CS-NonDis-O$, Pg. 1240
Membership: 102; Present: 60;
For: 58; Against: 1; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/23

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2185-NonDis
**Subject: Use of The Church Study on Homosexuality**
Committee Item: CS202-NonDis-N
Petitions:
22456-CS-NonDis-O, Pg. 1241;
22504-CS-NonDis-O, Pg. 1241
Membership: 102; Present: 60;
For: 59; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/23

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2186-R373
**Subject: Regarding Data Reliability in the Resolution on the Status of Women**
Committee Item: CS203-R373-N
Petition:
22654-CS-R373-U, Pg. 1247
Membership: 102; Present: 59;
For: 58; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/23

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2187-NonDis-$
**Subject: Task Force to Study Food Distribution in the United States to Low Income Persons**
Committee Item: CS204-NonDis-N$
Petition:
20025-CS-NonDis-O$, Pg. 1245
Membership: 102; Present: 59;
For: 58; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/23

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2188-NonDis
**Subject: The U.S. Agricultural Crisis**
Committee Item: CS205-NonDis-N
Petitions:
22520-CS-R87-U, Pg. 1375;
22521-CS-NonDis-O, Pg. 1368
Membership: 102; Present: 59;
For: 58; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/23

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2189-R413
**Subject: Impact of Gambling on Local, State, and National Communities in the United States**
Committee Item: CS208-R413-N
Petition:
20986-CS-R413-U, Pg. 1247

Membership: 102; Present: 67;
For: 66; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/23

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence in favor of Petition 21048 (CS 151).

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2190-516.3
**Subject: Announcement of Appointments**
Committee Item: MN16-516.3-N
Petition:
20686-MN-516.3-D, Pg. 1079
Membership: 113; Present: 105;
For: 104; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2191-306
**Subject: Candidacy for Licensed and Ordained Ministry**
Committee Item: MN25-306-N
Petition:
22925-MN-306-D, Pg. 1503
Membership: 113; Present: 104;
For: 104; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2192-509.1
**Subject: Mandatory Retirement**
Committee Item: MN33-509.1-N
Petition:
21025-MN-509.1-D, Pg. 1484
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2193-735
**Subject: Conference Commmittee on Episcopacy**
Committee Item: MN94-735-N
Petition:
20471-MN-735.2-D, Pg. 1089
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2194-439.1
**Subject: Responsibilities and Duties of a Pastor**
Committee Item: MN112-439.1-N
Petition:
20813-MN-439.1-D, Pg. 1463
Membership: 113; Present: 101;
For: 101; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2195-439
**Subject: Duties of a Pastor: Community Context**
Committee Item: MN119-439-N
Petition:
22073-MN-439-D, Pg. 1462
Membership: 113; Present: 100;
For: 100; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2196-439
**Subject: Responsibilities and Duties of a Pastor**
Committee Item: MN120-439-N
Petition:
22074-MN-439-D, Pg. 1463
Membership: 113; Present: 101;
For: 101; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2197-439.1
**Subject: Responsibilities and Duties of a Pastor**
Committee Item: MN121-439.1-N
Petition:
22075-MN-439.1-D, Pg. 1463
Membership: 113; Present: 101;
For: 101; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2198-439.1
**Subject: United Methodist Ministers acting as Agents for the State**
Committee Item: MN122-439.1-N
Petition:
22595-MN-439.1-D, Pg. 1463
Membership: 113; Present: 101;
For: 101; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2199-453.1
**Subject: Honorable Location**
Committee Item: MN125-453.1-N
Petition:
20487-MN-453.1-D, Pg. 1069
Membership: 113; Present: 101;
For: 101; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2200-322
**Subject: Requirements for Admission of Deacon in Full Connection**
Committee Item: MN130-322-N
Petition:
22936-MN-322-D, Pg. 1506
Membership: 113; Present: 99;
For: 99; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2201-453.2
**Subject: Withdrawal to Unite with another Denomination**
Committee Item: MN142-453.2-N
Petition:
20047-MN-453.2-D, Pg. 1070
Membership: 113; Present: 101;
For: 101; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2202-453.1
**Subject: Further Defining Honorable Location**
Committee Item: MN153-453.1-N
Petition:

22375-MN-453.1-D, Pg. 1468
Membership: 113; Present: 101;
For: 101; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2203-453.5
**Subject: Withdrawal between Conferences**
Committee Item: MN154-453.5-N
Petition:
20816-MN-453.5-D, Pg. 1468
Membership: 113; Present: 101;
For: 101; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2204-NonDis
**Subject: Annual evaluation of clergy by Pastor-Parish Relations Committee**
Committee Item: MN159-NonDis-N
Petition:
20036-MN-NonDis-O, Pg. 1495
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 87; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2205-519
**Subject: Specific Responsibilities of District Superintendents**
Committee Item: MN163-519-N
Petition:
21282-MN-519-D, Pg. 1079
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2206-517
**Subject: Selection, Assignment, and Term of District Superintendent**
Committee Item: MN166-517-N
Petition:
22422-MN-517-D, Pg. 1477
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2207-518
**Subject: Term of District Superintendents**
Committee Item: MN167-518-N
Petition:
22553-MN-518-D, Pg. 1478
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2208-518
**Subject: Limitation on Years of Service**
Committee Item: MN168-518-N
Petition:
23032-MN-518-D, Pg. 1478
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2209-518
**Subject: Limitation on Years of Service**
Committee Item: MN169-518-N
Petition:
22084-MN-518-D, Pg. 1478
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2210-515.4
**Subject: District Superintendency**
Committee Item: MN171-515.4-N
Petition:
20818-MN-515.4-D, Pg. 1475
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/24

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2211-515.5
**Subject: Mutual Accountability of Bishops with District Superintendents**
Committee Item: MN172-515.5-N
Petition:
22551-MN-515.5-D, Pg. 1475
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2212-517
**Subject: Selecting the District Superintendent**
Committee Item: MN175-517-N
Petition:
20806-MN-517-D, Pg. 1476
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2213-517
**Subject: Assignment of District Superintendent to Area-Wide Responsibilities**
Committee Item: MN176-517-N
Petition:
22081-MN-517-D, Pg. 1476
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2214-517
**Subject: Selecting, Training, Assigning, and Term of District Superintendents**
Committee Item: MN177-517-N
Petition:
22383-MN-517-D, Pg. 1476
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2215-517
**Subject: Election, Appointment and Term of District Superintendents**
Committee Item: MN178-517-N
Petition:
23031-MN-517-D, Pg. 1477
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2216-517
**Subject: Election of District Superintendents**
Committee Item: MN179-517-N
Petition:
22552-MN-517-D, Pg. 1477
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2217-518
**Subject: Limitations on Years of Service**
Committee Item: MN180-518-N
Petition:
20847-MN-518-D, Pg. 1478
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2218-518
**Subject: Limitations on Years of Service**
Committee Item: MN181-518-N
Petition:
22083-MN-518-D, Pg. 1478
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2219-518
**Subject: Missional Reasons**
Committee Item: MN182-518-N
Petition:
20830-MN-518-D, Pg. 1478
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2220-422
**Subject: Members in Full Connections**
Committee Item: MN185-422-N
Petition:
22917-MN-422-D, Pg. 1507
Membership: 113; Present: 86;
For: 86; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2221-422
**Subject: Elders in Full Connection**
Committee Item: MN186-422-N
Petition:
22938-MN-422-D, Pg. 1507
Membership: 113; Present: 86;
For: 86; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2222-445
**Subject: Continuing Education and Spiritual Growth**
Committee Item: MN192-445-N
Petition:
22076-MN-445-D, Pg. 1464
Membership: 113; Present: 101;
For: 101; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2223-453
**Subject: Location by Mutual Consent**
Committee Item: MN193-453-N
Petition:
22374-MN-453-D, Pg. 1468
Membership: 113; Present: 101;
For: 101; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2224-NonDis
**Subject: Appointments of Clergy Members**
Committee Item: MN203-NonDis-N
Petition:
22862-MN-NonDis-O, Pg. 1500
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 87; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2225-NonDis
**Subject: Clergy Counseling**
Committee Item: MN204-NonDis-N
Petition:
22863-MN-NonDis-O, Pg. 1500
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 87; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2226-0
**Subject: Suggested Changes in the United Methodist Church**
Committee Item: MN205-0-N
Petition:
22878-MN- -D, Pg. 1501
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 87; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2227-NonDis
**Subject: Exit Procedures**
Committee Item: MN206-NonDis-N
Petition:
22907-MN-NonDis-O, Pg. 1501
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 87; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2228-NonDis
**Subject: Practice of Homosexuality While a Minister or Employee of the United Methodist Church**
Committee Item: MN207-NonDis-N
Petition:
22908-MN-NonDis-O, Pg. 1501

Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 87; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2229-NonDis
**Subject: The Permanent Diaconate**
Committee Item: MN208-NonDis-N
Petition:
20278-MN-NonDis-O, Pg. 1101
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 87; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2230-NonDis-$
**Subject: Ordained Ministry in the 21st. Century**
Committee Item: MN210-NonDis-N$
Petition:
20225-MN-NonDis-O$, Pg. 1100
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 87; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2231-1202
**Subject: Responsibilities of the General Board of Discipleship**
Committee Item: MN211-1202-R
Petition:
21994-MN-1202-D, Pg. 1023
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends referral to the General Board of Discipleship.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2232-530.1
**Subject: Responsibility**
Committee Item: MN212-530.1-N
Petition:
22089-MN-530.1-D, Pg. 1480
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2233-530.1
**Subject: Responsibility in Appointment Making**
Committee Item: MN213-530.1-N
Petition:
21110-MN-530.1-D, Pg. 1082
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2234-524
**Subject: Non-Personnel Responsibilities of District Superintendents**
Committee Item: MN216-524-N
Petition:
22384-MN-524-D, Pg. 1479
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2235-524
**Subject: Duties and Responsibilities of a Pastor**
Committee Item: MN217-524-N
Petition:
22086-MN-524-D, Pg. 1479
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2236-520
**Subject: District Superintendent and Lay Preacher: Supervision**
Committee Item: MN222-520-N
Petition:
22420-MN-520-D, Pg. 1479
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2237-421
**Subject: Progression to Full Membership for Associate Members**
Committee Item: MN224-421-N
Petitions:
20390-MN-421-D, Pg. 1053;
20391-MN-424.3-D, Pg. 1055
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/24

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2238-NonDis
**Subject: Reinstatement and Recompense for Rev. Merrily Anderson**
Committee Item: MN225-NonDis-N
Petitions:
22397-MN-NonDis-O, Pg. 1496;
22398-MN-NonDis-O, Pg. 1496;
22399-MN-NonDis-O, Pg. 1497;
22400-MN-NonDis-O, Pg. 1497
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 87; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2239-410
**Subject: Continuance as an Apprentice Minister**
Committee Item: MN230-410-N
Petition:
23043-MN-410-D, Pg. 1449
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2240-410.5
**Subject: Retirement of Local Pastors**
Committee Item: MN232-410.5-N
Petition:
21168-MN-410.5-D, Pg. 1050
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2241-410.5
**Subject: Retirement of Local Pastor**
Committee Item: MN233-410.5-N
Petition:
21491-MN-410.5-D, Pg. 1051
Membership: 113; Present: 88;

For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2242-406
**Subject: General Provisions**
Committee Item: MN234-406-N
Petition:
23039-MN-406-D, Pg. 1448
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2243-406
**Subject: Local Pastors: Authority and Duties**
Committee Item: MN235-406-N
Petition:
20152-MN-406-D, Pg. 1048
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2244-406.1
**Subject: Authority and Duties**
Committee Item: MN236-406.1-N
Petition:
21159-MN-406.1-D, Pg. 1049
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2245-406.1
**Subject: Local Pastor: Authority and Duties**
Committee Item: MN238-406.1-N
Petition:
20385-MN-406.1-D, Pg. 1048
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2246-406.6
**Subject: The Membership of Local Pastors in Annual Conference**
Committee Item: MN239-406.6-N
Petition:
21160-MN-406.6-D, Pg. 1049
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2247-406.6
**Subject: Voting rights of Local Pastors**
Committee Item: MN240-406.6-N
Petition:
20254-MN-406.6-D, Pg. 1049
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2248-406
**Subject: Local Pastor: Authority & Duties**
Committee Item: MN241-406-N
Petition:
22049-MN-406-D, Pg. 1448
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2249-406.6
**Subject: Consistency in Responsibilities & Privileges of Ordained and Local Pastors**
Committee Item: MN242-406.6-N
Petition:
22861-MN-406.6-D, Pg. 1448
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2250-406.6
**Subject: Authority and Duties of a Local Pastor**
Committee Item: MN243-406.6-N
Petition:
22827-MN-406.6-D, Pg. 1448
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2251-406.7
**Subject: Church Membership of Part-Time Local Pastors**
Committee Item: MN244-406.7-N
Petition:
21161-MN-406.7-D, Pg. 1049
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2252-406.7
**Subject: Consistency in Responsibilities & Privileges of Ordained and Local Pastors**
Committee Item: MN245-406.7-N
Petition:
23029-MN-406.7-D, Pg. 1448
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2253-408.5
**Subject: Part-time and student local pastors**
Committee Item: MN246-408.5-N
Petition:
20040-MN-408.5-D, Pg. 1049
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2254-408.5
**Subject: Local Pastors on all Boards and Eligible as Clergy Delegates**
Committee Item: MN247-408.5-N
Petition:
20386-MN-408.5-D, Pg. 1050
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2255-408.5
**Subject: Consistency in Responsibilities & Privileges of Ordained and Local Pastors**
Committee Item: MN249-408.5-N
Petition:
23030-MN-408.5-D, Pg. 1449
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2256-408
**Subject: Credential as Apprentice Minister**
Committee Item: MN250-408-N
Petition:
23041-MN-408-D, Pg. 1448
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2257-408.5
**Subject: Rights of Local Pastors**
Committee Item: MN252-408.5-N
Petition:
22052-MN-408.5-D, Pg. 1449
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2258-408.2
**Subject: Definition of Part-Time Local Pastors**
Committee Item: MN253-408.2-N
Petition:
22051-MN-408.2-D, Pg. 1449
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2259-408.5
**Subject: Eligibility of F.T. Local Pastors for election to General, Jurisdictional and Central Conferences**
Committee Item: MN254-408.5-N
Petition:
20255-MN-408.5-D, Pg. 1049
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2260-419
**Subject: Rights of Associate Members**
Committee Item: MN255-419-N
Petitions:
20257-MN-419.3-D, Pg. 1053;
20296-MN-419.3-D, Pg. 1053;
20388-MN-419-D, Pg. 1053;
20737-MN-419-D, Pg. 1053;
22059-MN-419-D, Pg. 1453;
23052-MN-419-D, Pg. 1454
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2261-420
**Subject: Elimination of Category of Associate Member**
Committee Item: MN256-420-N
Petitions:
20042-MN-420.1-D, Pg. 1053;
20389-MN-420-D, Pg. 1053;
20397-MN-420.1-D, Pg. 1053;
23053-MN-420-D, Pg. 1454
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2262-407
**Subject: Apprentice Ministers**
Committee Item: MN257-407-N
Petition:
23040-MN-407-D, Pg. 1448
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2263-407.5
**Subject: License as a Local Pastor**
Committee Item: MN258-407.5-N
Petition:
20395-MN-407.5-D, Pg. 1049
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2264-407.6
**Subject: License as a Local Pastor**
Committee Item: MN260-407.6-N
Petition:
21162-MN-407.6-D, Pg. 1049
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2265-317
**Subject: Qualifications for Ordination as a Deacon**
Committee Item: MN262-317-N
Petition:
22912-MN-317-D, Pg. 1504
Membership: 113; Present: 81;
For: 80; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2266-514
**Subject: Election of General Secretaries**
Committee Item: MN272-514-N
Petition:
20684-MN-514-D, Pg. 1078
Membership: 113; Present: 105;
For: 104; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2267-522
**Subject: Duties and Responsibilities of a Pastor**
Committee Item: MN278-522-N

Petition:
22085-MN-522-D, Pg. 1479
Membership: 113; Present: 105;
For: 104; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2268-533.2
**Subject: The Process of Appointment Making**
Committee Item: MN280-533.2-N
Petition:
22601-MN-533.2-D, Pg. 1482
Membership: 113; Present: 105;
For: 104; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2269-424
**Subject: Requirements for Admission to Full Connection and Ordination as Elder**
Committee Item: MN286-424-N
Petition:
22939-MN-424-D, Pg. 1507
Membership: 113; Present: 86;
For: 86; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2270-734.1
**Subject: Diaconal Ministry**
Committee Item: MN289-734.1-N
Petition:
20687-MN-734.1-D, Pg. 1087
Membership: 113; Present: 105;
For: 104; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2271-734.4
**Subject: Requirements for Certification of the Conference Board of Diaconal Ministry**
Committee Item: MN290-734.4-N
Petition:
21289-MN-734.4-D, Pg. 1088
Membership: 113; Present: 105;
For: 104; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2272-734.4
**Subject: Certification Requirement for the Conference Board of Diaconal Ministry**
Committee Item: MN291-734.4-N
Petition:
21290-MN-734.4-D, Pg. 1088
Membership: 113; Present: 105;
For: 104; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2273-734.1
**Subject: Membership of the Board of Diaconal Ministry**
Committee Item: MN292-734.1-N
Petition:
20469-MN-734.1-D, Pg. 1087
Membership: 113; Present: 105;
For: 104; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2274-734.1
**Subject: Membership of Annual Conference Board of Diaconal Ministry**
Committee Item: MN293-734.1-N
Petition:
22095-MN-734.1-D, Pg. 1483
Membership: 113; Present: 105;
For: 104; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2275-734.4
**Subject: Duties of the Conference Board of Diaconal Ministry for Certification**
Committee Item: MN294-734.4-N
Petition:
21288-MN-734.4-D, Pg. 1088
Membership: 113; Present: 105;
For: 104; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2276-734
**Subject: Conference Board of Diaconal Ministry**
Committee Item: MN295-734-N
Petition:
20512-MN-734-D, Pg. 1087
Membership: 113; Present: 105;
For: 104; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2277-734.1
**Subject: Conference Board of Diaconal Ministry**
Committee Item: MN296-734.1-N
Petition:
20833-MN-734.1-D, Pg. 1087
Membership: 113; Present: 105;
For: 104; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2278-734.1
**Subject: Conference Board of Diaconal Ministry**
Committee Item: MN297-734.1-N
Petition:
21287-MN-734.1-D, Pg. 1088
Membership: 113; Present: 105;
For: 104; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2279-734.1
**Subject: Conference Board of Diaconal Ministry**
Committee Item: MN298-734.1-N
Petition:
21653-MN-734.1-D, Pg. 1088
Membership: 113; Present: 105;
For: 104; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2280-407
**Subject: License as a Local Pastor**
Committee Item: MN299-407-N
Petition:
22940-MN-407-D, Pg. 1506
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2281-410
**Subject: Exiting, Reinstatement, and Retirement of Local Pastors**
Committee Item: MN300-410-N
Petition:
22942-MN-410-D, Pg. 1507
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2282-445.3
**Subject: Church Council and Clergy Growth Leave**
Committee Item: MN312-445.3-N
Petition:
20680-MN-445.3-D, Pg. 1063
Membership: 113; Present: 101;
For: 101; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2283-439
**Subject: Responsibilities and Duties of a Pastor**
Committee Item: MN313-439-N
Petition:
23005-MN-439-D, Pg. 1463
Membership: 113; Present: 101;
For: 101; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2284-439
**Subject: The Responsibilities of a Ministry Specialist**
Committee Item: MN314-439-N
Petition:
23068-MN-439-D, Pg. 1463
Membership: 113; Present: 101;
For: 101; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2285-445.4
**Subject: Eliminate Conference Council on Ministries**
Committee Item: MN315-445.4-N
Petition:
20681-MN-445.4-D, Pg. 1064
Membership: 113; Present: 101;
For: 101; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2286-403
**Subject: Transitional Provisions**
Committee Item: MN317-403-N
Petition:
23038-MN-403-D, Pg. 1446
Membership: 113; Present: 101;
For: 101; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2287-409
**Subject: Categories of Apprentice Minister**
Committee Item: MN321-409-N
Petitions:
21164-MN-409.1-D, Pg. 1050;
21165-MN-409.3-D, Pg. 1050;
21166-MN-409.4-D, Pg. 1050;
21167-MN-409.6-D, Pg. 1050;
23042-MN-409-D, Pg. 1449
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2288-733.1
**Subject: Conference Board of Ordained Ministry**
Committee Item: MN336-733.1-N
Petition:
20832-MN-733.1-D, Pg. 1086
Membership: 113; Present: 105;
For: 104; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2289-448.1
**Subject: Leave of Absence**
Committee Item: MN362-448.1-N
Petition:
20814-MN-448.1-D, Pg. 1466
Membership: 113; Present: 101;
For: 101; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2290-448.2
**Subject: Charge Conference Membership Requirements**
Committee Item: MN363-448.2-N
Petition:
20299-MN-448.2-D, Pg. 1065
Membership: 113; Present: 101;
For: 101; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2291-448.4
**Subject: Leave of Absence**
Committee Item: MN370-448.4-N
Petition:
21212-MN-448.4-D, Pg. 1065
Membership: 113; Present: 101;
For: 101; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2292-448
**Subject: Leave of Absence**
Committee Item: MN371-448-R
Petition:
20752-MN-448-D, Pg. 1464
Membership: 113; Present: 101;
For: 101; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends referral to GBHEM, Division of Ordained Ministry.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2293-448.1
**Subject: Leave of Absence**
Committee Item: MN372-448.1-N
Petition:
22596-MN-448.1-D, Pg. 1467
Membership: 113; Present: 101;
For: 101; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2294-409
**Subject: Continuance as a Local Pastor**
Committee Item: MN374-409-N
Petition:
22941-MN-409-D, Pg. 1506
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2295-411
**Subject: Mentors**
Committee Item: MN375-411-N
Petition:
22943-MN-411-D, Pg. 1507
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2296-420.1
**Subject: Requirements for Election as Associate Members**
Committee Item: MN376-420.1-N
Petitions:
21175-MN-421-D, Pg. 1053;
22061-MN-421-D, Pg. 1454;
22062-MN-421-D, Pg. 1454;
22693-MN-420.1-D, Pg. 1454
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2297-412.1
**Subject: General Provisions**
Committee Item: MN377-412.1-N
Petitions:
20828-MN-416.2-D, Pg. 1452;
20913-MN-412-D, Pg. 1450;
21169-MN-412.1-D, Pg. 1051;
21173-MN-419-D, Pg. 1053;
21174-MN-419.4-D, Pg. 1053;
22692-MN-414.4-D, Pg. 1451
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2298-437
**Subject: The Itinerant System**
Committee Item: MN378-437-N
Petition:
20281-MN-437-D, Pg. 1057
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2299-412
**Subject: Annual Conference membership of Local Pastors**
Committee Item: MN379-412-N
Petitions:
20112-MN-412.1-D, Pg. 1051;
20113-MN-412-D, Pg. 1051;
20336-MN-412-D, Pg. 1051;
22054-MN-412-D, Pg. 1450;
22055-MN-412.1-D, Pg. 1450;
22591-MN-412.1-D, Pg. 1450
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2300-411
**Subject: Change in Language Concerning Quadrennial Training of Counseling Elders**
Committee Item: MN380-411-N
Petition:
22053-MN-411-D, Pg. 1449
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2301-411
**Subject: Counseling Elders**
Committee Item: MN381-411-N
Petition:
22829-MN-411-D, Pg. 1449
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2302-411
**Subject: Certification**
Committee Item: MN382-411-N
Petition:
23044-MN-411-D, Pg. 1450
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2303-411.3
**Subject: Associate Members replacing Counseling Elders for Local Pastors**
Committee Item: MN383-411.3-N
Petition:
20295-MN-411.3-D, Pg. 1051
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2304-448.2
**Subject: Leave of Absence**
Committee Item: MN394-448.2-N
Petition:
20486-MN-448.2-D, Pg. 1065
Membership: 113; Present: 101;
For: 101; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2305-756.1
**Subject: Lay Members of the Dist. Committee on Ordained Ministry vote on all matters before Committee**
Committee Item: MN399-756.1-N
Petition:

20151-MN-756.1-D, Pg. 1089
Membership: 113; Present: 105;
For: 104; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2306-756.1
**Subject: Quadrennial Election of District Committees on Ordained Ministry**
Committee Item: MN400-756.1-N
Petition:
20265-MN-756.1-D, Pg. 1089
Membership: 113; Present: 105;
For: 104; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2307-756.1
**Subject: Extending Voting Privileges of Lay Persons on District Committee on Ordained Ministry**
Committee Item: MN405-756.1-N
Petition:
22097-MN-756.1-D, Pg. 1484
Membership: 113; Present: 105;
For: 104; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2308-756
**Subject: Committee on Ordained Ministry - Associate Member**
Committee Item: MN406-756-N
Petition:
22096-MN-756-D, Pg. 1484
Membership: 113; Present: 105;
For: 104; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2309-756.5
**Subject: District Committee on Ordained Ministry and Lay Preacher**
Committee Item: MN407-756.5-N
Petition:
22388-MN-756.5-D, Pg. 1484
Membership: 113; Present: 105;
For: 104; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2310-1526.12
**Subject: Responsibilities of the Division of Diaconal Ministry**
Committee Item: MN411-1526.12-N
Petition:
21463-MN-1526.12-D, Pg. 1089
Membership: 113; Present: 105;
For: 104; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2311-57
**Subject: President of the Council of Bishops**
Committee Item: MN420-57-N
Petition:
20678-MN-57-C, Pg. 1039
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2312-53
**Subject: Limitation of Tenure for Bishops**
Committee Item: MN421-53-N
Petition:
22038-MN-53-C, Pg. 1430
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2313-53
**Subject: Limitation of Tenure for Bishops**
Committee Item: MN422-53-N
Petition:
22039-MN-53-C, Pg. 1430
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2314-50
**Subject: Membership of the Council of Bishops**
Committee Item: MN423-50-N
Petition:
20677-MN-50-C, Pg. 1039
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2315-735.1
**Subject: Conference Committee on Episcopacy**
Committee Item: MN425-735.1-N
Petition:
20470-MN-735.1-D, Pg. 1088
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2316-534
**Subject: Frequency in Appointment Making**
Committee Item: MN427-534-N
Petition:
23034-MN-534-D, Pg. 1483
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2317-534
**Subject: Tenure in Local Church Appointments**
Committee Item: MN428-534-N
Petition:
22554-MN-534-D, Pg. 1483
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2318-533.5
**Subject: Appointment other than Pastor in Charge**
Committee Item: MN430-533.5-N
Petition:

20148-MN-533.5-D, Pg. 1084
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2319-533.5
**Subject: Multiple Staff**
Committee Item: MN431-533.5-N
Petition:
20147-MN-533.5-D, Pg. 1084
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2320-532
**Subject: Criteria in the Appointment Making Process**
Committee Item: MN432-532-N
Petition:
22092-MN-532-D, Pg. 1481
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2321-532.2
**Subject: Criteria in Appointment Making**
Committee Item: MN433-532.2-N
Petition:
22850-MN-532.2-D, Pg. 1481
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2322-533
**Subject: Consultation in Appointment-Making**
Committee Item: MN434-533-N
Petition:
20693-MN-533-D, Pg. 1083
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2323-533
**Subject: Process of Appointment Making**
Committee Item: MN435-533-N
Petition:
22851-MN-533-D, Pg. 1481
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2324-533
**Subject: Process of Appointment-Making**
Committee Item: MN436-533-N
Petition:
22872-MN-533-D, Pg. 1482
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2325-533
**Subject: Process of Appointment Making**
Committee Item: MN437-533-N
Petition:
23033-MN-533-D, Pg. 1482
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2326-533.2
**Subject: Age of Clergy and Appointment Making Process**
Committee Item: MN439-533.2-N
Petition:
22093-MN-533.2-D, Pg. 1482
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2327-530.2
**Subject: Appointment-Making Across Conference Lines**
Committee Item: MN440-530.2-N
Petition:
22090-MN-530.2-D, Pg. 1481
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2328-530.3
**Subject: Voluntary Consent of Conference Members to Transfer**
Committee Item: MN441-530.3-N
Petition:
22091-MN-530.3-D, Pg. 1481
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2329-531
**Subject: Appointment Making**
Committee Item: MN442-531-N
Petition:
22848-MN-531-D, Pg. 1481
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2330-531
**Subject: Consultation and Appointment Making**
Committee Item: MN443-531-N
Petition:
22849-MN-531-D, Pg. 1481
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2331-532
**Subject: Community Context in Appointment Making**
Committee Item: MN445-532-N
Petition:
21545-MN-532-D

Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2332-447
**Subject: Changes in Conference Relationship**
Committee Item: MN446-447-N
Petition:
21876-MN-447-D, Pg. 1011
Membership: 113; Present: 101;
For: 101; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2333-1529
**Subject: Responsibilities of the Division of Ordained Ministry**
Committee Item: MN450-1529-N
Petition:
22603-MN-1529-D, Pg. 1485
Membership: 113; Present: 105;
For: 104; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2334-529.3
**Subject: Accountability of District Superintendents**
Committee Item: MN453-529.3-N
Petition:
22386-MN-529.3-D, Pg. 1480
Membership: 113; Present: 105;
For: 104; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2335-756.1
**Subject: The District Committee on Ordained Ministry**
Committee Item: MN454-756.1-N
Petition:
22698-MN-756.1-D, Pg. 1484
Membership: 113; Present: 105;
For: 104; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2336-733.1
**Subject: Conference Board of Ordained Ministry**
Committee Item: MN455-733.1-N
Petition:
22697-MN-733.1-D, Pg. 1483
Membership: 113; Present: 105;
For: 104; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2337-1529
**Subject: Responsibilities of the Division of Ordained Ministry**
Committee Item: MN457-1529-N
Petition:
22604-MN-1529-D, Pg. 1485
Membership: 113; Present: 105;
For: 104; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2338-1529.7
**Subject: Responsibilities of the Division of Ordained Ministry**
Committee Item: MN458-1529.7-N
Petition:
22100-MN-1529.7-D, Pg. 1485
Membership: 113; Present: 105;
For: 104; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2339-733.2
**Subject: Recommendation of Conference Approved Interim Pastors**
Committee Item: MN459-733.2-N
Petition:
20150-MN-733.2-D, Pg. 1087
Membership: 113; Present: 105;
For: 104; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2340-1529
**Subject: Certification Standards for Conference-Approved Interim Pastors**
Committee Item: MN460-1529-N
Petition:
20119-MN-1529-D, Pg. 1090
Membership: 113; Present: 105;
For: 104; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2341-1529
**Subject: Specific Responsibilities of the Division of Ordained Ministry**
Committee Item: MN463-1529-N
Petition:
20959-MN-1529-D, Pg. 1090
Membership: 113; Present: 105;
For: 104; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2342-735
**Subject: Conference Committee on Episcopacy**
Committee Item: MN469-735-N
Petition:
20513-MN-735-D, Pg. 1088
Membership: 113; Present: 105;
For: 104; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2343-452.1
**Subject: Mandatory Retirement**
Committee Item: MN471-452.1-N
Petition:
21024-MN-452.1-D, Pg. 1467
Membership: 113; Present: 101;
For: 101; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2344-452.1
**Subject: Mandatory Retirement of Clergy**
Committee Item: MN472-452.1-N
Petitions:

20116-MN-452.1-D, Pg. 1068;
20300-MN-452.1-D, Pg. 1068;
23073-MN-452.1-D
Membership: 113; Present: 101;
For: 101; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2345-452.6
**Subject: Appointment of Retired Ordained Ministers**
Committee Item: MN473-452.6-N
Petition:
20829-MN-452.6-D, Pg. 1467
Membership: 113; Present: 101;
For: 101; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2346-452
**Subject: Pension Liability of Retired Ordained Clergy**
Committee Item: MN476-452-N
Petition:
20138-MN-452-D, Pg. 1067
Membership: 113; Present: 101;
For: 101; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2347-452.5
**Subject: Retired Ministers' Report**
Committee Item: MN480-452.5-N
Petition:
22417-MN-452.5-D, Pg. 1467
Membership: 113; Present: 101;
For: 101; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2348-452.5
**Subject: Rights of Retired Ordained Ministers**
Committee Item: MN481-452.5-N
Petition:
22373-MN-452.5-D, Pg. 1467
Membership: 113; Present: 101;
For: 101; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2349-452.6
**Subject: Retired Ordained Ministers**
Committee Item: MN483-452.6-N
Petition:
22695-MN-452.6-D, Pg. 1468
Membership: 113; Present: 86;
For: 86; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2350-448
**Subject: Leave of Absence**
Committee Item: MN485-448-N
Petition:
21520-MN-448-D, Pg. 1466
Membership: 113; Present: 86;
For: 86; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2351-NonDis
**Subject: Revision of The Ordination of Elders**
Committee Item: MN486-NonDis-R
Petitions:
22010-MN-NonDis-O, Pg. 1026;
22011-MN-NonDis-O, Pg. 1030;
22012-MN-NonDis-O, Pg. 1037
Membership: 113; Present: 99;
For: 99; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/21

The Committee recommends referral to GBOD

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2352-402
**Subject: Clergy Members as Employees of the Annual Conference**
Committee Item: MN488-402-N
Petition:
22823-MN-402-D, Pg. 1442
Membership: 113; Present: 86;
For: 86; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2353-442
**Subject: Appointments beyond the Local United Methodist Church**
Committee Item: MN490-442-N
Petition:
20398-MN-442-D, Pg. 1059
Membership: 113; Present: 86;
For: 86; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2354-1529.5
**Subject: Responsibilities of Division of Ordained Ministry**
Committee Item: MN498-1529.5-N
Petition:
20694-MN-1529.5-D, Pg. 1090
Membership: 113; Present: 105;
For: 104; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2355-423.2
**Subject: Rights and Responsibilities of Members**
Committee Item: MN499-423.2-N
Petition:
22694-MN-423.2-D, Pg. 1456
Membership: 113; Present: 85;
For: 85; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2356-423.1
**Subject: Rights and Responsibilities**
Committee Item: MN500-423.1-N
Petition:
22838-MN-423.1-D, Pg. 1456
Membership: 113; Present: 86;
For: 86; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2357-423.1
**Subject: Rights and Responsibilities of Full Clergy Members**
Committee Item: MN501-423.1-N
Petition:
22592-MN-423.1-D, Pg. 1456

Membership: 113; Present: 85;
For: 85; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2358-423
**Subject: Rights and Responsibilities of Full Members**
Committee Item: MN502-423-N
Petition:
20914-MN-423-D, Pg. 1455
Membership: 113; Present: 85;
For: 85; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2359-423.2
**Subject: Rights and Responsibilities of Clergy Members**
Committee Item: MN507-423.2-N
Petition:
20739-MN-423.2-D, Pg. 1054
Membership: 113; Present: 86;
For: 86; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2360-423
**Subject: Rights and Responsibilities**
Committee Item: MN509-423-N
Petition:
20738-MN-423-D, Pg. 1054
Membership: 113; Present: 85;
For: 85; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2361-426.4
**Subject: Ordained Ministers from Other Nations - Affiliate Members**
Committee Item: MN510-426.4-N
Petition:
22066-MN-426.4-D, Pg. 1458
Membership: 113; Present: 86;
For: 86; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2362-424.3
**Subject: Associate Members Prior to Elimination of Category**
Committee Item: MN515-424.3-N
Petition:
22065-MN-424.3-D, Pg. 1485
Membership: 113; Present: 86;
For: 86; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2363-424
**Subject: The Ordained Ministry**
Committee Item: MN516-424-N
Petition:
22840-MN-424-D, Pg. 1456
Membership: 113; Present: 85;
For: 85; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2364-424
**Subject: Requirements for Admission**
Committee Item: MN517-424-N
Petition:
22839-MN-424-D, Pg. 1456
Membership: 113; Present: 85;
For: 85; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2365-424.3
**Subject: Admission and continuance of Full membership in Annual Conference**
Committee Item: MN519-424.3-N
Petition:
20297-MN-424.3-D, Pg. 1055
Membership: 113; Present: 86;
For: 86; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2366-424
**Subject: The Practice of Ministry**
Committee Item: MN522-424-N
Petition:
22064-MN-424-D, Pg. 1456
Membership: 113; Present: 86;
For: 86; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2367-418
**Subject: Discontinuance from Probationary Membership**
Committee Item: MN523-418-N
Petition:
22691-MN-418-D, Pg. 1453
Membership: 113; Present: 81;
For: 80; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2368-424
**Subject: Elder Candidates**
Committee Item: MN525-424-N
Petition:
20534-MN-424-D, Pg. 1054
Membership: 113; Present: 81;
For: 80; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2369-414.8
**Subject: Qualifications for Election to Probationary Membership**
Committee Item: MN527-414.8-N
Petition:
22825-MN-414.8-D, Pg. 1452
Membership: 113; Present: 81;
For: 80; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2370-414.4
**Subject: Qualification for Election to Probationary Membership**
Committee Item: MN530-414.4-N
Petition:
20396-MN-414.4-D, Pg. 1052
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**2371**-316
**This calendar item was incorrectly recorded on PETS and was given a calendar item out of sequence and can be found on page 543.**

**2372**-437.4
**Subject: The Itinerant System**
Committee Item: MN587-437.4-N
Petition:
22594-MN-437.4-D, Pg. 1462
Membership: 113; Present: 85;
For: 85; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**2373**-431.6
**Subject: Qualifications for Ordination**
Committee Item: MN588-431.6-N
Petition:
22841-MN-431.6-D, Pg. 1459
Membership: 113; Present: 86;
For: 86; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**2374**-433
**Subject: Classification of Ordination**
Committee Item: MN590-433-N
Petition:
20810-MN-433-D, Pg. 1459
Membership: 113; Present: 86;
For: 86; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**2375**-435.3
**Subject: The Order of Elder**
Committee Item: MN591-435.3-N
Petition:
20811-MN-435.3-D, Pg. 1460
Membership: 113; Present: 85;
For: 85; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**2376**-436
**Subject: Ordained Ministry**
Committee Item: MN593-436-N
Petition:
22070-MN-436-D, Pg. 1460
Membership: 113; Present: 85;
For: 85; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**2377**-435
**Subject: The Order of Elders**
Committee Item: MN597-435-N
Petition:
20303-MN-435-D, Pg. 1056
Membership: 113; Present: 86;
For: 86; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**2378**-435.4
**Subject: Certificate to Ordination to those Ordained as Elders**
Committee Item: MN598-435.4-N
Petition:
20045-MN-435.4-D, Pg. 1056
Membership: 113; Present: 85;
For: 85; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**2379**-436
**Subject: Appointments to Various Ministries**
Committee Item: MN600-436-N
Petition:
20740-MN-436-D, Pg. 1056
Membership: 113; Present: 86;
For: 86; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**2380**-437
**Subject: Itinerate System**
Committee Item: MN603-437-N
Petition:
20114-MN-437-D, Pg. 1057
Membership: 113; Present: 86;
For: 86; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**2381**-437
**Subject: The Itinerant System**
Committee Item: MN604-437-N
Petition:
21187-MN-437-D, Pg. 1057
Membership: 113; Present: 86;
For: 86; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**2382**-443.1
**Subject: Categories of Appointment**
Committee Item: MN611-443.1-N
Petition:
20485-MN-443.1-D, Pg. 1060
Membership: 113; Present: 86;
For: 86; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**2383**-443.1
**Subject: Appointments within the Connectional Structures of United Methodism**
Committee Item: MN612-443.1-N
Petition:
21104-MN-443.1-D, Pg. 1060
Membership: 113; Present: 86;
For: 86; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**2384**-443.1
**Subject: Appointments to Ministries in Ecumenical Settings**
Committee Item: MN613-443.1-N
Petition:
21105-MN-443.1-D, Pg. 1061
Membership: 113; Present: 86;
For: 86; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**2385**-426.2
**Subject: Ministers from Other Denominations**
Committee Item: MN618-426.2-N
Petition:
21516-MN-426.2-D
Membership: 113; Present: 86;
For: 86; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**2386**-437
**Subject: Part-Time or Bi-Vocational Ministry**
Committee Item: MN620-437-N
Petition:
22071-MN-437-D, Pg. 1461
Membership: 113; Present: 85;
For: 85; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**2387**-431.9
**Subject: Qualifications for Ordination**
Committee Item: MN622-431.9-N
Petition:
22593-MN-431.9-D, Pg. 1459
Membership: 113; Present: 86;
For: 86; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**2388**-NonDis
**Subject: Ecumenical Commitment within Our Theological Task**
Committee Item: MN624-NonDis-N
Petition:
20822-MN-NonDis-O, Pg. 1286
Membership: 113; Present: 86;
For: 86; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**2389**-448
**Subject: Ecumenical Affiliation**
Committee Item: MN625-448-N
Petition:
20815-MN-448-D, Pg. 1466
Membership: 113; Present: 86;
For: 86; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**2390**-533.7
**Subject: Process of Appointment-Making**
Committee Item: MN626-533.7-N
Petition:
22600-MN-533.7-D, Pg. 1482
Membership: 113; Present: 86;
For: 86; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**2391**-431.10
**Subject: Qualifications of Ordination**
Committee Item: MN627-431.10-N
Petition:
22067-MN-431.10-D, Pg. 1459
Membership: 113; Present: 85;
For: 85; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**2392**-443.1
**Subject: Categories of Appointment**
Committee Item: MN724-443.1-N
Petition:
21492-MN-443.1-D, Pg. 1062
Membership: 113; Present: 80;
For: 80; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**2393**-NonDis
**Subject: The Order of Elder**
Committee Item: MN725-NonDis-N
Petition:
22632-MN-NonDis-O, Pg. 1498
Membership: 113; Present: 86;
For: 77; Against: 9; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**2394**-452.6
**Subject: Appointment of Retired Ordained Ministers**
Committee Item: MN726-452.6-N
Petition:
20282-MN-452.6-D, Pg. 1069
Membership: 113; Present: 101;
For: 101; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**2395**-318
**Subject: The Ordained Deacon**
Committee Item: MN727-318-N
Petitions:
22913-MN-318-D, Pg. 1504;
22914-MN-319-D, Pg. 1505;
22915-MN-320-D, Pg. 1505
Membership: 113; Present: 81;
For: 80; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**2396**-733.1
**Subject: Extending Voting Privileges of Lay Persons on the Board of Ordained Ministry**
Committee Item: MN729-733.1-N
Petition:
21532-MN-733.1-D
Membership: 113; Present: 86;
For: 86; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**2397**-NonDis
**Subject: Restoration of Pastoral Leadership**
Committee Item: MN730-NonDis-N
Petition:
22700-MN-NonDis-O, Pg. 1498
Membership: 113; Present: 96;
For: 96; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**2398**-310
**Subject: Service Appointment of Diaconal Ministers**
Committee Item: MN734-310-N
Petitions:
20907-MN-310-D, Pg. 1041;
21143-MN-307-D, Pg. 1041;
21144-MN-309-D, Pg. 1041;
21145-MN-310.1-D, Pg. 1041;
21146-MN-310.3-D, Pg. 1041;
21147-MN-311-D, Pg. 1041;
21148-MN-312-D, Pg. 1042
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/24

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**2399**-448.2
**Subject: Leave of Absence**
Committee Item: MN735-448.2-N
Petition:
20399-MN-448.2-D, Pg. 1065
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/24

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**2400**-53
**Subject: Episcopal Tenure**
Committee Item: MN736-53-N
Petition:
20825-MN-53-C, Pg. 1430
Membership: 113; Present: 72;
For: 71; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/24

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**2401**-313
**Subject: Family Leave**
Committee Item: MN737-313-N
Petitions:
20852-MN-313-D, Pg. 1042;
21150-MN-313.1-D, Pg. 1042
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/24

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

# Calendar Items

**2402**-71
**Subject: Ceremonies that Celebrate Homosexual Unions**
Committee Item: CS196-71-C
Petition:
22493-CS-71-D, Pg. 1212
Membership: 102; Present: 59;
For: 29; Against: 25; Not Voting: 5;
Date: 4/23

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**2403**-71
**Subject: Covenant Relationships**
Committee Item: CS197-71-N
Petition:
22301-CS-71-D, Pg. 1213
Membership: 102; Present: 59;
For: 37; Against: 18; Not Voting: 4;
Date: 4/23

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**2404**-70
**Subject: The Natural World (Referral from Plenary Session)**
Committee Item: CS209-70-N
Petition:
23081-CS-70-D
Membership: 102; Present: 61;
For: 37; Against: 23; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/23

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**2405**-406.1
**Subject: Definition of "Charge"**
Committee Item: MN237-406.1-A
Petition:
20294-MN-406.1-D, Pg. 1048
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 71; Against: 17; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Substitute **community** for congregation

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**2406**-533.5
**Subject: The Process of Appointment Making**
Committee Item: MN429-533.5-C
Petition:
21286-MN-533.5-D, Pg. 1084
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 63; Against: 23; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**2407**-527.5-$
**Subject: Committee on Theological Dialogue**
Committee Item: MN467-527.5-A$
Petition:
22385-MN-527.5-D$, Pg. 1480
Membership: 113; Present: 71;
For: 60; Against: 11; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Delete everything after and including the second to last sentence which begins, Estimated annual budget for the Committee is $40,000...

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**2408**-208
**Subject: Church Membership**
Committee Item: MN537-208-C
Petition:
21902-MN-208-D, Pg. 1014

Membership: 113; Present: 83; For: 66; Against: 15; Not Voting: 2; Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

# Removed from the Consent Calendar

## 1702-505
CO177-505-A

Removed from consent calendar A05 by the following delegates:

Siaba, Judith E.;

Cook, Beth L.;

Hamrick, Leon;

Martin, Flo S.;

Cook, Shirley.

## 1760-1907.1
GJ205-1907-A

Removed from consent calendar A05 by the following delegates:

Swiggett, Ernest L.;

Carrington, John E.;

Nicodemus, Richard;

Fowlkes, Nancy;

Henderson, Dolores H..

## 1772-270.1
LC47-270-A

Removed from consent calendar A05 by the following delegates:

Foster, James W.;

Guidry, Francis E.W.;

Palmer, Ruth G.;

Matthis, Morris F.;

Hataway, Joan.

## 1796-1529.14
MN465-1529-C

Removed from consent calendar A05 by the following delegates:

Williams, Tullalah F.;

Stewart, Carl E.;

Bowdan, Mel;

Brown, Jr. Warner H.;

Barnett, Jeanne.

## 1810-NonD
FA207-NonDis-A

This calendar item was determined to have financial implications and was removed from consent calendar B05 by the Coordinator of the Calendar.

## 1900-1412.3
GJ196-1412-A

This calendar item was incorrectly recorded in PETS. It is really concurrence as amended and has been removed from consent calendar C05 by the Coordinator of the Calendar.

## 1957-442
MN389-442-A

This calendar item was incorrectly recorded in PETS. It is really concurrence as amended and has been removed from consent calendar C05 by the Coordinator of the Calendar.


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*C.* **Wesley Chapel.** 4" x 7" x 5½". **$35.95**
*D.* **Wesley Chapel Paperweight.** 2¼" x 3¼" x 4½". **$12.95**
*E.* **Bookends.** 2 sets available: Circuit rider and Wesley/Asbury busts. Bronze finish. Each measures 6½" x 4½" x 4". **$49.95**
*F.* **Francis Asbury Bust.** Bronze finish. 6½" high.Also available: John Wesley bust. **$19.95**
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DCA-347-6

# Proceedings of the 1996 General Conference of The United Methodist Church

## The Committee On Journal

The Committee On Journal hereby certifies as accurate, with the following corrections, the proceedings as printed in the *Daily Christian Advocate* for Monday, April 24, 1996.

*Daily Edition*, page 496, column 3, line 2, add "General Conference" following "our."

*Daily Edition*, page 509, column 1, line 5 from the bottom, should read "converse" rather than "conversation."

**Reported by William Reasner**
**Chair, Committee On Journal**
(C13, seat 2)

## Tuesday Afternoon April 23, 1996

*Bishop David Lawson, presiding*

BISHOP DAVID LAWSON (Illinois area): And now delegates to the General Conference, this session is in order. The only person who has a right to speak is the person speaking at this moment. Will you please be seated quickly so we can do our work. Thank you for moving quickly to your seats. Thank you guests for taking your seats as an example to those who were supposed to be out here. We are going to begin with some music. Thank you for leading us.

CYNTHIA WILSON-FELDER: If you have a hymnal, you will look with me at number 191 in your hymnal. We'll do "Jesus Loves Me," in the English and then we'll do the Cherokee and then the German.

*(hymn)*

BISHOP LAWSON: We turn now to the General Judicial Administration report. We are calling on David Severe to give us leadership at this point. David.

*Introduction to Judicial and General Administration Report*

DAVID L. SEVERE: (Oklahoma): Bishop and members of the conference, the members of the Judicial and General Administration legislative committee wish to express their deep gratitude for the excellent report submitted to the General Conference by the bishops and their study on the global nature of the church. As our spiritual and temporal leaders they have set a direction before us that is visionary, challenging, and sensitive to God's leading spirit in our time. We are profoundly grateful to them and are eager to lean into that future which they are discerning. We also wish to thank the members of the General Council on Ministries and the Connectional Issues Task Force, which has fulfilled the mandate of the General Conference to lead us all in a time of discernment and reflection as we seek God's new direction for the United Methodist Church into the 21st century. We commend them that they have not rushed to a judgment shaped by a change-for-change-sake attitude, nor have they under the pressure of providing a done-deal kind of package provided us with a cut and paste proposal which simply moves the blocks around, lops off a section here or there and lets it go. Rather they have offered to us an interactive process by which and through which we may all join together to discern God's stirrings in our times at all levels of our great church, from the local, the district, the conference, and the general arenas of the church. The legislative committee's report is found on page 235 of your blue *DCA*. It is calendar item 764. There is one correction that we need to make that is an error in the printing. If you will turn to page 253, the last four paragraphs of that page on the right hand side were to have been omitted and were so voted by the legislative committee and inadvertently were included again in the printing when it was finally done. We apologize for that, but that is not material that is before us because the substance of these paragraphs have already been incorporated in recommendations 1 and 2 from the legislative committee. They are not a part of what we are to deal with now. Using the interactive method which the CIS study describes, the sub-committee which dealt with the report took up the task of reviewing and ultimately refining the four recommendations with which they concluded that report. With great appreciation for the work of GCOM, the legislative committee voted 90 to 2 with no abstentions to receive the report. It is my pleasure to introduce Dr. Rex Bevins, the chair of the sub-committee on the Connectional Issues Study for the legislative committee, who will lead us in the presentation of the recommendations that they are making. Dr. Bevins.

REX BEVINS (Nebraska): Thank you David. Bishop and members of the conference, we now come to a crucial time of decision making regarding one of the critical issues facing this General Conference. Please note that I said, "one;" there are a number of critical issues. And as we approach this decision, we confront two major questions, I think. Can we be open to the leading of the Holy Spirit as we reshape this church that we all know and love? And in the

reshaping of the church, can we create structures that are open and flexible enough to deal with the enormous changes that are taking place all around us?

*Judicial and General Administration Subcommittee*

I came to this General Conference skeptical about the Connectional Issues Study and its recommendations. But, I resolved to come with a commitment to lend my efforts to creating a process that would make a difference in the life of our church and to keep an open mind. And, I must say that in the discussions in our legislative committee and in the comments around the edges, my mind has been changed.

I think what we have in the Bishops' Report on the Global Nature of the Church, and also in the Connectional Issues Study are two tributaries that come together now to create a flowing stream which provides the basis for moving forward in the church and shaping it in a way that it can be relevant to the future and bring us into the 21st century with strength and vitality. In our legislative committee, we divided into three legislative groups.

I want to name the officers of the legislative committee. I served as the chair of that subcommittee, Sandra Ferguson as the vice chair, and John Cooke as the secretary. We divided then into three subcommittees, one on the Connectional Issues Study and the Global Nature of the Church, Carl Schenck chaired that committee and the vice chair was Barbara Wendland, and the secretary John Cooke. We had a subcommittee also on membership of general agencies the chair of that committee was Marcus Fang, the vice chair was Jim Holsinger, along with Anna Workman and Kathi Austin Mahle and the secretary was Elaine Stanovsky. Then, a third subcommittee was at work and some of their work is figured into this too. It was the committee on the future of the GCOM and its work, and it was chaired by Patricia Farris, the vice chair was Conrad Page, the secretary was Stan Sager.

C. REX BEVINS (Nebraska): I've chaired a few legislative committees at General Conference, and rarely have I found a legislative committee that has applied itself to, I think a very complex and difficult task, with such commitment and energy and effort. Our recommendations start on page 235; but really, much of that material has already been presented to us, so I call your attention to page 251 in the *DCA*. And I'll call upon Carl Schenck now, the chair of the Connectional Issues and Global Natures Subcommittee to come and lead us through recommendations one and two.

*Proposal for Actions on Connectional Issues Study*

CARL L. SCHENCK (Missouri East): Thank you, Rex, Bishop, and delegates. It is with real pride and pleasure that I stand before you to present the work of the sub-subcommittee that dealt with recommendations one, two, and four of the Connectional Issues Study. Those recommendations are found in your blue *DCA*, beginning on page 251. The entire Connectional Issues report is before us. As we deal with this report, we deal in some very profound ways with the future of our church in the next millennium.

*Proposed Connectional Process Team*

You will find on 251 that your legislative committee has amended recommendation one; and the amended recommendation begins in the second column on page 252. This has been before you, and I would like to simply highlight a few things in recommendations one and two. You will notice that recommendation one calls for the creation of a Connectional Process Team whose work shall be limited to the 1996-2000 quadrennium; and its general task is to manage, guide, and promote the transformation of the church. That transformation comes as it manages the two streams that Rex spoke of from the Bishops' Study of the Global Nature and of the Connectional Issues Study.

Its specific purposes are listed under paragraph "A," and that is to receive the data from those two great quadrennial studies which we have before us. In point two, also, to consider all those things that have come before this General Conference. There are many petitions from many parts of the church, most particularly a great number from the Western North Carolina Conference, that touch on the work of this report and this proposed Process Team. If you adopt this report, it will commend all of that material to the Process Team as it establishes itself and does its work across the quadrennium.

On point six of "A" you will notice that its mode is to be an interactive organizational process to clarify the mission of the general boards and agencies for their work in supporting and resourcing the church, and to seek ways to develop the most faithful structure for our denomination and its witness for the century ahead. In point eight, you will notice again that it calls upon development of structural forms and, in point nine, leans upon the regional and Global Nature of the Church. In point ten, then, there's a call for affiliate and autonomous churches to dialogue with us. And one of my great hopes and dreams would be that, perhaps through this effort, our church would become global in such a way that many of our brothers and sisters in Christ who did not have the freedom to develop Wesleyan structures and styles appropriate to their own context within our current *Discipline* would find in a new form the opportunity once again to be a part of one broad United Methodist Church across the globe.

*Membership of Connectional Process Team*

Section "B" has to do with the proposed membership of the CPT. It will

have 31 members plus up to seven additional members for inclusion and expertise. The 24 basic members will come from the five geographical jurisdictions in the U.S. and from the five continents around the world where our church is heavily represented. There will be in sub-paragraph two, as I said, up to seven additional. There will be six bishops, half from the U.S., half from the central conferences; a person linking to GCFA; and in paragraph five of section "B" the requirements for inclusiveness, including the requirement that the majority of the members shall be lay.

All of these folks, if you adopt the report, will be nominated by us here during this week by the Council of Bishops and will be elected by the General Conference. And the CPT will belong to the General Conference. It will not belong to any board or agency. It will be elected by you, and it will belong to this house until it reports at the next General Conference.

Paragraphs "C" through "G" address various ways in which the group will organize for its work, and I won't review them. And those paragraphs then end recommendation one.

Bishop, should we look at recommendation two and on through? How do you wish to do this?

BISHOP LAWSON: It is my understanding that we have a minority report attached to your report. It would seem, then, that what you would need to do is to present your entire recommendation and follow that by the minority report, and then we'll drop into normal process.

SCHENCK: Thank you. I will present, also, recommendation two on page 253. You will note it also was substantially amended by your legislative committee; and in the bold print in the middle of the second column, you will see that it calls on this conference to approve in principle the interactive organizational process for mission and ministry. This is a principle that lifts up words that are becoming dear to us. Words like flexible, responsive, local and global, interactive, collaborative, and accountable. This is an overview of recommendations one and two.

Now I will yield to Jim Holsinger of our legislative committee who will present recommendation three. As you have heard, recommendation four was deleted by the legislative committee.

BISHOP LAWSON: Do those two recommendations represent the total of your recommendations? They do not. Jim.

*Proposal to Reduce Membership of General Boards and Agencies*

JIM HOLSINGER (Kentucky): Bishop, members of the Conference, if you will look at recommendation number three as it's been amended. The major issue before us in this recommendation is that this will reduce the number of individuals serving on general boards and agencies of this denomination to a maximum of 640 members. As our sub-subcommittee under the leadership of Marcus Fang worked hard on this particular recommendation, we did it with a small team that consisted of myself and Anna Workman and several individuals from the staff of the General Council on Ministries who had previously worked on this material for the Connectional Issues Task Force. Now while I am beginning this presentation, I would like for our pages to hand out white sheet number one to all the members of the General Conference.

As we worked on this particular piece, we knew that it would be impossible for us to be able to cramp this number that is recommended here and have it approved either by our legislative committee or by this body without presenting to the group the data that it took us to come to that number. If you will look on page 310 in your blue *DCA*, item number 856 deals with paragraph 805. This is the implementing legislation that will implement this number of 640 that is in recommendation three.

In addition, there are petitions that will implement by each general board and agency the number that will come to 640. I would add that both paragraph 805 and all the implementing legislation will be found in either today or succeeding days' consent calendars. Our work together as a task force on this sub-subcommittee was a lot of fun and a lot of hard work. We burned a lot of not just midnight oil, but 2 a.m. to 4 a.m. oil in an attempt to do this. In addition, as a sub-subcommittee, we worked very carefully together. We never took a vote on this issue. We did this by consensus, and since I am no longer a federal employee, but now am an academic, I would use the term collegial, but interactive is the style of what we are talking about today in this General Conference.

The first issue that was before us was how to size the particular pool of individuals that would come, under paragraph 805, to the general boards and agencies of the denomination.

*Size Categories of Annual Conferences*

You will see on the white page labeled number 1, we have amended 805 to be able to have four different categories, which have up to 75,000-member conferences; those annual conferences of 75,000 to 150,000; those from 150,000 to 225; and those that are over 225. And each conference is guaranteed five conference members who would be on one of the 13 general agencies of the church. Those with 75 to 150,000 would have an additional individual that could serve. Those with 150 to 225,000 would have two. And those with over 225,000 would have three additional over that base eight.

If you will turn the sheet over, you will see the impact of this upon the central conferences. All seven central conferences, including the new central conference of Zaire, will have five individuals, as indicated here. Those annual conferences in the central conferences with 75 to 150,000 would have one additional; those with 150 to 225,000, two additional; and the single

one, North Shaba, with more than 225,000 would have three members.

We've used exactly the same numbers as we have used for the U.S. annual conferences. Now with those numbers, we were able to come up with the fact that this would increase the base number that was originally presented by the Connectional Issues Task Force by 20. We were able to spread those 20—three of which were in central conferences, 17 within the jurisdictional conferences—to arrive at a number of 420 that will appear on the next page.

*Membership Distribution of Boards and Agencies*

And if the pages would please hand out the buff-colored page titled number 2. As we worked on developing the specific target number of individuals per board and agency of this church in a variety of different categories, those categories are found in paragraph 805. They provide us with jurisdictional and central conference, basic and supplemental members, as you will see when you receive this sheet.

On the first line, it includes individuals from the central conferences. On the second line, those are basic members from the central conferences. In the case of the General Council on Ministries, there is a specific category of youth and young adults. Then there is a category in the implementing petitions of additional members. As you will recall we will continue to have members from the autonomous church in Puerto Rico during this next quadrennium. It includes the bishops, and for the total that you see at the bottom of that page for each general agency of the church.

As we worked on this and spread these numbers, we were able to provide this particular composite and arrive at a number of 632. Within the 640 that we are recommending that we not exceed in the third recommendation, in the Connectional Issue Study recommendations.

I will indicate to you where there are some things that may make it interesting to try to figure out exactly what we did. But, for example, the Women's Division of the General Board of Global Ministries includes 30 members elected by the Women's Division through their process. The General Board of Discipleship includes five jurisdictional United Methodist Men's presidents. And we have five jurisdictional presidents of archives and history in the 14 base members that you see there.

And in the case of the Board of Pension, those 22 include 16 from the jurisdictions and six that are elected by the General Conference. In the case of the central conferences, as you know, seven central conferences times five base members each, should reach to a number of 35. You see 30 in that far right-hand column. If you come down in the General Board of Global Ministries under additional members there are five central conference members of that 35 that are found in addition to the General Board of Global Ministries.

As you continue to come on down, in the case of youth and young adults, the enabling legislation in 805 recommends that 10 percent of each general board and agency be youth and young adults, split as equally as possible between the two groups. In the case of the five youth and young adults in the General Council on Ministries, those are split, I think it is in the legislation, two youth and three young adults.

That 10 percent figure would carry off across the entire page, and would represent about 56, at a minimum, youth and young adults, depending upon how one rounds down odd numbers, or rounds them up. It could be obviously much beyond that.

*Legal Requirements for Membership of Pensions and Publications*

In the case of two boards, publications and pensions, both of their young adult or youth members would be young adults because these are corporate boards that require individuals being over age 18 to serve.

Additional members, are as you see in front of you, seven members from the Puerto Rico autonomous church. There are 51 bishops assigned to these 13 boards. We reached that number by working very hard to make sure that we were looking at the oversight responsibilities of our episcopal leaders. In the case, for example, of the General Council on Ministries, there would be one bishop from each of the five jurisdictions and one from the central conference.

In the case of the General Board of Global Ministries, there would be one from each of the five U.S. jurisdictions plus three central conferences. And then for the other three large program boards, Church and Society, Higher Education and Ministry, and Discipleship, we would expect that the bishops would elect five from the United States and the legislation reads at least one from the central conferences.

The rest of those then remained as they were initially presented by the legislation from ...

BISHOP LAWSON: I just got a signal from the translators that they're having trouble moving at your rate with these numbers. If you could speak just a tad slower, that would help.

HOLSINGER: I'll slow up. I was trying to help move this along. But I can be happy to slow up.

If the pages would pass out gray sheet number 3. The number 632 that comes from that total of board membership that you see on the bottom row of page number 2, the buff-colored, we worked diligently to try to maintain equity and fairness across the five jurisdictions. And if you look at the number of 420 at the top of the page, those 420 are basically spread across the five jurisdictions by the particular agencies you see on page number three, the gray piece of paper.

Now, lest you all think that we did not have an adequate calculator, the bottom totals do not add to 420. And there is a reason for that. And the

reason for that is that in order to take care of some of the nominations that had already been proposed by the Council of Bishops, for example, three of the members that would normally have appeared on that row, for example, show up in the nine additional members at GCFA, to make sure that all of those individuals are able to serve.

We also have three Women's Division elected individuals that show up in the General Commission on Status and Role of Women. There are a variety of other places within this overall chart where the additional few people show up to make this come to 420. In the case of each one of the five jurisdictions, it ranges from one to three individuals more in the total number, that would be called for in paragraph 805, than you see in this particular chart.

*Legislative Committee Votes Approval*

The result of this was that we had a vote to approve 805 with only one negative vote, as you can see on page 311. That was 87 for, one against. In the 10 petitions handled by our legislative committee, there was a unanimous vote on each one of those for the particular agency involved.

In the case of the three that came through the Financial Administration Legislative Committee, if I remember correctly, all three will appear on the Consent Calendar as well.

I would like to tell you that at the time that we met as a legislative committee to adopt this, I threatened mayhem and other types of difficulties should anyone wish to amend this proposal. There are ungodly numbers of human hours in this vote before it arrived at the General Conference and since we have worked to try to perfect it. It is not perfect. But we have, we believe, gone a long ways to perfecting this particular report.

Every piece interdigitates. That's why there are multiple charts that arrive at the place where we are. The result of which, though, is as I said we had great unanimity among a very diverse group of our membership in this General Conference who served on this legislative committee. Thank you, Bishop.

BISHOP LAWSON: Thank you and now we. Yes?

BISHOP WILLIAM DEW: I want to give you some information. The General Council on Ministry—which has the right to give its' report to you for action—has accepted the legislative committee's report on these matters of the Connectional Issues Study and the membership size of general agencies.

BISHOP LAWSON: Thank you for that clarification, that's most helpful. We now turn to the presentation of our minority report. Mr. Langford, are you the spokesperson?

*Minority Report on Judicial and General Administration Report*

THOMAS A. LANGFORD, III (Western North Carolina): Bishop, I present to this General Conference the minority report which is found on pages 254 and 255. They serve as a substitute. And the material that is found on pages 252 and 253 with the exception of the fine report just given by Jim Holsinger on the membership of general agencies. That was felt very good, but it serves as a substitute for the material on pages 252 and 254.

BISHOP LAWSON: And may we assume that your name is Andy Langford and you're from Western North Carolina.

LANGFORD: Now as I understand I want to be very brief, and give it back to the chair. What you see on the bottom of page 255, the first column down at the bottom is what we perceive as five major differences between the minority report and majority report. I'd say of those, the two critical ones are numbers one and five. The first one in the minority report tries to emphasize the value, the function, the locus of ministry in the local congregation. While much is said in the connection of issues study about that, if you look on pages 252 and 253 the local church, we believe, has not yet been strongly enough affirmed. You also see on item number five, a third of the way down in the middle column. The second major issue is that the majority report refuses to address concretely the budget implications of its' work, and specifically refuses to name whether the report in the year 2000 will reduce the size of the general church or the number of general agencies. The specificity of that is found in the minority report, and, Bishop, at this point I'll turn it over to you, and then I'll save my time to speak at the end.

BISHOP LAWSON: May I ask you, Andy, please for the benefit of the chair, and maybe others, if you would state once again what your minority report intends to take the place of, the substitute for in the other report.

LANGFORD: This is a substitute for the materials found on pages 252 and 254.

BISHOP LAWSON: All right, thank you. That's clear, and now our procedures are, as you remember, that we'll continue then our work by perfecting the majority report, and that is open for us when we begin that perfection process. And if completed to our satisfaction we'll turn our attention to perfecting the minority report. When that is done to our satisfaction, then we'll vote first on the minority report depending on what happens to that, we'll take our second vote. So the floor is open for perfection now of the majority report, and I see a woman standing up coming to microphone 9.

*Perfection of the Majority Report*

AMY TWIGG (Western Pennsylvania): Thank you Bishop. I would move to amend the provision of the Connectional Process Team; *DCA* volume three, page 252, column 2 in order to insert three new paragraphs under section "A" before the present paragraph one, so that they would read as follows: "The purpose of the CPT is to: one, enable the United Methodist Church more faithfully to carry out its' mission to make disci-

ples of Jesus Christ (see paragraph 101)." Then item two: Support local congregations as the primary locus of mission and ministry within the United Methodist Church. And finally paragraph three: To reinvent the organization, mission and ministry of general agencies including an overall reduction in both the number of general agencies and their budgets, and if there is a second I'm prepared to speak to it.

BISHOP LAWSON: It is seconded? It is seconded. Please go ahead.

*Focus on Making Disciples of Jesus Christ*

TWIGG: In the midst of all the wonder of United Methodist diversity stands a need, I believe, to refocus ourselves together from time to time. This is one of those moments. Already this great conference has adopted a mission statement for paragraph 101 which is succinctly quoted as being "to make disciples of Jesus Christ." My amendment and what would be number one reaffirms and refocuses us around this statement. And as United Methodists we understand disciples to be made as the good news of God's grace is proclaimed throughout the world, and as the fulfillment of God's reign and realm is sought within our world. The vision which the scriptures hold before us. Our local churches have always been the centers out from which we reach and preach, go and give, love and live into our mission and ministry as United Methodists. And, of course, to continue to work with our structure was a main finding of the Connectional Issues Study. Such continued labor needs to find its' focus upon our mission and its wide and expansive movement. So, I would urge your addition of this amendment to the connectional process team's purpose. And this would mean, Bishop, that paragraph one on page 252 would then be numbered paragraph four, paragraph two would be paragraph five and so forth.

BISHOP LAWSON: Thank you. Would you please stay there for a moment? For our general help, since that's three paragraphs, please read them for us again so we have a clear fix on what you're proposing.

TWIGG: *DCA* volume three, page 252, column two in order to insert three new paragraphs; they are very brief. Under section A, first of all, paragraph one. Enable the United Methodist Church more faithfully to carry out its mission, "to make disciples of Jesus Christ" (see paragraph 101). Two, support local congregations as the primary locus of mission and ministry within the United Methodist Church. And finally paragraph three, reinvent the organization, mission, and ministry of general agencies including an overall reduction in both the number of general agencies and their budgets.

BISHOP LAWSON: Thank you for doing that. We have now an amendment to the majority report. You've heard that said twice. The floor is open for any comments you'd like to make about that. Yes ma'am. Coming this way, and forward to microphone 3 please.

LIZ ST. CLAIR (Peninsula-Delaware): I need some help in understanding some terms. Would someone explain to me the difference between the statement "the local church is the primary base for mission and ministry," and "the local church is the locus of ministry?"

BISHOP LAWSON: I hear your question. I'm sure the mover of the motion would be glad to respond to that.

TWIGG: I believe, indeed, they are the same, and I would accept a friendly amendment to be attached to mine.

BISHOP LAWSON: That was a question for information. I think it was not a friendly amendment. The interpretation is that they are the same. Same meaning, same connotation. The floor is open would anybody care to speak?

BISHOP LAWSON: As in the back, center section, you're come out turning left and going to microphone 13. Down to microphone 13, please.

STEPHEN E. DRACHLER (Central Pennsylvania): Bishop, I would ask to amend or divide the amendment, please.

BISHOP LAWSON: What is your request for division?

DRACHLER: I would request, sir, would move that we consider paragraph number three separately. If I have a second, I would speak to that.

BISHOP LAWSON: Your request for division, is there any dissent to that? Is it all right to divide this? I hear no dissent. Shall we consider the matter divided? And you're asking for that to be considered separately? And so, consequently, we will consider the first two. When we are ready to consider three, I'll call upon you for your statement.

DRACHLER: Thank you sir.

BISHOP LAWSON: You're welcome. The first two are now before us. Floor is still open. I see no green cards. Does that mean you're ready to vote on the first two? Yes, all right, over here.

REX BEVINS (Nebraska): The committee is willing to accept one and two.

BISHOP LAWSON: Excuse me Rex, my apologies, but someone has asked for the floor. Microphone 7.

*A Place for UMCOR in Proposed Connectional Plan*

PHILIP WOGAMAN (Baltimore-Washington): I have a couple of questions I'd like to ask. There is some background to these questions relating to the adoption of a statement of mission.

Two of the legislative committees have been involved in interacting over that. In mine, which was Discipleship, there was a concern that the statement of mission be more broadly gauged than the statement simply that the "purpose of the church is to make disciples," though of course that is a part, a very important and central part of our mission. But my question is where in this line-up

would there be place for the work of UMCOR, for instance? In reaching out to the world to serve in areas of disaster and need around the world, where would there be place in this for the advocacy work of the denomination on Capitol Hill and in state capitols and in various other places where we are attempting to impact the world. It seems to me these are very important things, and I wonder if these are sufficiently encompassed in the proposal that is now before us.

BISHOP LAWSON: That approaches a statement against. Would the person who made the motion want to respond to this? Microphone 9.

TWIGG: It is true, as Phil Wogaman has said, we have been working with both the Local Church and the Discipleship committees to bring our focus together. I believe, indeed, there is a place for the work of UMCOR and other lobbying kinds of efforts because, as the love of Jesus Christ is born into the world, it is born through those who are disciples.

BISHOP LAWSON: Now are you ready to, after we hear from majority movers, decide this matter? Are you? Are you? We're calling to you. Do you want to speak to these two?

DAVID SEVERE (Oklahoma): We are very happy with those two. It's up to the house.

*Plan Voted On*

BISHOP LAWSON: Are you ready to vote? Are you ready to vote? If you would, vote when you see the light. The first two, amendment—point one and point two of the amendment, pass. [Results: yes, 652; no, 230] We now have before us the third of these points. And I call upon you, sir, to finish your statement, microphone 13.

STEVE DRACHLER (Central Pennsylvania): My concern is that we are going into a study, but we are preordaining the results. I certainly have a lot of sympathy and understanding and, I'm sure, some agreement with the intent of those who offer this proposal. But I don't think it is wise, Bishop, that we should go into a study and research and tell the committee what result to bring back. That is often times dangerous, nonproductive, and may not serve the ultimate goal of our great denomination. Thank you.

BISHOP LAWSON: Thank you. That's a speech against this amendment. Somebody care to speak for it? I see no one requesting the floor speaking in favor of this. Someone care to speak against it? Yes. Microphone 4.

JAMES L. LAWSON JR. (California-Pacific): I just want to make three points that partially represents, perhaps, my own ambiguity but also some sense of some of the questions that we need to ask, answer, or talk about.

*Church Described as Constantly Restructuring*

Number one, since 1960 this church has been involved in restructuring, reorganizing itself, re-phrasing its creeds and theological task, and the rest of it. In those same years we've also had droopy morale, primarily aimed at the point of membership. I just raise the question, with all the talk about the presence of the Holy Spirit, is this yet another exercise of housekeeping that keeps us away from, perhaps, the mainstream?

Secondly, all of the churches, almost all the United Methodist churches today, are consequences of grace. I pastored Centenary United Methodist Church, organized by a missionary in the Centenary Movement of the last century. I pastor at a church now that the Department of Negro Work helped to establish. Almost all our local congregations are consequences of clergy, circuit riders, district conferences, bishops, annual conferences, and the rest. I think there need to be questions about the local church as the primary locus of mission and ministry. I think the church's dimension is vaster than that and larger than that. And, maybe that needs to be amended in some fashion.

And thirdly, I question the whole business of being in the mood that our nation is in for downsizing. Should The United Methodist Church follow the lead of the nation? Should The United Methodist Church, maybe, want to find ways that we can "grace size" ourselves, that we can maybe "right size" ourselves. I am not sure that the issue is the size of the agencies. Too much of what I hear is related more to the kind of "we" and "they" philosophy rather than all of us being baptized people of the kingdom, and, therefore, this being an "us" issue. I don't know if downsizing the boards and agencies is related to the work of the Holy Spirit or related, rather, to the 24 years of intense criticism of all the boards and agencies that was located more in that animus towards government, animus towards the national church rather than a recognition of the unity of the body of church that is the UMC.

BISHOP LAWSON: Thank you, a speech against this piece of the amendment. Back here. You're coming out.

Turn right, microphone 13.

*Continuing Debate on Board and Agency Reduction*

SCOTT J. JONES (North Texas): Bishop, I would like to speak for the amendment. I am deeply committed to the mission and ministry of our church, and want to see it protected and expanded for the next century. I think this study is an important effort in that direction, but I also think that the connection depends upon a new way of our general agencies being organized, funded, and related to the rest of the church. We will be doing the Connectional Process Team a favor by setting, not particular conclusions, but a broad general direction to guide their thinking. Toward that end, this amendment helps focus their work. I urge you to pass it.

BISHOP LAWSON: Now the question before us at every point in a discussion like this, is have we shared the insight, the wisdom, the questions

that need to be shared to prepare us to make a decision? It is never, how long can we talk, and so the question is, at some point I'll be watching, listening to what you say, and wondering whether or not we have said enough to allow us to vote. The floor is still open. Yes. What will be your position, sir? You're coming out to microphone 9. To which side are you speaking?

FRANK DORSEY (Kansas East): Against. I would not want to vote for this amendment, because of the actions that are before us in the majority report. We are a connectional church, and our boards and agencies of the church are an expression of that connection that enhance our mission and ministry to the world. I would rather take time to begin to study very carefully where those boards and agencies fit, and how they might best serve us in the new millennium. I would rather do that than to react in a knee-jerk way as this substitute does.

BISHOP LAWSON: Now that there's a desire, there's a space for somebody to speak for this, or perhaps you're ready to make a decision. Are you ready? Could you hear it again? I'm sure you could. Yes, a little secret about relating to the...why don't you just hold your card up. You see me scanning around this room, and I'll try very hard to find you. OK. You want the floor. You're coming to speak, on what side, sir? You can only speak in favor. Microphone 5.

DALE JONES (Kentucky): Correct. I bear no blood relationship to Scott Jones. I just wish to point out that the General Council on Ministries in the Connectional Issue Study, you can find it in your *Advance DCA* or on page 240 of today's. The one we're looking at today has already concluded the size of the general church organization needs to be reduced. That's finding number 14. So I don't see anything knee-jerk or reactionary or fearful in this amendment, and I would urge us to favor it, because it supports the conclusion that the GCOM has already come to in their Connectional Issues Study. Thank you.

BISHOP LAWSON: Thank you for your statement. We must now vote. I turn now to the person, we're going to come in a minute to you, but let's turn first of all for clarification. And we're asking the mover of the motion to state again what this item is, so everybody's clear about what's before us.

AIMEE W. TWIGG (Western Pennsylvania): Item 3 would then read, "Reinvent the organization, mission, and ministry of general agencies, including an overall reduction in both the number of general agencies and their budgets."

BISHOP LAWSON: Thank you. Sir?

DAVID L. SEVERE (Oklahoma): We would oppose this, because we believe that the process that we are entering into, should be free from any attempt to conclude what is going to happen. It is entirely possible that there will be reductions, but we believe, at this point, that we should not even hint that that should be necessary though we expect it may happen. We would be against the motion.

*Proposal 3 Fails*

BISHOP LAWSON: Thank you for you comment. You are now ready to vote. You've heard the matter clarified. Please vote when you see the light. [Results: yes, 410; no, 514] Number 3 is defeated. We are now back to the main body of the majority report. The floor is open. Yes, over here.

DALE SEGREST (Alabama-West Florida): I have a question concerning the CPT committee and its selection. As I understand it, there will be 31 nominations from the bishops, and then we will elect those same people that the bishops have nominated. And this seems to give us some possessory interest in the election process. But actually that sounds a great deal like elections used to be held in Russia where only a certain number are nominated and I'd like clarification. I might arise to raise a question.

BISHOP LAWSON: I understand your question. Did you hear the question on the desk?

GORDON C. GOODGAME (Holston): I will try not to respond to the analogy. What we're seeking to do is in the same conversational manner, to trust a group to put together an inclusive, representational, broadly experienced team. It will come back to the house. If the house does not want to accept it, it can send it back. But it is very difficult when you're working across a global church, to bring the kind of team that will give us broad perspective unless we have an nominating committee. Nominating committees are not out of the norm in our situation. I respect your concern, and we hope there will be fairness and equity, and broad, broad inclusiveness of every reasonable type. But we do feel this is an appropriate way to handle such an issue.

BISHOP LAWSON: All right. Right here in the center. Both of you. I'm calling now on the lady now standing. Microphone 9.

HOLLY S. MCCRAY (Oklahoma): I propose to amend by deletion. I propose to delete all of recommendation number 3 beginning with the second paragraph of that recommendation on page 253. If I have a second, I would like to speak to that.

*Motion to Delete Recommendation for Reduction*

BISHOP LAWSON: You have a second. Identify it further on page 253, center column, bottom of the page, recommendation 3. You're moving to delete. Do we understand you correctly?

MCCRAY: Beginning with the second paragraph through the rest of recommendation 3.

BISHOP LAWSON: Thank you. That is before us. It has been seconded. You would like to make a statement?

MCCRAY: Yes, sir. I welcome and embrace the flexibility and the vision-

ing in this study. The Connectional Issues Study calls us to affirm the local church as our primary base for mission and ministry. The study declares, effective communication is needed throughout this denomination to knit this body of Christ together, and to energize its ministries. We must move beyond "them versus us," I believe. We are the local church and the general level. I believe we can be better financial stewards in other, more practical, ways and paragraph 1 of recommendation 3 lists this clearly. I also understand that in the budgeting process, the proposed reduction in membership was not of significant impact. I believe to cut membership, to cut more than 300 of our voices, would weaken the communication we need, impact our inclusiveness, cause a heavier reliance on staff than we already have. I do not believe that reducing our voice is the best approach to enhance communication and the responsiveness that this study cries out for at the general level. This is about the power of our collective voice, gathered from each annual conference. Thus, I support this amendment.

BISHOP LAWSON: Thank you. A statement in favor of your amendment. Do we have someone to speak against it? Over here.

PORTER J. WOMELDORFF (Central Illinois): Bishop, I would like to ask a question, not speak either for or against. The question is this: this amendment affects both the white and the gray sheets that we were handed, and I have the question that if my arithmetic is correct, the numbers on the white sheet for at least three of the five jurisdictions add up to a larger total than the total at the bottom of the gray sheet for those same jurisdiction.

*Explanation of Number to Be Nominated*

JIM HOLSINGER: Porter, that's absolutely correct. If you will recall that at the time I made my presentation, I so announced that. And I indicated at that time that they ranged. I believe I may not have said exactly what they ranged, but they range from three to one different. That's because with the way there are spread of individuals from this pool, three of them show up in the nine additional members in GCFA's number. They were originally proposed to have only six members. The bishops have nominated nine. We placed three of them in that location, in order to not have to have those individuals removed from that list. There are three under COSROW that are elected by the Women's Division that come from within this number, and there are others within the whole pattern of this that come through that process, a different process than the straight forward nominating process. So the upshot of that is that there are ten fewer than show up, as I have added correctly on the spur of the moment. But we knew that at the time. We also cannot guarantee, if you look at that gray sheet where it shows General Board of Global Ministries, there is a number that says seven plus seven, seven plus five, and so on. Those are the plus—whatever the number is with the first asterisk showing—are the women's, the individuals that will be elected by the Women's Division. We cannot guarantee that they will come in that location, because of the process under which the Women's Division elects. But they are covered within this total number. We believe that we have done the best we possibly can to effectively spread these in a fair way across the jurisdictions within the confines of the election process that is included under paragraph 805.

WOMELDORFF: Could I continue my question just this much further? Then what you are suggesting is that if there are people previously elected, for example, to GCFA or to COSROW, from a particular annual conference, that will be deducted from the number that is on the white sheet?

HOLSINGER: No. The white sheet provides the base numbers from each annual conference by jurisdiction that will go to the jurisdictional nominating committees to nominate for, and for the jurisdictional committees, jurisdictional conferences to elect. What happens is though that as you recall, the secretary of the General Conference will provide the specific number once we know how these other individuals are actually elected by this body when they are elected by the General Conference in other locations. We will then know how exactly how many each nominating committee will have to elect.

WOMELDORFF: Then you are saying that a nominating committee may have less than the five, six, seven or eight shown on the white sheet for a particular annual conference?

HOLSINGER: No, I'm not saying that. What I'm saying is that they appear within the buff sheet in other locations than on the first line. We had to do that in order to take care of things that were proposed in the variety of the individual board or agencies' proposals for how they would elect. There will be...the total that is called for within the gray sheet will show up somewhere within the total. The other ten, that are not on this bottom columns when you add them, are in other locations on the buff sheet.

BISHOP LAWSON: Thank you very much for your response to that inquiry. Yes, you who are coming out. Forward to microphone 2.

ANNA WORKMAN (North Carolina): May I try to help answer this gentleman's question? As we understand it, it's one of the ones we worked on, this proposal. The difference is in the numbers guaranteed to the conferences will show up in the at-large members. I can give you the totals by each of those jurisdictions if they would like to have those.

BISHOP LAWSON: Is there a request for that? I do not hear one.

WORKMAN: OK. And may I speak against the amendment on the floor?

BISHOP LAWSON: Excuse me?

WORKMAN: May I speak against the amendment?

*Reduction and Financial Savings*

BISHOP LAWSON: Yes, you may.

WORKMAN: I spent a lot of hours working on this with the folks in our committee and sub-committee because I came with one message from

folks at home. And that is that we do need to be very accountable in the manpower and in the dollars that we are spending as a general church. This recommendation is only for one quadrennium, after which time we hope that whatever process we use to come up with restructuring or to determine to stay the same will be there. But I can go home a whole lot better, with a lot better conscience, if we address some of the issues that I think probably all of us are hearing in our local churches. Thank you.

BISHOP LAWSON: Is there someone who would like to speak in favor of the amendment? Yes, sir. Right here. You're doing well. Please go out and turn right to microphone 9.

ROBERT D. PIERSON (Oklahoma): The concern for reducing budgets is a concern that all of us have, and we want to respond to the people back home in terms of that. But I'm concerned that by reducing the size by one-third the net effect is that we have less representation all across the church, in our annual conferences, in the central conferences. What we're looking for is more participation, more responsiveness of our general agencies to the people back home. And the way you accomplish that is not by cutting the representation. Now I appreciate all the work that was done in preparing these charts, but the bottom line still is we reduce representation by one-third, and I'd like to support leaving the amount, the number of representation as it is in the 900's than reducing it. So I'm in favor of this.

BISHOP LAWSON: Thank you very much. You remember we're on page 253, the right hand column, the second full paragraph, which begins, "it is further recommended." The motion is to delete. There is, we are getting close to the time when we want to express ourselves by vote. And, sir, you're...please come forward, and tell us who you are. Microphone 3.

PAT STROMAN (Central Texas): If we vote to leave them the same, how much money would—how much difference in budget will there be in terms of cost for meetings and so forth if we cut back to 600?

DAVID SEVERE (Oklahoma): GCFA would have to answer that question. We do not know exactly, but it would be a significant savings. It's a pretty good figure, but we don't have an exact figure because they have not yet supplied it.

STROMAN: David, you don't even have a ballpark?

SEVERE: Not right now I don't.

BISHOP LAWSON: OK, thank you. We're getting really close to the time when you're going to want to express yourself in vote. So think about this a little bit. Back here, there's a gentleman standing up now. You're going out to microphone 7.

STEVEN LETT (Western Michigan): I'm speaking against the amendment. Thank you. I speak against the amendment for two reasons. Number one, to answer the gentleman's question about the cost, obviously if you have a third less people, you have a third less cost. Number two, we seem to think that representative government, which is what we have here, would be better with more representatives. If that were the case, then we should have a general conference every year and let everybody come. I think we have to have faith in the people that we elect, appoint, or nominate to represent us. And I think that we, as United Methodists, have that faith, and that they can do the job right, and I speak against the amendment.

BISHOP LAWSON: Now we have room for only someone to speak in favor of the amendment. And ma'am, you're sitting right back there, and you're coming out to microphone 8. And then we will vote.

MARY SILVA (Rio Grande): We were told on the first day to stay at the table, but now some chairs have been removed from that table, and fairness and equality is not on the menu. I would like to recommend that the language conferences be considered to be represented on all boards.

BISHOP LAWSON: All right. Thank you. You now are ready to vote. Our discussion is full at this point. You know what's before us, page 253, right hand column, first full paragraph. The motion is to delete. If you would delete this paragraph...

SEVERE: Bishop?

BISHOP LAWSON: Thank you for the reminder.

SEVERE: We would hope you would defeat this amendment because we believe that we are moving in the right direction. We remind you again, this is a one quadrennium trial. We may discover in this period of time that we need to change this figure. But we think that we can demonstrate to ourselves as well as to those back home and to the spirit of what we are doing here that we can reduce the number at this time and can provide a vital church.

*A Vote for Reduction*

BISHOP LAWSON: All right, thank you. If you would delete, you'll be voting yes. No, if you would not. Please vote when you see the light. And you've not supported the amendment. [Results: yes, 289; no, 640 ] The full report is before us. Yes. Over here. Microphone 5.

VICTOR ORTIZ VIDAL (Puerto Rico): I move to amend, on page 252, letter B, in which says, "plus three voting members from affiliated autonomous churches," to add, "elected by the 1996 General Conference."

BISHOP LAWSON: Is there a second? It is seconded. And your amendment is, please, what?

*Call for a Voice for Affiliated and Autonomous Churches*

ORTIZ VIDAL: To add at the end of the parentheses, "plus three nonvoting members from affiliated and autonomous churches," to add, "elected by the 1996 General Conference."

BISHOP LAWSON: All right, that amendment is before you. Do you have something you'd like to say, sir?

ORTIZ VIDAL: Yes. I think that it is important to define the method in which these three non-voting members will be elected. I think that this General Conference is the adequate party to elect that persons. We have a big representation from the affiliated autonomous churches and the autonomous churches here, so I think that this body could be the proper place to make that decision.

BISHOP LAWSON: All right. You understand that the proposal before us in this amendment, page 252, the right hand column, just a couple or three paragraphs down, capital "B," following the parentheses, this amendment is added. Anybody care to speak against it? Anybody care to speak for it? Then please vote.

DAVID SEVERE: Bishop?

BISHOP LAWSON: Yes, excuse me, I will remember you. I promise this. Some day—tomorrow. I apologize.

SEVERE: It's all right. It's all right. The struggle we would see in this proposal is being able to make that process work in a short period of time. We find that the process of making sure that we have included a broad spectrum of the central conference people, that we need a little more time to be able to make that a fair process. We would rather it be done after the General Conference and in consultation with the leadership of the central conferences.

BISHOP LAWSON: You now are ready to express yourself. When the light appears, please vote.

BISHOP LAWSON: It does not prevail. The whole report is before you? Yes, microphone 3. Go ahead. They're playing back there. [*laughter*]

TIMOTHY RUSSELL (Central Texas): On page 249, the blue *DCA*, far left column, two-thirds down the column, the item "Elect Bishops." I would like to move an amendment to change the wording to "determine the process to elect bishops." Do I have a second, I'd like to speak to that?

BISHOP LAWSON: Second?

*Regional Meetings Discussed*

RUSSELL: If you look on page 215, second paragraph, on the left column, you will see that each regional conference has the option to establish subregions. I believe this amendment will be more internally consistent. I believe it will allow more creativity in the discerning process for selecting our leadership in the church and will allow us to keep the election of our bishops as close to the people as possible.

BISHOP LAWSON: Sir, your point has been heard and your motion has been received and seconded, but it is the chair's judgment that what is before us is the matter—this is preliminary material, or introduction to the report—and what is before us are the specific recommendations. So I reluctantly must call your motion out of order, but the people have heard you speak, and your point I think is probably made.

RUSSELL: Question? Is there a time when it would be in order?

BISHOP LAWSON: My understanding is not. This is what you would call introductory or prelude material to the recommendations that are before you, and the recommendations are before you at this point. I must call your motion out of order.

RUSSELL: Thank you.

BISHOP LAWSON: Now in the back there is a gentleman standing next to the aisle. You're coming forward, are you? At microphone 8.

PAUL R. DIRDAK (California-Nevada): Bishop, I'm at the top of page 252, the right hand corner of that page, it is the sentence number 9, and I would like to suggest an amendment. I would amend the sentence by replacing it with the following language: "Consider the advisability of regional and global conferences and propose and further elaborate upon their nature, work and composition." Following a second I would say a word.

BISHOP LAWSON: Will someone provide a second? It is seconded.

DIRDAK: Thank you. I know that a small group of us has spent considerable time working on the question of regional conferences. However, it occurs to me that there are huge numbers of questions implicated here that have yet to be fully discussed. And it seems to me that the nature of the sentence, as it appears in the text, would presume that regional conferences will exist in some form when this next quadrennium's work is over.

I think we need to consider that more carefully. I would be happy to spend the quadrennium doing it. It occurs to me that there are some significant dangers in our face if, in fact, we move ahead with regional conferences; but the course of the quadrennium could prove me quite incorrect. The dangers which I fear are these: We, in the General Board of Global Ministries, where I am privileged to be president of its National Division, have spent these last years learning that the globe is one place. It needs no National and World Division separation any longer. That is a revolutionary idea for many of us. The globe could become one.

It concerns me very much that regional conferences could impose boundaries which do not exist at precisely the time when we are trying to eliminate boundaries under which we have suffered for years and years.

So, it occurs to me that the study which is conducted should consider regional conferences rather than assume them. Therefore my amendment. Bishop.

BISHOP LAWSON: Thank you for that clarification.

DAVID SEVERE: The committee is willing to accept that. We think that was very well stated. We'd be happy to accept it.

DIRDAK: Thank you.

BISHOP LAWSON: The chair is interested in accepting that. No one take exception to that? Are you taking exception to the acceptance? All right. Thank you. Then we'll consider that amendment as part of the definition of the majority report, and the floor is

now again open, and we're coming right here, yes. Microphone 4.

CHARLIE O. DUNDAS (Minnesota): I consider myself a broad-stroke person. I am not into a lot of detail. I stand to support this, the recommendations of the committee. Because I believe that this is one small step for Methodist-kind. It is only a beginning. We are putting in place, in my judgment, a process over the next four years, which we hope and pray will lead us into the 21st century. We will be kidding ourselves immensely if we think that we are putting in place, even at that time, structures or organization which will last for many years.

Our present structure has been in place for some 20 years. I submit that the pace of change in the world and the need for the church to communicate the gospel will require us to have a dynamic, flexible process always in place. And we will need to revisit again and again the way we do ministry in this rapidly changing world. I would hope that we would support this and get on with the process. And that we would trust those who are nominated and put in place by the church to work on this in a helpful and meaningful and powerful way.

BISHOP LAWSON: Thank you for your statement. I call the house's attention that we are right now in the process of perfecting the majority report. I'm looking in the far corner near microphone 11. There's a person standing up there. Microphone 11.

*NOW: Nurture, Outreach, Witness*

DEBORAH CRONIN (Western New York): First of all, Bishop, on behalf of short people sitting in a back left corner, I thank you. *[laughter]* Secondly, I would like to offer a friendly amendment that any place in the GCOM report and related legislation where the terms "outreach, nurture, and witness," occur, that they be rearranged to read "nurture, outreach, and witness." If I get a second, I'll speak to that. Yes, in the last quadrennium the Strengthening the Small Church Task Force worked very diligently with these three words to organize them into a structure for our churches with small membership. We are gratified that they have been picked up in this quadrennium, and used to project a ministry outline for all of our churches as well as our denomination. We chose the model "nurture, outreach, witness," the arrangement of those words in that form, because they give to us an acronym. The acronym is NOW. There are many persons across the denomination now, that are used to that term, that speak very frequently of the NOW model. It will be helpful for us in interpreting it throughout the denomination. Thank you.

BISHOP LAWSON: All right, that is before you. Yes, you don't want to speak to that. Anybody care to speak to that? You all care on the committee to speak to this?

DAVID SEVERE: That is in the report, and we're not sure that that's an area we need to be messing with. We understand the concern, however, that model does exist, and we felt, at this point, we were not, would not want to use just exactly what that was. It does have some slight differences in some places, but I believe that's in the report, not in the recommendations.

BISHOP LAWSON: Well, I think your point is well taken. The chair unfortunately, and with apologies to you, will call that out of order and now, it's my responsibility to share with you that we are still working on General and Judicial Administration report and the hour is now 3:30. We have following us the Africa University report, the Africa University choir, the Independent Commissions, Financial Administration, Discipleship and Church and Society calendar items. We'll all need to take responsibility for managing the floor. Are there amendments for the majority report? I'm sorry, but what you do when my attention, just stand or hold up your card. That will get you more success. Over here on this side. Microphone 9.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Bishop, I move the previous question and all that is before us.

BISHOP LAWSON: We are in the middle of perfecting a majority report. We must hear the perfection of the minority report before I can receive that motion. Thank you. Now over here, somebody was wanting the floor. Don't want the floor. Yes. Microphone 7.

JOHN S. McCABE (Northern Illinois): A question: in the legislative section, was there any comment on paragraph C on page 253 with the inclusion of GCOM in the reporting process, and in paragraph E in that same column, with GCOM providing the staffing?

BISHOP LAWSON: I'm not sure what the question is. Would you say what is the question with that, sir.

McCABE: The question was, was there any discussion around the inclusion of GCOM at those two points, the reporting as well as the staffing?

SEVERE: Yes, it was discussed. That is where we felt it would be the best way to provide the staffing.

McCABE: All right. I'd like to make a motion, if I could, Bishop. I'd like to eliminate—in paragraph C, of page 253, in the left hand column, second sentence, I'd like to eliminate GCOM from that sentence, second line. And then referring to paragraph E, I'd like to substitute COB or Council of Bishops instead of GCOM to provide for the staffing. If there is a second, I'd like to speak to that.

BISHOP LAWSON: Is it seconded? It is.

*Proposal to Eliminate GCOM*

McCABE: The reason I'd like to see this is I think one of the scenarios for reorganization of the church might be the elimination of the General Council on Ministries, and so to prevent the fox in the hen house problems here, I think it's appropriate that GCOM not be one of the reporting bodies during the course of this study, and also even though staff may come out of GCOM at the direction of the

bishops or staff from other general agencies, as appropriate, I think it's proper for the staffing to be by the Council of Bishops as they see fit. Thank you.

BISHOP LAWSON: All right sir, thank you. This matter is now before us. In the center a woman is standing. You're coming out and forward to microphone 8.

BETTY T. TRUMBLE (Nebraska): I would argue that we should keep the General Council on Ministries. The reporting process without the General Council on Ministries, would be to the Council of Bishops and the Council of Finance and Administration. I think the church is better represented in the Council on Ministries than in the Council on Finance and Administration, and there is laity in the Council on Ministries, but not in the Council of Bishops. As to the bishops providing staffing, the bishops as I understand it, do not have staff. Thank you.

BISHOP LAWSON: Thank you for that. Speech against this amendment. Someone want to speak for it? For it? Yes, right here.

MARVIN H. McCALLUM (Detroit): I move that we close debate on this item and the majority report.

BISHOP LAWSON: Is it so obvious when I stop and think, or so rare, perhaps? *(laughter)* I have a motion that we cease the perfection of this report and go on to the minority report. That is probably in order. Is it seconded? It is variously seconded. If you would move us on toward the minority report, would you please vote yes when you see the light. [852 approved] There was a person who yelled, "Yea." I presume that this means that this passed, and so then...

Did I miss a motion on the floor? Thank you very much. As interesting as that last motion was, we do have this amendment before us, page 253, left hand column, items C, D, and E. Thank you for helping the chair at that point. Is there anything else to be said about that amendment? Thank you. If I said right, I meant left. It is in the left hand column, page 253. Those adjustments you know about. Are you ready to decide this? All right.

SEVERE: May I speak?

BISHOP LAWSON: Yes, you may.

SEVERE: We hope you will not agree to this amendment. We believe that the three councils are very much involved in this process and are very helpful in their guidance. The GCOM is an appropriate place for staffing to be done, both by experience and expertise. We have in almost every situation affirmed that, and we would prefer that we continue with that. We would ask that you defeat this motion.

*Vote to Retain GCOM*

BISHOP LAWSON: If you would delete from the staffing process the GCOM and if you would, in item E, change the GCOM to the Council of Bishops, you would be voting yes. Will you please vote when the light appears? [Results: yes, 247; no, 670]

BISHOP LAWSON: And you do not agree with that amendment. Now, are you still of mind to move onto the minority report? All right. Now we are at 3:35. Some of you are beginning to look a little blurry-eyed. I'm wondering if you would benefit from a 15 minute break. [*applause*] Your applause means that you pledge before God that you will be back in your seat and quiet at 10 minutes until four. [*laughter*]

Now, please do not leave for a minute. What we've had here is an offer. I think the answer to the question, however, is not in the chair. It's in you. The mover of the minority report has said that he would be willing not to have his report perfected, but simply make a closing statement about it and allow us to move ahead and vote on that minority report without the perfection process.

My response to that is that really the question is in your hands. Are you willing to receive the minority report without the opportunity to perfect it? [*applause*] It sounds like you are. Does anyone take exception to this? Yes, microphone 3.

BECKY HAASE (California-Pacific): I feel it is appropriate for us to spend some time on that. I would appreciate it after the break, myself. But I think that if this is presumed to become a main motion, that would then be the main motion that has not had any opportunity for amendment. And I feel it is not appropriate.

BISHOP LAWSON: Your point is well taken. We are in recess.

*(Recess)*

BISHOP LAWSON: Back in the corners of this place is a crowd of people, everyone of whom, promised before God, you'd be in your seats right now. We are going to start with Cynthia, is going to help us to sing. By the time we are first versing it, you are going to be back in your seats.

*(song)*

BISHOP LAWSON: Thank you for taking your seats, that's very thoughtful of you to do that. Thank you for stopping the conversation now. That's even more thoughtful. There are a few people in the room, but not many who haven't figured out that every sentence has a period at the end, and when you come to a period, you stop talking. OK? [*laughter*] Now we're ready to go. Forgive me for looking around. I thought we had an arrangement here. But I think we don't. So we'll turn our attention...

All right, ladies and gentlemen, we are going to listen to the presentation of the minority report. Just to let you know what the staffing up here was about. We had hoped to create a situation where the African choir could sing for us at this juncture, and there's a confusion in the arrangements, and that doesn't seem to be working just real easily, so we'll move ahead with the minority report.

I think I share with you a sense of DIS-EASE that these good brothers and sisters from a very long distance have come to sing for us, and we've held them for a long time. But that doesn't seem to be fixable at the mo-

ment, and so rather than try to do that publicly, now and use time up, let's encourage ourselves to face the minority report. To perfect that and prepare to report, to vote on all of this matter.

We turn to Andy Langford. All right, he does not want to speak to us on this; doesn't need to, he says, and so the minority report is before us for perfection. I see there has been a little revolt in the house. We now have orange cards. That is nice. And I'm turning...there is a woman standing back right here. I have a point of order. OK. Microphone 9.

PETER WEAVER (Western Pennsylvania): Last night the body voted to ask the Rules Committee to report to us on the Hassinger Amendment to Rule 36. Some of us who are interested in that have waited patiently for that report. It was to be reported back this morning. I understood it was going to be reported at the beginning of this session. And would request the chair ask for that report.

BISHOP LAWSON: For your information, Pete, that report is ready and is on standby for at the end of this particular report, which we are dealing with now.

WEAVER: Thank you.

BISHOP LAWSON: You will, perhaps, allow a little flexibility around that if we find that the choir can come, but right about that period of time.

WEAVER: I would hope it would come before we enter into the debate concerning this matter, so that that might be a tool if the body chooses for discernment.

BISHOP LAWSON: Before we consider what matter, Pete?

WEAVER: After the perfecting of the minority report, before we enter into the debate concerning the minority report and the majority report.

BISHOP LAWSON: I think that would be most awkward for us, parliamentarily speaking, but it will come to the floor as soon as possible, and I thank you for your question. Now before us, we have the minority report. It's available for perfection as you did, in fact, request. Does anybody care to work on it?

Yes, there's a woman right here. These new orange cards are just remarkably helpful.

SHARON ADAIR (North Texas): Bishop, I believe you gave me permission. I'm on microphone 13.

BISHOP LAWSON: I'm sorry, but I called on the lady walking across here. And you're coming up here to microphone 2.

ADAIR: You gave me permission before Pete spoke.

BISHOP LAWSON: I'm very sorry, but the lady up here. Ma'am, you just stay in the precinct back there, and we'll come to you. All right, number 2.

*Evaluation of Process Transition by GCORR and COSROW*

GWEN HENDERSON (North Carolina): I have a point of information or clarification regarding the minority report, page 255, subsection 9, left column. It reads, "Further be it resolved that the GCORR" and I won't read the rest of it. But the question that I have is, does implementation mean GCORR will monitor the composition of CRC and CPT?

THOMAS (ANDY) A. LANGFORD, III (Western North Carolina): The answer is, I understand, this writing to be precisely what was in the majority report. And so the minority report uses language CRC, whereas the majority report uses language CPT. It's exactly the same.

HENDERSON: CRC?

LANGFORD: Just to be different. Sorry. So yes. So it means the Commission on Religion and Race and COSROW will evaluate both processes, whichever way is done.

HENDERSON: Will monitor the composition of?

LANGFORD: I assume so, yes.

HENDERSON: Thank you.

BISHOP LAWSON: Thank you very much. Now microphone 13.

ADAIR: I want to speak against the minority report by speaking in favor of the majority report.

BISHOP LAWSON: At this particular point we're perfecting the minority report. That is to say, I'm receiving motions that might perfect it. There'll come a moment in time when your statement will be most appropriate.

ADAIR: Thank you.

BISHOP LAWSON: Thank you very much. Does anybody want to make an amendment to the minority report? Yes ma'am. You're coming out and coming forward to microphone 3.

LAVADA REDDING (Rocky Mountain): In last night's procedures, it was decided that we would abstain from using the acronyms, so to better allow the central jurisdiction people to be with us in this process. But we seem to have gone back to that today.

BISHOP LAWSON: Thank you for your reminder to us. It's such a habit. It's in our genes, I think. Over here in this section. I think that person must not want the floor. Must be fanning with the orange fan. Over here by number 8.

*Question Effect of Proposals on Central Conferences*

THOMAS BOLLER (Yellowstone): I have a point of inquiry. Will either the minority or the majority report, if they are approved, discourage or encourage or permit churches outside the United States belonging to central conferences the option on autonomous relationship or to join up with churches to form a united church in their particular country? What kind of effect does this have on that proposal that will be coming before us?

LANGFORD: I simply have not thought through that. I assume this is absolutely neutral regarding that.

BISHOP LAWSON: There are current provisions in our polity allowing for those possibilities if anybody wants to exercise them. It is consensus of the people around me that there is nothing in this that would prevent that during the period of this study.

BOLLER: Thank you.

BISHOP LAWSON: You're very welcome. Now does anybody have an amendment they want to make to the report. I'm coming over here. Coming forward to microphone 10.

*Speaking in Favor of Global Church*

ROLF LINDELL (Sweden): I would like to amend the minority report, on the middle column, in the bottom, starting with number 116 persons unto the end of number 2 from the right-hand column, to delete these two paragraphs; and instead of that, put what is on the majority report, page 252, on the right-hand column, point B1 reading, "24 persons nominated," and so on.

BISHOP LAWSON: Is it seconded? It is seconded. The chair understands that you're substituting on page 254 the center column, the second and third paragraphs, all the way down to the bottom of that column and the top of the column on the right-hand side down to 2. And you're substituting the material on page 252, Item B1. Do I understand you correctly?

LINDELL: Yes sir.

BISHOP LAWSON: Would you like to speak to that?

LINDELL: Well, I have a very short comment to that, and that is that in dealing with global church I find it extremely important that the central conferences are represented, not only by the 20 percent, but a little bit more as I then have suggested.

BISHOP LAWSON: All right. Thank you. You understand that this is a substitution of the material on page 252 substituted for the material on page 254. It's before you. Anybody care to speak against it? I see no one caring to speak against it. Andy, would you like to say anything before we act on it?

LANGFORD: The minority report simply reflects, I believe, more accurately the regional and global representation of this denomination. The global conferences of the central conferences, which are a vital part of this church today, constitute 12 percent of our membership. It seemed the position of the minority report that because this is a global committee, the 20 percent was fair, in fact, very fair to have that voice heard. I'd urge defeat of the amendment.

BISHOP LAWSON: Now if you would support substituting the material on page 252, B1. If you would place that material over on page 254, if you would do that as a substitute would you please vote "yes." If you would not, "no." When you see the light would you please vote? [Results: yes, 324; no, 565] No, you would not make that substitution and so the minority report is not amended. Anybody else care to speak to it or amend it in any way? Are you ready to vote on the minority report? You seem to be ready to vote. Andy, do you have anything you'd like to say? Andy is first.

LANGFORD: First of all, I give thanks for this General Conference for the way in which you have dealt with the issue this afternoon. You have noted the major differences between the two reports. You've discussed them well. You have debated them well. And I congratulate you.

I come this day as a person who loves The United Methodist Church. I'm a child of this church. I'm a servant of this church. I'm a student of its theology. I love its history. I celebrate its diversity. But I fear deeply for this, our denomination. We're searching for theological integrity. We're struggling with how to speak to rapidly changing cultures. And we are flawed structurally.

*Agencies/Masters?*
*Local Churches/Servants?*

The number one organizational flaw of this denomination, as we have had in place since 1968, is that in our United Methodist system, our organization, especially the general agencies, have been like masters. And the local congregations have been treated like unwilling servants.

Local churches, I believe, have been captives of a bureaucratic organization, which have hindered both local ministry and the global ministry of our denomination. In 1992, I stood in a similar place before the General Conference, and presented to you a United Methodist *Book of Worship*, with the intent to reform the worship life of our denomination.

On this day, I present to you a minority report, which gives us the hope of also reforming our structure. I had high hopes for the Connectional Issues Study. It was led by exceptionally competent people and staff. They had a big task in front of them, and I had high hopes, that as they worked hard, that what they came out with would really help us re-shape this denomination. But when I saw the report, as you have it in your *Advanced DCA*, your *DCA*, it appears, at least to me, that it has an unclear vision. It has a limited affirmation of the local church. There is no substantial critique of our general agencies. It appears to me cautious and business-as-usual.

In our own legislative committee, we have worked hard this last week, and the document is better than it was a week ago. But in essence, I would contend that it asks us to maintain the status quo for another four years. We have changed the membership of the general agencies, the voting membership, but that is not substantial. In this report, there are very few measurable goals. Especially regarding the relationship between the general agencies and the local congregations they are designed to serve.

BISHOP LAWSON: Andy, you must come to a conclusion.

LANGFORD: Yes, sir. In the town in which I live, there's a train track that goes through the middle. You can see, every day, locomotives going down that train track. And there are engineers in it, blowing whistles, following wherever that train track leads. On this day, my sense of this General Conference, is that we are riding that train, that locomotive, blowing the whistle, taking us wherever that track is leading. I want us to engage in laying some new tracks.

some new rails, to take the church in another direction.

When we go home, our friends and neighbors will ask us, "Did you, in the tradition of the Wesleys, reform The United Methodist Church?" If you vote for the majority report, you're going to say "no." We came, we saw, we talked. We put off major decisions for four years. If you vote for the minority report, you'll be saying, "We began to lay some new tracks, to take this church forward." I urge you to vote for the minority report. Thank you, Bishop.

BISHOP LAWSON: I call now on the maker of the majority report. Point of Order, yes.

BECKY HAASE (California-Pacific): Would you clarify for me, bishop, are we actually coming to the vote now, because I don't believe we've had any debate? We were perfecting the minority report, is that correct?

BISHOP LAWSON: The procedures that we have and our rules bring us to the point of where we have perfected both. We complete our work by doing so, and then the matter is put to a vote after the speakers speak.

HAASE: And we do not have actual debate on the issue after it's perfected?

BISHOP LAWSON: That is in keeping with our rules, yes.

HAASE: Thank you.

BISHOP LAWSON: Please?

DAVID SEVERE (Oklahoma): Thank you. The legislative committee urges you to defeat the minority report. There are a number of flaws in it that we will not take time to go into. There are things in it that would really be, in fact, business-as-usual, because it would represent the way we have been. We would have representation that would exclude many of our central conference brothers and sisters.

It would go back to a formula based on an old paradigm that is passing out of existence. They would have only three central conference representatives, while the majority report would call for nine, as we begin to feel our way forward to this new church that is before us.

The minority report calls for no particular staff relationship, forgetting the rule that says, "everybody's business is nobody's business." They offer a nebulous suggestion that staffing could be done by all of the general agencies. Does that mean that every agency must pry loose precious staff time for the process team? We believe the GCOM is well-suited by preparation, experience, and job description to adequately staff the needs that we have.

Finally, we note that the minority report wishes that what they would call the CRC to deliberate all that it wants, but it prescribes what it must decide with regard to reduction of agencies and budgets. Theirs is a current-reality, budget-driven approach, and this process is truncated by a preset mandate.

We, too, believe that reductions may be what is in the future, but we wish to see the CPT allowed to have a vision-pulled reality and the opportunity to discern a compelling, unifying vision for the entire church into the 21st century.

I used to have a recurring dream when I was a child. Andy reminded me of it when he talked about the train track. My dream was that the track, the train had jumped the track, and it was coming up the street, and it was going to get me. I think that the minority report is scary like that. I would suggest to you that let us not seek to control the spirit and order the future out of our fears, our angers, or our frustrations.

Let us trust the spirit in the process which the majority report asks us to do. Let us be open to where the spirit might lead, even if we're a little giddy at the thought we don't have to know the answer before we get there. Let us be confident that it is not up to us and us alone to guard God's future from breaking in upon us. I encourage you to vote this minority report down, and make it possible for us to receive the gift of a new church, which God wishes to bestow upon us. I move the defeat of the minority report.

BISHOP LAWSON: Now the floor is open for the debate you hoped for. Yes, and this is not amendment time. We're just talking about the proposals. You will have to decide as we go along, at what point in time do you think we've heard the kind of statements we need to hear to help us to vote. And that, of course, will be a lot less than what you might guess. Think a little bit about when we've had enough. Yes, ma'am. Microphone 2.

MONTY STABLER (North Alabama): Bishop, I'm speaking for the minority report. We heard the challenge this morning from Bishop Hoyt to dream beyond our maps. My dream is a united church that has its hands on the local and national levels together. I dream of a denomination that embraces diversity in the spirit of love. I dream of a denomination that has confidence in its local church enough to believe that it's worthy enough to act responsibly on mission without being told what to do at every point.

Seventy percent of us have concerns about the structure of the denomination. Most of us have our concerns, but take little action to these concerns. Andy Langford has gone further. Rather than being negative about the past, he offers a solution that provides hope for the future. This minority report is visionary, positive, and a great solution. I urge that you give it your prayerful and sincere consideration.

BISHOP LAWSON: Now I want to acknowledge to myself that there's a person at microphone 13. Are you speaking against the minority report?

SHARON ADAIR (North Texas): I have a point of order, please.

BISHOP LAWSON: Yes, ma'am.

ADAIR: Are we speaking against or for the minority report? And will we have a chance to debate the main motion after this vote?

BISHOP LAWSON: We will decide what the main motion is, and then we will speak to it.

ADAIR: Well, may I speak now against the minority report?

BISHOP LAWSON: Yes.

ADAIR: I want to speak against. I want to speak against the minority report by speaking in favor of the majority report.

I feel the majority report is adequate. It needs no changes. We could discuss detail changes all day. I was on the initial General Council on Ministries Task Force when it began in 1988. This is a change in our church that we must approve. We are now a global church and we need to look like one.

Like someone said yesterday, let's get in front of the parade. I watched the central conference delegates in my legislative committee and saw how many times they voted "abstain," because an issue just did not relate to them. We must move past our patronizing attitude towards central conferences and give them the power, through the regional conferences, that they need to move ahead with their own unique growing ministries. This study is critical. I urge you to vote against the minority report in favor of the majority report. Thank you.

BISHOP LAWSON: Someone care to speak in favor of the minority report? In favor? You're standing, Sir. Would you go to microphone 14?

*Effect of Connectional Issues Study on Local Church*

ROBERT E. HAYS, JR. (Texas): Bishop, the voice of the local church is crying in the wilderness. And that voice has not been heard in many years. And if we don't heed the voice of the local church, I'm afraid that the voice will not be there in the years to come.

What this legislation does, the majority report, is to prescribe to a hurting and dying church, an aspirin of mediocrity that is clothed in $200 words like "interactive," "affirming," "discerning;" $200 words that won't mean two cents to the people who are struggling to catch the vision in the local church.

Indeed, the church needs many things, but it does not need yet another concept which asks us to go back to the local church to do away with most of what we already have been working on hard and diligently. But, to bring in now, confusing, frustrating terms will take people to resignation. This legislation does not fix the broken pieces of our faith and of our denomination. If we take this aspirin of mediocrity, I'm afraid that when we wake up in the morning, the great physician will not even be there to answer our call. I urge you to vote in behalf of the minority report.

BISHOP LAWSON: There's room for someone to speak against the minority report. And back in the corner, microphone 11.

THOMAS J. BICKERTON (West Virginia): Most days when I wake up I fool myself into believing that I'm about this much smarter than God. I think my way is best. That is, until I think beyond myself through interacting with other people, through earnest prayer, and faithful study. I believe that some of the most important words inserted into this amended report are found on page 252 in the second column where the report mandates the Connectional Process Team to review and consider other pertinent studies and responses beyond the Connectional Issues Study in order to discern God's will.

The majority report openly acknowledges the hard work, and in many cases good work, of varieties of groups and peoples working independently of one another in formulating a vision and a plan of implementation for our church's future. The majority report does more than just receive other proposals, as is recommended in the minority report. It reviews and considers them through an interactive model of mutual dialogue and discovery, in order to reach common understanding of God's vision for the church and how that vision can be implemented across the connection.

BISHOP LAWSON: Three minutes, sir.

BICKERTON: The minority report states that the Connectional Issues Study recommendations are not sensitive to the local church. I disagree. Recommendation 3 provides for communication and training in how to develop flexible, interactive models. Recommendation 4 recommends feedback from the local church. Recommendation 7 provides listening sessions.

Friends, as we journey through this transitional period in our church's life, we are sailing in uncharted waters. And if those waters are uncharted, I believe we need to have as much input and support as is possible, and remain open and flexible in our process so that we can discern God's direction lest we think that our own agenda is best. I urge the passage of the majority report's proposal.

*Connectional Issues Minority Report Defeated*

BISHOP LAWSON: I recognize there are persons with waving cards. I need to imply a question. The question continues to be, at what point do you have enough wisdom and enough insight to vote. Are you of a mind to vote? It is the sense of the chair that you are of a mind to vote with recognition that there are persons who would say other things if they could. If you are of a mind to vote, the question before us is, "Will you support the minority report?" And if you want to do that then you will vote "yes" and if you do not you will vote "no." Please vote when the light appears. [Results: yes, 374; no, 567;]

No, you do not affirm the minority report and that means now that the principal motion before us is the majority report. And I call your attention to that and the floor is open for persons who would care to speak beyond what we've heard now. Who would speak? It is a wonderful chorus. If there were sopranos and basses and tenors, you could sound beautiful by the way you do it. But, that doesn't

really help me very much. As I understand our situation, the floor in fact is open for statements if there are persons who desire to make any. And so I see in the center section in the back, going to microphone 14.

ARDITH ALLREAD (California-Nevada): Bishop, I move that we vote on all that is before us.

BISHOP LAWSON: We have a motion for the question. I think that motion is in fact in order at this point in time. Is it seconded? I think the various groans were seconds of one kind or another. [*laughter*] This is going to take a two-thirds vote. If you would close debate—remember this is not an insignificant thing to do, you're asking the house to stop the conversation—it takes two-thirds of you to do that. If you would close debate, would you please vote when the light appears. [826 approved]

There is some sense that you probably want to vote. [*laughter*] If you would. You are ready now? You are ready now.

DAVID SEVERE: Bishop? May we have the closing statement please? You don't want to hear Minerva? [*laughter*] Oh, all right. Thank you.

*Connectional Issues Majority Report Approved*

BISHOP LAWSON: I was raised along the railroad tracks, but they don't seem to want to hear our railroad stories [*laughter*]. And so, if you would support the majority report, you're going to vote "yes." If no, "no." When the light appears, you will vote. [720 approved] Yes, you do support the majority report. That action is complete.

I would like to suggest to you that we have a pending action from this morning, and if you will turn your attention now to Jerome Del Pino. Let me say to you that as soon as this is handled, which will surely be in just a moment, we will then turn to the Africa University report, and we'll entertain our guests from Zimbabwe. Jerome, are you on the precincts?

JEROME K. DEL PINO (New England): Bishop, after due consideration and the urging of this body last evening, the Committee on the Plan of Organization and Rules of Order has developed a response, which we feel is appropriate to the request made by this body.

BISHOP LAWSON: Jerome, a reference point. You're talking about Rule 36?

*Standing Rule of Order 36 Hassinger Discernment Motion*

DEL PINO: I'm referencing, Bishop, Rule 36 of our Standing Rules of Order, and also the motion that was made and is located in the *Daily Christian Advocate*, volume 3, number 2, page 54.

To refresh the body's memory, it would be important for us to just simply indicate that on the first day of our coming together we were presented a motion that was received by the presenter of the Plan of Organization and Rules of Order for that session. As was indicated last night, by the maker of the motion, calling for the committee to respond to you today, there was strong implication that it would be responded to.

As a result, the committee then, last night, chose to meet with the original maker of the motion to amend Rule 36 by adding a new number 4, which would be on...the motion is on page 54, as I already indicated of your *DCA*. We did meet with the maker of the motion and gave opportunity to for her to expand further upon her conception of what the committee has already prior to that motion last night affirmed, in principle, as an appropriate approach for this body to make in succeeding General Conferences. Subsequent to discussion by the committee, the following motion was made, and I now present to you.

Whereas the Plan of Organization and Rules of Order adopted by the 1996 General Conference already provides for ways to suspend the rules to accomplish the objectives of the Hassinger motion; and whereas, the Committee on Plan of Organization and Rules of Order believes that the Hassinger motion deserves careful consideration over the upcoming quadrennium; therefore, the committee affirms the current rules until such time as it can give the Hassinger proposal due consideration. That is the committee's response, Bishop.

BISHOP LAWSON: I assume this takes the form of a motion of affirmation of the current rules? And that is from your committee and doesn't require a second. The floor is open. You're ready to vote? If you would affirm the current Rule 36, would you please vote when you see the light. [748 approved] And you do so affirm.

Let me tell you where we are, please. Thank you Jerome. We are now preparing to receive the Africa University report with this wonderful choir as a part of that report. It has been recommended to us that we complete this report and that we take our two hour evening break from the time this report is completed until two hours have elapsed. Is that a satisfactory arrangement with you? Any problems with it anywhere? All right. Ken, you wanting the floor for...microphone 4.

*Rules Suspended for Cleveland 2000 Invitation*

KENNETH CHALKER (East Ohio): Bishop, I would like to move for suspension of Rule 12, on page 35 of the blue book. Regarding distribution to the desks of delegates for the purpose for facilitating a matter of privilege. I apologize for my shaky voice. The altitude of this conference is affecting me. The Committee on Agenda has granted Bishop Edwin Boulton time on the Friday agenda for the purpose of cordially inviting the General Conference to Cleveland, Ohio. And specifically, to the wonderfully renewed city of Cleveland, indeed, in the year 2000 and the East Ohio Annual Conference.

We would like to have distributed at each delegate's desk, a formal written invitation, in preparation for

Bishop Boulton's appearance at the podium on Friday. I respectfully request suspension of Rule 12 to allow for the distribution of this invitation.

BISHOP LAWSON: Motion to suspend that rule for this purpose. If you would, is that seconded? It is seconded. Would you consent to raise hands just now? If you would suspend the rule, would you please raise your hand? Thank you, if you would not, would you raise your hand. The rule is suspended. And now you're moving that you would like to have permission to distribute this material. Do I understand you correctly? Is that motion seconded? All right. It is before you. Would you give consent for the distribution of this material? If you would, would you raise your hand? Thank you. If you would not, would you raise your hand? *(Passed)*

Let me use this as an occasion to say to you that, however, there has been other material circulated in the course of this particular session for which permission was not gained. And we simply take this occasion to remind us all that that is not appropriate. There is, as I understand, around here no mood to be punitive toward anyone, but simply to ask us all to be sensitive to the guidelines of the General Conference. Now it is really important that we go to the Africa University report. Do have something pretty critical for us here, Sir? Microphone 9.

DALE FOOSHEE (Kansas East): I request for a very short personal privilege so that we may get this in this afternoon.

BISHOP LAWSON: Personal privilege is recognized.

*Tribute to Clergy Women*

FOOSHEE: As a member of the Kansas East delegation, it is my privilege and joy to sit with Rev. H. Sharon Howell, one of the ten clergy women in full connection elected to the 1976 General Conference. The 1976 General Conference marked the first time when women with full clergy rights were seated at the General Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Granting women full clergy rights was made possible by the action of the 1956 General Conference of the Methodist Church, and affirmed at the 1968 uniting conference. Today, 40 years after that action, Sharon sits as one of over 100 clergy women in full connection, together with 200 lay women delegates in this General Conference. I move that this conference of the United Methodist Church affirm and celebrate full clergy rights for women, and also invite the General Conference to express commendation and thanksgiving for the profound and faithful ministry of thousands of clergy women who serve Christ in the church within our United Methodist connection. Thank you. *(applause)*

Thank you for that, and I'd like to suggest to you that we ask these clergy women to stand, if they will, please. Because of my failure to be clear, I think, in the instructions, we had some clergy women standing and who looked for all the world like men. *[laughter]*. Calling on Janice Huie for a matter.

JANICE HUIE (Southwest Texas): This is a technical motion to help us later in the week. Bishop Lawson, I move that we suspend the rules for the purpose of lifting Calendar Item 195 from the Consent Calendar and reconsidering it with the Local Church report. We harmonized our version from Local Church with the Committee on Discipleship, and this will help us bring one report to the conference.

PAUL ERVIN (North Carolina): Paul Irvin, chair of the Legislative Committee on Discipleship, and we confirm that this is the case.

BISHOP LAWSON: We have a motion to suspend the rules in order that—please state it again so we'll all understand it.

HUIE: In order that we may reconsider Calendar Item 195. It's currently on the Consent Calendar. We'll need to lift it from the Consent Calendar, and it will be reconsidered with the Local Church report.

BISHOP LAWSON: Thank you. You could certainly use hands again. If you would suspend the rules for this purpose, would you please raise your hand? Thank you. If you would not? And they are suspended, and that is effective. Thank you very much. We turn now to the Africa University report. Roger Ireson.

ROGER IRESON: (General Secretary of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry) Thank you, Bishop Lawson. At the conclusion of our report, after the choir has sung its last song, we'll ask the marshalls and the pages to distribute this printed report. Ladies and gentleman of the General Conference, it is time to celebrate.

*History of Africa University*

In St. Louis, eight years ago, we came to you with a dream of the African people for a university, and at that time, we had an empty field. Shortly thereafter, at a meeting in Harare, in a moment of inspiration, in the middle of the night, Bishop David Lawson woke up and penned the mission statement for the faculty of theology that has now become incorporated in the mission statement of Africa University. And that mission statement has guided us throughout these years.

Four years ago in Louisville, we had acquired government legislation for a private, church-related university in a country that had never had private, church-related universities, along with three buildings renovated by the volunteer-in-mission teams, and two faculties functioning: agriculture and theology.

Today, in Denver, in 1996, we have nine buildings, four faculties (agriculture, theology, management, and education, which is opening in August of this year); and a humanities core teaching staff; $9.5 million in the endowment fund providing scholarships to students from 17 African countries. We hope to have five faculties by the

turn of the century and 1000 students by the year 2000 thousand.

However, the best way to understand Africa University is to meet the students. So we have brought the Africa University choir and two recent graduates who are now at work in their home countries, to meet you at the General Conference during this presentation. I know that you will want to know that a CD of the choir and tapes are on sale in the bookstore. And they've been provided graciously by the Board of Global Ministries. We're all cooperating in this great project. And all the proceeds go to Africa University.

It is my pleasure now to introduce to a man who has given great leadership and commitment to this project, the president of the Board of Higher Education and Ministry, Bishop Calvin D. McConnell. *[applause]*

BISHOP CALVIN D. McCONNELL (Seattle Area): It has been eight years now since Bishop Leontine Kelly swung her gavel down confirming the vote that was made by the General Conference for global United Methodism to establish at last, again, in our long heritage, a new univeristy, this time in sub-Saharan Africa. Zimbabwe was the place that was chosen to establish this university. The Zimbabwe Conference than donated land next to the Hartzell school in old, Mutare, on a beautiful hillside that was covered with brush and grass and yam fields.

And now we have a campus there. Eight years, and we have done it. We United Methodists from across the world have accomplished an awesome challenge of giving birth to a new full-fledged, four-year university in the kind of days and times in which we live. It is a university for African students, with an African administration, African faculty, for the most part, an international board of trustees, the majority of whom are Africans, an enrollment of 300, our first graduating class in December of 1994, a campus of beautiful and functional buildings which continues to grow.

And here's our opportunity as a general church. *(applause)*

*Africa University Choir singing*

*(applause)*

To the students, we welcome you with our hearts overflowing with love for you, and with the expression of gratitude to each other here, for our faithful witness that has made it possible for these students to be here. And always with our hearts filled with gratitude to the grace of God, which has made this all possible. Now we want you to see a brief video. And then, following this video, we will ask the first chancellor of the university, Bishop De Carvalho, to speak to us and to introduce the students.

*(Africa University video)*

*(applause)*

*First Africa University Chancellor Brings Greetings*

BISHOP EMILIO de CARVALHO: Africa University stands today as a concrete commitment of The United Methodist Church in helping to eradicate ignorance and to train the present and the future generations of African leaders. The development of the university comes from an action of 1988 General Conference, implemented by a group of committed women and men, and will continue to create a universal forum for the youth of our countries, moving them toward intellectual maturity through university training.

Being the only officially United Methodist-related university in Africa, please note, the only officially United Methodist-related university in the whole continent of Africa. Coming from an action of this General Conference, Africa University stands today as the sole United Methodist institution of higher learning on the continent of Africa, directly established by this United Methodist Church.

This time we bring to this General Conference, some of the outstanding first fruits of its endeavors, who are already engaged in applying what they have learned in their own countries. They are a part of a group of 29 graduates, and are here to help us, all of us, to re-catch the vision and to join the United Methodist Church in this major project, by dedicating, again, anew, our prayers and the material resources to the growth and development of such an educational undertaking.

It is with a great joy that I introduce to you, Mr. Paulo Filipe Bunga, a graduate in agriculture and natural resources from Angola, and the Rev. Tsitsi Moyo, a graduate in theology from Zimbabwe. Let's welcome them here. *(applause)*

*Agriculture Graduate Speaks*

PAULO FILIPE BUNGA (Angola): Thank you. In March 1992, 28 seeds were planted at a place called Africa University in Zimbabwe. And on 17 December 1994, 28 learned minds were harvested from Africa University. *(applause)* And I bring to you special greetings from the 28 students that graduated from Africa University in 1994. My name is Paulo Filipe Bunga from Angola, a 1994 graduate from the faculty of agriculture and natural resources. After graduation I was employed as an agricultural base project manager by the United Nations Development Program in Mozambique, where we took the challenge of changing an ex-soldier into a farmer in order to increase food production. I'm presently employed by the World Food Program of the United Nations in Angola as a food aid monitor. My responsibilities range from monitoring and coordinating food assistance and insuring overall food security in my region of assignment. My activities go around in four essential areas:

First, I have to organize food distribution to communities in need. I do that through surveys where I identify areas of critical food shortage and I have to negotiate with the govern-

ment and other non-governmental organizations in order to provide food, and I distribute it.

Second, I make a general assessment of the marketing system and the marketing conditions in my region.

Third, I create food-for-work programs whereby I motivate farmers to participate in other rural development projects. And they are paid or given food in return, instead of money.

Fourth, my food security activities involve measuring the farmers' food stock for a period of six months. And, if I find a family which is food-insecure, I have to try my best to provide the food.

I'd like to stress the fact that my intellectual and professional capabilities are fruits of the high standard of education that Africa University provided, along with a strong Christian foundation. *(applause)*

Finally, on behalf of Africa University "alpha class" I take this opportunity to thank you all for the great support you gave us through graduation and you continue to give to Africa University. *(applause)*

*Theology Graduate Tells Her Story*

TSITSI MOYO: Bishops, pastors, lay delegates, I feel greatly honored and privileged to be invited to this General Conference. My name is Tsitsi Moyo. I am married and I am a mother of four beautiful girls. I was born in 1965 in an extra big family of 10, comprising of eight boys and two girls. When I was a young girl, I had to drop out from school to let the boys continue with their education. This was quite a blow to me. I always wanted to go to university, and it seemed as if my dream would never be realized.

I was married very young, but my zeal for education kept on growing. After 10 years of marriage, and being a mother of four, my husband, who is a pastor also, allowed me to study. It was not easy, being a wife, a mother and a student all at the same time, but the good Lord saw me through and I finally qualified to go to university.

The building of Africa University was right on time. It was an answer to my prayers. To me, Africa University was built especially for me. *(applause)* If it had been opened a year earlier or a year later maybe I could not have made it. It was God's perfect timing. With the help of my church, I managed to secure a place there. At Africa University, I learned so many things. When I graduated, I was a whole new person. I learned my duties and responsibilities as a pastor. I was helped to realize my identity and my strength.

I learned self-control which is vital for a pastor. I also learned how to deal with opposition and criticism. Now I am leading a church with a membership of more than 1,500. When I was appointed there, (that is less than two years ago), it had a membership of 700, comprised mainly of elders, males for that matter. I being the first woman clergy to be sent to them, surely opposition and criticisms were not to be exempted. My opposers had done a good job. They had exercised my spiritual muscles. Instead of falling, I stood up. Instead of crying and frowning as I used to do, I smiled. Most of all, at Africa University I learned to praise God in everything, in every situation whether good or bad. *(applause)*

My church is in Harare and it is known by the name of St. Andrew's United Methodist Church. I preach, teach, do counselling, do house-to-house visitations. I visit prisons and preach to prisoners. I visit hospitals and share the good news with the sick and preach to the hospital staff during lunch time. Pastoring is very interesting; it is full of challenges. Each day is different from the previous one. I enjoy my work. I am thankful to the Lord who called me, and to Africa University for the preparation and training and to you all for your support. Thank you. *(applause)*

*Chancellor Kurewa Sends Greetings*

JIM SALLEY (South Carolina): Bishop Lawson, members of the General Conference, we greet you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. I'm Jim Salley, a lay delegate from South Carolina and the Assistant Vice Chancellor for Development for Africa University. From offices in Nashville, Tennessee, at the Board of Education and Ministry, it's our responsibility to advance Africa University to the United Methodist Church, and the world. We bring you greetings on behalf of Dr. J. W. Z. Kurewa, the chancellor and president of your Africa University, the administration, faculty, staff, and students, and say, thank you, thank you to this General Conference and the United Methodist Church for your support, your gifts and your prayers. Africa University was founded on a dream or a vision that can be traced back to 1897 and a Methodist Missionary from the Central Illinois Annual Conference by the name of Bishop Joseph Crane Hartzell.

We believe that Africa University is a gift from God, and we thank all of you for being Africa University partners and helping to make the dream a reality. Dr. Benjamin E. Mays, the great African-American educator from South Carolina, said, "It's a sin to have low aim." He also said, "It's a worse sin to have no aim at all." At Africa University, we have high aim; we aim high. We dream big dreams, and we see visions. At Africa University we know that dreams do come true, because we see God's work as it manifests through the Holy Spirit every day.

We invite you to catch the vision and be a partner in one of the most important mission projects of the United Methodist Church in this century. In the 36th chapter of the Book of Exodus, verse 7, you find these words, "For the stuff they had, was sufficient to do all the work and more."

Well, at Africa University, we don't have enough stuff yet. But we believe, that within the United Methodist Church, within Methodism worldwide, we have enough stuff to do all the work and more for Africa Univer-

sity. Let's finish what we've started. Bishop Lawson, members of the General Conference, thank you for your support and your prayers for Africa University. Now, Mr. Patrick Matsikenyiri and the Africa University Choir singing, "The Dream is Alive." *(applause)*

*(song, "Mayenziwe")*

*Africa University Choir*

*(applause)*

ROGER IRESON: Bishop Lawson, this concludes the report of the Africa University.

BISHOP LAWSON: I recognize Dick Reeves. Microphone 1.

*Korean Gift to Africa University*

DICK REEVES (Central Illinois): As has already been said, Bishop Hartzell came from our conference and was elected a bishop a hundred years ago this year in New Orleans. I also serve on the Africa University Board of Directors, and I'm chairman of its Building and Grounds Committee. Bishop Sondu Kim, directing pastor of Kwanlin Methodist Church in Seoul, Korea, is here among us. This is the church that has given Africa University $1 million U.S. dollars to build the chapel on the campus. The working drawings are now in process. We go out for tenders in August. We hope to start building in September of this year. I'd like to ask permission for Bishop Kim to address us briefly. Anyone who gives Africa University $1 million ought to be permitted, I think, to say a word. *[applause]*

BISHOP SONDU KIM: Thank you very much, Bishop Lawson, and delegates of conference. It is my great privilege to express my testimony to you, what God has done to our church. One hundred and ten years ago, American missionaries came over to Korea. They served the gospel. They planted the churches and they established the universities, colleges and seminaries. Now we have 1,035,000 Methodists spreading the gospel to all of the world. Now, by the millennium it will be open, new future. This is the time of cooperation for the organization of the gospel. Now Korean church eagerly wanted to help the globalization of the gospel. We are not a rich church. We are a poor church, as you know. But we eagerly wanted to cooperate with you for the mission all over the world.

Still we have the tension between North Korea and South Korea. Probably you noticed or you heard about the tension between the North and the South just a few weeks ago. However, you prayed for us. You encouraged all of us. God will help us with reconciliation and unification in the future. So last Easter Sunday morning, we offered them the money to send to North Korea. They are starting to die spiritually and physically. We are going to help them to resurrect them to be as a child of God. Now, I eagerly request for you to pray for us, Korean people. We eagerly wanted to help, to cooperate with you, into mission for all the world. Thank you for prayer. Thank you for your encouragement. God bless you. Thank you very much. *[applause]*

BISHOP LAWSON: Now we come to the time of our adjournment. It is my understanding that you will be back here at 7:30 to do business. During the time after adjournment, if any of you want to stay, this good choir will continue our concert for us. I think that it's appropriate to repeat the experience of prayer. We are aware here in the United States that across Oklahoma, Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, large numbers of persons have become the victims of tornadoes. Significant numbers of churches have been destroyed, lives have been lost, and untold numbers of homes have been left beyond the possibility of being used. June Goldman, I think you'll understand and I'd like to suggest this evening sometime that your motion might come forward instead of at this particular moment. I'd like to invite you all to be in prayer with me, and with that prayer, we are adjourned.

*(prayer)*

CAROLYN MARSHALL (South Indiana): It is almost anti—can you hold for a moment? It seems anticlimatic after this to have to make some announcements, yet there are three that do need to come before us. The first one being that the presiding officers need to meet immediately near the steps here at the front of the platform. The Leadership Team for Ordained and Diaconal Ministry will meet very briefly at the conclusion of this evening's session in A106, and the Discipleship Legislative Committee is to meet immediately for approximately ten minutes in rooms A108, 110. Thank you.

## Tuesday Evening April 23, 1996

*Bishop Clay Foster Lee, Jr., presiding*

BISHOP CLAY FOSTER LEE, JR.: I'd like to ask you now, if you would please, bring your conversation to a close. And if you would be seated in your place, I'd like for us to enter into a time of prayer. And our prayer this evening is going to be a chorus that means so much to all of us. We're going to change a word in it. Rather than singing and praying "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom", we're going to be singing "Jesus, remember us," and with the emphasis upon the fact that that's a plural term, not just those of us here, but all of God's people around this world. Cynthia, come and lead us, if you would, as we pray together through song.

*(song)*

BISHOP LEE: Amen. I see a card. Would you please go to microphone 5?

JUNE P. GOLDMAN (Iowa): Bishop Lee, thank you for this moment of personal privilege.

BISHOP LEE: Would the conference please be in order?

*Cross Requested for Conference Platform*

GOLDMAN: I wish to convey concern that has been expressed by a number of persons including observers and visitors who are here. The focal point of this conference resides in the cup and the loaf, certainly a most appropriate and deeply meaningful image. But our friends have asked why there is no cross to hold our attention as a constant focal point. To be sure, there is a cross that is part of the logo that appears occasionally on the screen. But most of the time, the screen is filled with other images. And unfortunately, the cup and the loaf are not visible from many of the sections where we are seated. Since the cross is central to our faith and needs to undergird all of our deliberations, I would respectfully ask the appropriate committee if it might be possible to include a cross somewhere on the platform as a gentle reminder of whose we are. Thank you. *(applause)*

BISHOP LEE: Thank you. A matter of personal privilege requesting that the appropriate committee would take under consideration the placing of a cross as a symbol, central symbol here on the platform. Yes, I see a card to my left. Go to microphone 10, please. And if you would, please, state the nature of...

*One Africa, Many Countries*

AKASA UMEMBUDI (Central Zaire): The dear Bishop, brothers and sisters, delegate to the, to this General Conference. We all are very excited for all the good things that have been done, accomplished with Africa University. There is no need to tell you that I am an African, and that, consequently, Africa University is my university. Nevertheless, there are few concern or some concern that I want to bring to your attention. Africa is a continent, not one country or one state. I call that because, one day during my itineration here, I happened to talk to a high school class and when I presented myself, one student, very excited, told me, "Mr. Akasa, I saw your president on the TV last night. Then I ask him, "Who was the president?" And this was his answer: "Mr. Nelson Mandela." *(laughter)* So, many of us, or many of you still consider Africa like one country. Africa is not one country, is a whole continent.

Number two, Africa is multi-language continent. The predominant language, French, Arabic, English, Portugese. The establishment of The United Methodist Church in my country, *[unintelligible]* Zaire, brought light, hope, love as Christ's gifts. And after the arrival of the first missionaries, churches were built, school, clinic established. And even today The United Methodist Church is still have *[unintelligible]* evangelisation, education, and health. And the local church is working harder and harder. And that's love; for example: In central, in Zaire, we have about 854 elementary schools, 238 high schools, three teacher training schools, two seminaries, and all that are United Methodist religious schools.

BISHOP LEE: May I call to your attention that your time is about up. If you could bring this to a conclusion.

UMEMBUDI: Yes, Bishop. The petition of the Africa University has shift the attention of the church, the global church away from all existing high education institutions. What are our requests? Our request is to see Africa University being like one body. And I take this like example: The Africa University being like a blanket to cover the body, which is the Africa high education system. And when you wrap the system, if and you have a thick, very thick cover, if one leg is outside the cover, you still feel cold.

So, would like to consider if there should be some means that Africa University be like umbrella for all the higher education institutions in Africa, that will have every country in Africa. Thank you.

BISHOP LEE: Thank you. *(applause)*

As you have probably noted, the agenda this evening is to take up calendar items that we really were supposed to be dealing with this afternoon. We'll pick up where we left off this afternoon, and I call on Independent Commissions, Carl Stewart, and then perhaps Cashar Evans will want to come on to his place for Financial Administration, as well as the Discipleship group, Paul Ervin and Don Pike for Church and Society. All right, Judge.

*Commission on Pan-Methodist Union Approved*

CARL STEWART (Louisiana): Thank you, Bishop. We will consider Calendar Number 781. That'll be found on page 258 of your *DCA*. It is

Petition 21726 and is found on page 931 in the Advanced Edition One, your red book. The petition involves the establishment of a Commission on Pan-Methodist union. This is a companion piece to the COCU petition that was presented this morning. In essence, the study commission, which has been in place since 1994, requests that the four general conferences of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, and the United Methodist Churches, move further towards reunion. And to that end, the creation of a commission on union is represented. The petition in your *DCA* spells out the particulars for it. And, as a committee, this matter was voted unanimously in favor, and we recommend concurrence with the petition. Bishop, I so move.

BISHOP LEE: All right, it is before you. Calendar Item 781. All right, I believe this goes directly to GCFA because there is money involved once it has been voted on.

STEWART: The matter in the monetary amount indicates that all four of the general conferences have agreed to have a pro rata share. It's my understanding that those monetary amounts are already taken care of, but otherwise this matter would go to GCFA.

BISHOP LEE: All right, it is before you. I do not see anyone asking for the floor, so you will vote please when the light appears. [767 approved] And the committee is sustained in its judgment of concurrence. And it will go to GCFA. All right.

*Language for Ecumenical Legislation*

STEWART: All right, thank you, Bishop. Next, we will consider Calendar Item 782. Also, found on page 258 of the *DCA*. It is Petition 20084, found on page 901 of your red book.

This petition is also a part of the ecumenical piece. It pertains to ecumenical relations and it would be a constitutional change. Paragraph five of the *Discipline* would be amended to add the language, "and covenantal relationships with" to the language of Article Five on page 22 of the *Discipline*. This petition, in essence, just provides the necessary language to make the disciplinary language conform to the action that we've taken earlier. The committee recommends concurrence, and I so move.

BISHOP LEE: All right, it is before you. You say that it is a constitutional amendment, so it'll take a two-thirds vote.

STEWART: Yes, sir.

BISHOP LEE: I do not see anyone requesting the floor. You will please vote when the light appears. [792 approved] The committee is sustained.

STEWART: All right, thank you, Bishop. That's all I have at this time.

BISHOP LEE: Thank you very kindly. We turn now to Financial Administration, Cashar Evans.

CASHAR EVANS (North Carolina): Bishop, I'd like for you to recognize Grady Knowles, from Cal-Nevada to present the pensions portion, please.

BISHOP LEE: Very good, Grady Knowles.

*Mandatory Versus Voluntary Benefit Plans*

GRADY KNOWLES (California-Nevada): Good evening. The pension and benefit sub-section of the Financial Administration Committee brings you four petitions tonight. The first one is found in the blue *DCA* on page 136. It's in the left column at the top. It's Calendar Item 145. The text of this petition is found in the red *DCA* on page 376, in the right hand column, half way down. It's Petition 21484. This is one of several petitions that replaces the current language in the *Discipline* regarding the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits. That section of the *Discipline* is being restated and updated. This particular paragraph is about the authorizations of the General Board. This new language distinguishes between the mandatory benefit programs of the church: the Ministerial Pension Plan, the Comprehensive Protection Plan, and the Staff Retirement Benefits Fund; and the voluntary plans: the Cumulative Pension Benefit Fund, the Basic Protection Plan and others, such as the HealthFlex plan. It indicates that the board can create new voluntary plans, can amend the voluntary plans to keep up with the needs of constituents. It also indicates that, in response to GCFA and others, the board can receive and invest non-employee benefit-related monies. It clarifies that the General Board may not use general church funds for administration or operation.

The petition comes to you from the committee with a recommendation for concurrence. The vote was 101 in favor, one against, one abstention. It was on the Consent Calendar, but it has been lifted from the Consent Calendar, and it is before you now for your consideration.

BISHOP LEE: All right, Calendar Item 145. The gentleman standing, please go to microphone 6.

FRANK E.TROTTER, JR. (Baltimore-Washington): I would like to move an amendment on the tenth line of Petition 21484 on page 376. After the sentence that ends with the word "families," to insert the following sentence, "subject to the provisions of paragraph 2506, herein, the General Board shall perform its duties and responsibilities in the spirit of the church's mandate for inclusiveness and racial and social justice." If it's seconded, I would like to speak to it.

BISHOP LEE: Is there a second? I hear a second. You may speak.

*Inclusive Language in Benefits Plan*

TROTTER: Bishop, this sentence is in conformity with language that is already presently in the 1992 *Book of Discipline*. It allows for the church to remember its' stand on inclusiveness and justice with regards to racial and social issues. And this language has been concurred with by, as Grady can tell, by members of the General Board.

BISHOP LEE: All right, are there others who would wish to speak?

KNOWLES: Just to confirm, there was great discussion in the legislative committee about the changes in the language of inclusivity in this paragraph and some others. There was a change. At first there was some concern over the legal matter of exclusive purpose, which the board is subject to, but this is wording which has been worked out, with the concurrence of legal staff and others, and it's the decision of those who study such matters that this language balances the legal concerns of the General Board and the concerns of the General Commission on Religion and Race.

BISHOP LEE: All right, it is properly before you. You are voting on the amendment. Yes, I see a card here at the front. If you will go to microphone 2, please. I believe if we follow our rules, you would have to speak against this, even though the chairperson of the subcommittee has already spoken against it.

CHRISTOPHER H. ANDREWS (Louisiana): I really have a question more than a speech for or against, and the question is, in the language as you have presented it, not as the motion has amended it, what is exclusive in the language? What am I missing here? Why do we continually have to edit things, to add something in that by implication is not there?

KNOWLES: The General Board of Pensions has a dual role in the life of the church. It's first responsibility is as a fiduciary to all of the plan participants, and the charge of any fiduciary is to carry out its operation for the exclusive benefit of participants. They call that the exclusive rule, and any fiduciary that manages funds on behalf of others is subject to that. On the other hand, the General Board of Pensions is an agency of the United Methodist Church, subject to the Social Principles and the other policies of the denomination, and so there is always a balancing that goes on between the two. And the investment committee and the full board, and, of course, others, have great concern that line is walked appropriately and fully. So, when this kind of language is discussed, the trick is to get language that reflects adequately and fully the concerns of the United Methodist Church, but that also carries out the responsibility of the fiduciary. And it seems in this particular discussion, that a good compromise has been struck.

BISHOP LEE: All right, now, the amendment is before you. I believe you're ready to vote on that. The amendment is to amend by inserting words that were given, and I don't have that before me, but I think you heard those words. Does the secretary have—would you read those for us please.

CAROLYN MARSHALL (General Conference Secretary): Following the word "families" insert the following sentence: "Subject to the provisions of paragraph 2506, herein, the General Board shall perform its duties and responsibilities in the spirit of the church's mandate for inclusiveness and racial and social justice."

BISHOP LEE: Thank you. All right, we're ready to vote. If you will support this amendment you will vote yes, and you will please vote when the light appears. [Results: yes, 515; no, 384] All right, the amendment is added. These words have been inserted. It is now before you, Calendar Item 145. I believe you are ready to vote on that. If you will vote, please, when the light appears. [829 approved] And now then, it has been approved. All right.

*Comprehensive Protection Plan*

GRADY KNOWLES: Thank you. The next item in the blue *DCA* is on page 234. It's in the right hand column at the bottom. It's Calendar Item 757. The text of the item is in the red *DCA* on page 386, in the left column at the bottom. This is Petition 20953. It deals with eligibility for the Comprehensive Protection Program or CPP; specifically, eligibility of student local pastors. Presently student local pastors and part-time local pastors are not eligible for CPP. Full-time local pastors are, and conference members, ordained conference members, are eligible. This petition would have some student local pastors eligible for CPP coverage, while others are not.

The intention of the petitioner is that, if a pastor has been serving a church and returns to seminary part time so they are no longer eligible for the plan, that they remain eligible for the plan. In our committee discussion, the General Board staff was unable to advise the committee on the cost implications related to the request, although there was some initial response that there was some potential for adverse selection. When an entire group is given eligibility for a plan, there is less risk, apparently, than if some people can choose and other cannot. Another problem the committee had with the petition is that it does not indicate who the plan sponsor would be, who would pay the bill.

And, finally, I guess, more importantly, the committee struggled with the fact that some student local pastors would have eligibility and others, perhaps even at the same seminary and appointed under the same provisions in the same annual conference, would not. For these reasons, the committee voted nonconcurrence. Recommendation comes to you for nonconcurrence. The vote was 84 in favor of nonconcurrence, eight against, and two abstaining.

BISHOP LEE: All right, it is before you. I believe you are ready to vote. Please vote when the light appears. [829 approved] All right, the committee's recommendation of nonconcurrence is approved. Grady, if I might ask you please, the initials CPP, MPP, we have some who don't immediately understand that.

KNOWLES: Thank you. CPP stands for the Comprehensive Protection Plan. It is a welfare plan that covers clergy of the denomination providing death benefits, long-term disability benefits, survivor benefits, and a pensions supplement for those pastors whose salary is below the denominational average. MPP stands for

the Ministerial Pension Plan, the plan that covers clergy.

*Distribution of Tax Defferred Annuties*

The third out of four petitions is noted in the blue *DCA* on page 235. It is Calendar Item 758. It is in the left hand column. And for the text of this you need to turn to your white Volume Two edition of the *Advance DCA*. The text appears on page 1322. On page 1322, it's at the bottom of the left column. It's Petition 22639, a petition from an individual that would suggest amending what the petition calls the *Policies and Procedures Manual* of the General Board of Pensions, to change the required beginning date for the distribution of tax deferred annuities.

There was some discussion in the legislative committee because the concept is appealing. Unfortunately, the plan documents that we have already take full advantage of the law in this regard. And this petition states that it, that we could take advantage of an action of Congress. In fact, the case noted is a private ruling letter by the IRS. We learned that a private letter ruling cannot be relied on by anyone outside of that individual case, and that the board could not rely on it, and would have to seek its own private ruling letter, and so on. It also wasn't clear that this kind of ruling letter in that case could be applied to our plans. And so on.

There were other concerns about the cost of administering that kind of a change versus the number of individuals who would want it. And as a result, since there was some interest in the concept, the committee brings to you a recommendation for referral to the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits for study. The vote of the committee was 95 in favor of referral, seven against, and zero abstaining.

BISHOP LEE: All right, Calendar Item 758 is before you. Its a recommendation for referral to the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits. I believe you are ready to vote. Please vote when the light appears. [893 approved]

The committee's recommendation for referral has been approved. Thank you.

*Proposal to Eliminate Conference Board of Pensions*

KNOWLES: The final item can be found in the blue *DCA* on page 235, the left hand column about half way down. It is Calendar Item 759. The text of the petition is in the red book on page 365, the left column at the top. It is Petition 21628. This petition would allow for the elimination of the Conference Board of Pensions, and it was good discussion on this item, and while there was, the committee was sympathetic with the overall movement that we have been pursuing to simplify and to streamline, in this particular case, the committee decided that there is a helpful division of responsibilities when there is a separate Conference Board of Pensions required.

Having a Conference Board of Pensions provides for greater attention to these plans at a time when health care plans are becoming much more complex and there are many more options coming to us in these plans. And it was also noted that having a Conference Board of Pensions facilitates the communication between the General Board and the annual conference, as well as between the annual conference and the active and retired clergy who, as near as we were able to determine, have in some cases, different needs.

And so, the committee concluded that the Conference Board of Pensions is a useful part of our structure, and that we would do well to retain it. And as a result, the recommendation from the committee comes to you for nonconcurrence with this petition. The vote is 91 in favor, 10 against, zero abstentions.

BISHOP LEE: Calendar Item 759. The recommendation is nonconcurrence. I see a card. Please go to microphone 2 or 7, whichever one is more convenient.

VICTOR GOLDSCHMIDT (North Indiana): Question to the presenter. There is a second part to that, I don't know if it is relevant or not, which says in accordance with paragraph 719. So you are addressing two topics under this petition, but you're commenting on only one part. Could you indicate whether the second part, 719 is relevant?

KNOWLES: Yeah, just a moment. Let me get a *Discipline*.

Oh, I see. The second part of the recommendation is that the members of the Conference Board of Pensions be persons who are not in any way indebted to the pension and benefit funds. Paragraph 719 refers to the apportionments for pension benefits funds. It would be difficult to get clergy on the Conference Board of Pensions without having someone on who's indebted to pension benefit funds. I would say, though, Victor, to be fair in your question, I think the discussion in the committee was mainly on the need for the agency. We stopped short of a full discussion on that particular matter, because a decision had been made on the first part for nonconcurrence.

BISHOP LEE: All right. You seem to be ready to vote. This is Calendar Item 759. The committee's recommending nonconcurrence. You will please vote when the light appears. [869 approved] The committee is supported in its recommendation.

KNOWLES: Thank you.

BISHOP LEE: Thank you.

CASHAR EVANS (N. Carolina): Page 235 in the blue *DCA*. Calendar Item 760. Page 368 in the red book. The Petition 20416. It's in the first column, second item. The subject is "Fiscal Responsibilities." Committee recommends nonconcurrence. The vote 98 for, 11 against, zero abstaining. I move the adoption of the committee's recommendation.

BISHOP LEE: All right, the committee is recommending nonconcurrence on the Calendar Item 760. I believe you're ready to vote. If you

are, please vote when the light appears. [847 approved] The committee is sustained in its recommendation.

EVANS: Thank you.

BISHOP LEE: Thank you very kindly. Now before we ask the next presenter to come I must announce to you a thing I failed to announce earlier. In the second item that we dealt with this evening, Calendar Item 782, which had to do with constitutional amendment, the house did give approval to that in a percentage and in a vote that exceeded the two-thirds needed, and we need to have that as a part of our minutes. Thank you. Paul Ervin, Discipleship.

*Baptism/Rebaptism Revisited*

PAUL ERVIN JR. (North Carolina): Thank you, Bishop Lee. We have two items that were on the Consent Calendar that have been lifted and Greg Stover, who was chair of the baptism subcommittee, will give the report.

BISHOP LEE: All right, thank you.

GREGORY D. STOVER (West Ohio): Thank you, Paul. Bishop and members of the Conference, I would direct your attention in the blue *DCA* to page 133, Calendar Item 133. It's in the center column there on page 133. This refers to an item in your red *DCA*, page 946, Petition 21430. This particular petition deals with admission into the church, and it rewrites this paragraph in accordance with the understandings of the study, *By Water and the Spirit*. The section on Discipleship concurred with this petition as amended. 99 for, 1 against, and 1 abstention. This item was lifted from the Consent Calendar on which it had been placed.

BISHOP LEE: All right, Calendar Item 133 is before you. I see a card. Please go to microphone 2.

VICTOR GOLDSCHMIDT (North Indiana): The item that we are bringing to the attention of the General Conference is in part 2B of page 133 far right column. As you recall, we had a similar action before that we recognized that the call for baptism being non-repeated was addressed in the resolution which we already approved. And a previous petition which had the word "non-repeatability" within the proposed wording for the *Discipline* was not approved at that time. So the motion at this time will be to delete the sentence in 2B, last in that paragraph, starting with the word, "unlike" and continuing "unlike baptism, which is a once-made covenant which can only be reaffirmed or repeated, confirmation"... so and so forth. So that would be the motion to make this consistent with previous actions.

BISHOP LEE: All right. You're amending actually the report that is before us?

GOLDSCHMIDT: That's correct.

BISHOP LEE: Do I have a second to that? There is a second. Would you like to speak to it?

GOLDSCHMIDT: I spoke at this issue before and we're all tired. Thank you.

BISHOP LEE: Thank you for your consideration. All right, please go to microphone 4.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Bishop Lee, I apologize. You're still on that issue, aren't you?

BISHOP LEE: Yes.

SPEAKER: OK, I have a Point of Order, but I'll wait.

BISHOP LEE: All right. Thank you. We're dealing now with an amendment. I see a card in the back, please. Would you please go to microphone 12.

BILL CROUCH (North Texas): I would oppose the amendment because, as a matter of fact, this statement is not at all inconsistent with our previous action. The previous action was to suggest that these matters of requests for rebaptism be dealt with pastorally, and they certainly can be, as is the case here. We did not suggest that rebaptism is ever appropriate, ever appropriate, and so I oppose this amendment.

BISHOP LEE: All right. Thank you. We have had a speech in favor by the maker of the amendment and then a speech in opposition. Are there any others who would like to speak? All right, I believe you are ready to vote. The amendment is to delete the last sentence in 2B in the far right hand column of page 133 in the blue *DCA*. If you will support that amendment, you will vote, yes. Please vote when the light appears. [Results: yes, 244; no, 674] It fails.

It remains as a part of the main motion that is before us, Calendar Item 133. You ready to deal with that now? I believe you are. If you will vote, please, when the light appears. [888 approved] The committee's recommendation of concurrence is approved. Thank you.

STOVER: I would now direct your attention in the blue *DCA* to page...

BISHOP LEE: Excuse me, just a moment. We did have a Point of Order. You'll ask for it later? All right, thank you.

*Removal of Persons from Membership*

STOVER: I will direct your attention in the blue *DCA*, now, to page 134. In the bottom right hand corner, Calendar Item 141. Red *DCA* on page 950. Petition 21441. This petition deals with the care of members and in particular, contains language related to the removal of persons from membership.

The Discipleship section voted to change the word 'three' in four places in this petition to the word 'two.' The effect of which would be to require two years of reading persons names and of seeking to re-enlist them prior to removal from professed membership rather than three years as it is now. The discipleship section voted concurrence with this petition as amended: 96 for; 4 against; and 1 not voting. However, we recognize that the Local Church section was dealing with some similar matters and in the midst of a conference with them it was agreed that we would lift our petition, so that Local Church would have an opportunity to review the action we had taken and decide if it concurred with that action. We understand that they have concurred, but we would like to request that Janice Huie, the

chairperson of the Local Church section confirm that, or someone else from her section.

BISHOP LEE: All right, is Janice here, can someone else in that committee confirm it? Microphone 8.

HERSCHEL SHEETS (North Georgia): (I am) secretary of the Committee on Local Church. The Committee on the Local Church did approve that change.

BISHOP LEE: All right, thank you.

STOVER: Then, we move concurrence with this petition as amended.

BISHOP LEE: All right, we're dealing with Calendar Item 141, it is before you, as amended. The recommendation is concurrence. All right, you're ready to vote. Please vote when the light appears. [866 approved] The committee is sustained in its recommendation for concurrence.

STOVER: Bishop Lee and members of the conference, this concludes our report at this time.

BISHOP LEE: Thank you very kindly. All right, now we turn to Church and Society; Don Pike. If you'd hold just a moment, I see some cards back there. Go to microphone 14.

*Distribution of Shalom Zone Materials*

THELMA JOHNSON (West Ohio): Bishop, I'd like to make a motion to suspend the rules in order that we can allow the pages tomorrow morning to distribute educational materials on the Shalom Zone, because in the afternoon having a special guest, we don't think there'll be an opportunity to do this.

BISHOP LEE: All right, is there a second to that? All right, I think you want to do this and I'll follow the precedent set this afternoon. If you will approve suspending the rules for that purpose, please lift the hand. It clearly passes, thank you. All right, let's turn now to Church and Society.

DON PIKE (Central Texas): Bishop Lee, and all of us here gathered, I have six items that we will be dealing with. But before I begin them Bishop, if possible, I'd like to make one editorial correction. I understand when I reported yesterday, I had the spring wound a little tight, so I'll try to slow down tonight and help you to keep up. If you would turn in your blue edition of the *DCA* to page 142, Consent Calendar B02, in the middle column, Calendar Item 206. It reads in you printed document, "removal of reduction;" it should be "or," that will make a little more sense to you.

Now if you would turn in your blue *DCA* to page 130, we will be dealing with two calendar items found on that page. The first we will be dealing with is 103. This was removed from the Consent Calendar, and you will find the text of that petition in your red *DCA* on page 119, the original petition. You will notice that the committee has recommended concurrence as amended. This is a section on women and men, paragraph 71e, in the *Discipline*, found on page 91. The committee recommended concurrence, 89 to 4, and we still recommend concurrence.

BISHOP LEE: All right, Calendar Item 103 is before you. I see a card; please go to microphone 2.

*Men and Women of Equal Value*

VICTOR GOLDSCHMIDT: (North Indiana) I do apologize to the General Conference for again being standing before you. I wish I did not have to do this. I need to ask a question. What does the first sentence mean?

PIKE: I think that it simply says, I do not recall the subcommittee discussing exactly its rationale for that, but, that we're all equal people in God's sight.

GOLDSCHMIDT: It says that we have similarity in sexes. I don't understand that. May I move an amendment to delete that first sentence unless the presenter can explain to me what it means. I move deletion of the first sentence inasmuch as it cannot be explained to me.

BISHOP LEE: All right, there is a motion to amend. Is there a second? There is a second. Would you like to have another word?

GOLDSCHMIDT: I'll be glad to comment once it is explained to me, but, I've been married for 39 years and I don't think there is much similarity in our sexes. *(laughter)* And it does lead to a lot of intimacy.

BISHOP LEE: All right. I'll accept that as a statement in behalf of the amendment. *(laughter)*

*Different in Gender Similar in Humanness*

PIKE: I think the committee...May I speak, Bishop? I think that when you look, it simply is saying that no matter whether we're male or female, that we're all the same in God's sight. That our human similarities, and not our differences, that are the important part. We are different, obviously, men and women, but that in terms of who we are in terms of our value and worth no matter what our gender, we are all valuable in God's sight. We would still maintain that this is a better statement.

BISHOP LEE: All right. Yes, if you would go to microphone 3, please. We're on the amendment to delete the first sentence in this proposed new sub-paragraph.

DAVID BANKS (North Carolina): I was on the subcommittee. As we were reflecting on this, we understood that the first sentence was reflecting the fact that between male and female there is an equality given to us. And that, while there is a division between the sexes, there nonetheless is an equality, a compatibility.

BISHOP LEE: Thank you. If you will please go to microphone 2. I believe if we follow our rules, you would need to speak in favor of the amendment. To delete.

CHRIS ANDREWS (Louisiana): To delete. Yes, I can do that.

BISHOP LEE: Yes.

ANDREWS: I think that the gentleman who spoke earlier raised a significant issue, and I don't think it has been answered. And I would also call attention to the body to another para-

graph in this matter that says, "we especially reject the idea that God made individuals as incomplete fragments, made whole only in relationship to another." It seems to me that the story of creation is that it is not good for humans to be alone. And that we live in relationship and we are relational beings. And, that flies in light of the biblical witness as well as what the incarnation is, God's relatedness to us. So I add my voice to that earlier speech.

BISHOP LEE: All right. Thank you. We've had now two speeches both for and against. Yes, would you please go to microphone 4.

JAMES LAWSON (California-Pacific): First of all, on 103, you noticed that we amended this. We crossed out the word "relationship", and we put "in union with one another." And there the idea was to reject a common notion that men and women are fragmentary persons apart from a one-on-one relationship.

It is to try to indicate that God has made us in God's image, and that we can stand in union with others in a great variety of ways; with families, friends, community, congregation and like. The other issue here is that in the beginning God made mortals. God said, "Let us make a human being," God said, "Let us make human beings in our image," God said, and God made human beings, male and female, God made them. And God saw that it was good. Well this means that each of us has the image of God in us. In that sense that's the critical similarity from all accounts biblically. Then we all bleed the same, biologically, we all have the same DNA's. We have the same structures basically. The fact of our sexual difference is not what makes us human. We are, can be, intimately involved with each other in a great variety of ways.

In that sense, that first sentence does try to say that because we are made in the image of God, we can therefore be intimate with one another, and with all other kinds of people. We can build community and family and the rest and I wish that we would leave that statement in.

BISHOP LEE: All right, thank you. All right, if you will, please go to microphone 3. Now the last statement I would interpret as being in support of the committee report, so you have to speak in favor of the amendment, which is an amendment to delete.

GREGORY PALMER (East Ohio): I need your assistance. I think the sentence as it reads in the proposal before us is a poor one at best. However, I've been instructed by the spirit of responses from the committee. I'd like to propose an alternative rendering that catches up that spirit, and I need to know, parliamentarily, how to do that.

BISHOP LEE: We have an amendment already before us to delete that sentence, but we could take one other amendment.

PALMER: All right. Would it be an amendment by substitution at this point or..

BISHOP LEE: You would just be amending his proposal to delete by or giving a.. .

PALMER: All right, let me try it, and then you instruct me in the house, please. I would like the first sentence to read, rather than as it does, "we affirm, with scripture, the common humanity of male and female both having equal worth in the eyes of God."

BISHOP LEE: All right, is there a second to that? Would you like to speak to it?

PALMER: I think it speaks for itself.

BISHOP LEE: It speaks for itself, he says. Would you like to vote on the amendment to the amendment? I believe that you would. All right, the amendment is to, rather than delete, insert this new sentence for sentence number one. And if you approve this, that would become the main motion at that point; for that part of this report. All right, if you would please vote when the light appears.[857 approved] All right, that is approved, and that now becomes a part of the committee report. Yes, please come to microphone 3.

*Debate of Ethical Self-determination*

DAVID BANKS (North Carolina): It seems to me about two-thirds, almost three-quarters of the way down the words, "and to practice ethical self-determination," my recollection is that we deleted those words, but since it's not deleted here, I would move their deletion.

BISHOP LEE: All right, the amendment is to delete the words "ethical self-determination."

BANKS: It would begin with, put a period after justice. And the deletion would be "and to practice ethical self-determination."

BISHOP LEE: All right, is there a second to that? All right, it is seconded. It's before us if you would like to speak to it.

BANKS: That engendered a lot of discussion in the sub-committee, and in the end, I think we decided that we would go home to our local churches and probably few people would say I wonder why they didn't say "ethical self-determination" in the report? So in order to not confuse those at home, we felt it most wisely would be left out.

BISHOP LEE: All right, I see a card. If you would, please go to microphone 7.

CHUCK HEFLEY (North Indiana): I was the recorder for that group, and the only thing that was done was "ethical" was substituted for "moral" and it was left.

BISHOP LEE: All right, so the term "self-determination" would not be in there, but it is proposed as a part of this amendment. All right, please go to microphone 4.

ZANE SCOTT (Holston): I have a question, and perhaps a point after the question. We need to delete more than the words,"ethical self-determination," or the sentence won't make sense. I think we need to back up to the "and" immediately preceding that, and delete from the "and" forward.

BISHOP LEE: We need at this point to get a copy of that. As soon as we get that we're going to read it again. I'm a little confused myself.

SCOTT: I think what would be proposed when we get the copy, if we delete that idea, we ought to put a period right before the "and" which comes before "ethical self-determination," otherwise we're going to have a sentence that says " and of practice."

BISHOP LEE: Would you read it for us again, please? Microphone 3 please.

BANKS: The motion is to put a period after "justice" and delete the words "and to practice ethical self-determination."

BISHOP LEE: All right, a period after the word "justice" and then delete those next three words. All right, microphone 7.

HEFLEY: It is correct the way it is printed in the *DCA*, the blue copy. That's the way it was voted in the legislative group.

BISHOP LEE: All right, thank you. And we have an amendment now that would change that. Yes. Would you please go to microphone 7?

PHILIP R. GRANGER (North Indiana): I would urge the defeat of this amendment. It seems to me that if we do this, what we are doing is affirming sexual relations, healthy or unhealthy. We could be in a position of affirming relationships that have, at their basis, spousal abuse. We could be in the position of affirming relationships between dominating adults and minors. It appears that the church has an ethical responsibility to speak to society and say that, while we affirm that you should be practicing and receiving love in a spirit of self-determination, there are boundaries for our expression. There are such a thing as moral or ethical values. Therefore, I would urge the defeat of this amendment.

BISHOP LEE: All right, thank you. Microphone 8, please, if you will come.

JERRY SMITH (Southwest Texas): I would like to move the previous question on all that is before the house.

BISHOP LEE: I believe that is not quite in order. According to my count, we've had only one speech in favor of this amendment and one speech against it. We would have to have at least two on each side. No one else is trying to get the floor. We can certainly bring it to a vote on the amendment, but I see a card. Go to microphone 7, please.

JEAN-PIERRE DUNCAN (Wyoming): Point of Order, Bishop. I'm unclear as to what we had done in the vote concerning the first sentence.

BISHOP LEE: We have substituted a new sentence at that point.

DUNCAN: So that what we voted on was not an amendment to the amendment to delete, but rather to the committee report?

BISHOP LEE: Yes, it was an amendment to the whole thing, but it was a substitution, an amendment by substitution.

DUNCAN: All right, thank you.

BISHOP LEE: Thank you. All right, I believe you are ready to vote on this amendment. May I ask the secretary to read that for us, please, one more time?

CAROLYN MARSHALL: Move deletion of the words, "and to practice ethical self-determination."

BISHOP LEE: All right, with a period after "justice." Let me call on the chair of the committee to see if he would like to have a word.

DON PIKE: I believe the committee would much prefer that we leave the language the way it is, because it simply declares, if you read that, "we seek for every individual opportunities and freedom to love and be loved, to seek and receive justice, and to practice ethical self-determination." I really have difficulty finding fault with that. I urge you to support it.

BISHOP LEE: All right, thank you. It is before you, Calendar Item 103, and we are on the amendment only at this point to delete those words, "to practice ethical self-determination" and place a period after "justice." If you will support that amendment, you will vote yes. Please vote when the light appears. [Results: yes, 307; no, 602;] The amendment does not carry. Back now to the main report, 103, and it has been amended to insert a new sentence at the beginning. Microphone 8. Yes, if you'll go there, please.

JERRY J. SMITH (Southwest Texas): Bishop, I move the previous question on all that is before us.

BISHOP LEE: All right. I believe you're ready for that. I'm going to ask, if you will support the call for the previous question, please lift the hand. That previous question is definitely called for. So Calendar Item 103 is before you. The recommendation is for concurrence as amended. Would you like to have any word?

PIKE: No further word.

BISHOP LEE: No further word from the chair person. So if you're ready to vote, please vote when the light appears. [766 approved] The committee's recommendation for concurrence is sustained. All right. Thank you.

### *Calendar Item 104*
### *Divorce and Remarriage*

PIKE: Continuing on page 130 of the blue *DCA*, we now turn to Calendar Item 104. You will find that in your red *DCA* on page 122. Petition 20922. You'll find that at the bottom right hand column. The subject is divorce. You will notice in Calendar Item 104 that the recommendation is concurrence as amended. This is dealing with paragraph 71 in the *Discipline* found on page 91. The paragraph there is likewise entitled "Divorce." The committee is recommending what you find printed in the blue *DCA* as a substitution for what now presently exists in the *Discipline*. We recommend its concurrence.

BISHOP LEE: All right. Calendar Item 104 is before you, recommendation for concurrence. Yes, would you please go to microphone 1?

HARRIET JANE OLSON (Northern New Jersey): I sought to remove this item from the Consent Calendar in order to raise concerns about how we use or don't use scripture. With this issue in mind, I'd like to move

that this General Conference request the General Board of Discipleship to consider and prepare resource materials to lead the church in a study of how we use scripture in making life decisions on issues like this issue of divorce and remarriage; and further, that the board consider language to be proposed to the General Conference of the year 2000, that might be added to paragraph 71D, reflecting a response to the biblical witness. If I have a second, Bishop, I'd like to speak to it.

BISHOP LEE: All right. I'm struggling with this. I hear what you're requesting. It would seem to me that maybe that would be an additional item to come after this particular matter has been dealt with because you're asking the General Board of Discipleship to create some materials and resources. Would you be willing to take it after we have dealt with this, because we're dealing now with the calendar item.

OLSON: Yes, sir. You'll come back to me when we're ready?

BISHOP LEE: I certainly will.

OLSON: Thank you.

BISHOP LEE: All right, this item is before you. You seem to be ready to vote. Calendar Item 104, recommendation of concurrence. Please vote when the light appears. [842 approved] All right, the committee recommendation for concurrence is supported, and Mr. Chairman, if you would, let me take this other motion at this time, since it's related to this matter. If you would just give us briefly that motion again?

*Biblical Educational Resources on Divorce and Remarriage Proposed*

OLSON: Yes, sir. I move that this General Conference request the General Board of Discipleship to consider and prepare resource materials to lead the church in a study of how we use scripture in making life decisions on issues like this question of divorce and remarriage; and further, that the board consider language to be proposed to the General Conference of the year 2000 that might be added to 71D, reflecting a response to biblical witness.

BISHOP LEE: All right. Thank you. Is there a second? There is a second. Would you like to have any other words to speak to it?

OLSON: If I may.

BISHOP LEE: Yes.

OLSON: This proposed revision of 71D does not make any attempt to address or integrate Jesus' teaching on divorce into the Social Principles. You might want to look at texts like Matthew 5, Matthew 19, Mark 10 at some time at your leisure. We do not currently provide adequate support for persons dealing with these questions. If we do not provide guidance on these issues—I have had the opportunity to walk miles this year with a member of my congregation as she has tried to struggle with this question in her own life. On the other hand, we see the church today taking a firm stand on scriptural references drawn from the Old Testament Holiness Codes and from some of the Pauline letters that we feel preclude us from including the ministry of some among us.

We need help in resolving our schizophrenia about the use of the biblical texts. How many of you have had a member of your youth group dismiss the position of the church or the relevance of scripture because of the charge that we only attend the passages that support our own perspective? I believe that statements like the language of 71D open us up to this accusation. Please support this request for study and resourcing. We desperately need assistance in this matter which will assist in our efforts to integrate scripture on this issue and other issues with integrity.

BISHOP LEE: Thank you. It is before you. I believe you're ready to vote. If you will support this motion, which includes a recommendation to the Board of Discipleship for study and resourcing on this particular issue, you'll please vote yes. Please vote when the light appears. [728 approved] And that is approved. Thank you very kindly. Mr. Chairman.

*Calendar Item 752*
*Science and Technology*

DON PIKE (Central Texas): We now turn to page 234 in your blue *DCA*. Page 234, and on that page in the center column, you will find Calendar Item 752. The subject is science and technology. The petition, which is addressed in that calendar item, will be found on page 117 of your red *DCA*; 117 in your red *DCA*. It is Petition 20921. You will find that located in the right hand column, second from the top. Petition 20921. It addresses disciplinary paragraphs 70E found on the page 89 in the *Discipline*. The committee recommends concurrence as amended by a vote of 81 to seven as we delete the existing first paragraph of 70E and substitute the text which you see printed in Calendar Item 752. We recommend concurrence as amended.

BISHOP LEE: All right, it is before you. I see a card. If you will please go to microphone 8.

JEREMY VETTER (Nebraska): I move to amend by substituting the following for paragraph 70, section E. "We recognize science as a legitimate interpretation of God's natural world. We affirm the validity of the claims of science in describing the natural world, although we preclude science from making authoritative claims about theological issues. We recognize technology as a legitimate use of God's natural world when such use enhances human life and enables all of God's children to develop their God-given creative potential without violating our ethical convictions about the relationship of humanity to the natural world. In acknowledging the important roles of science and technology, however, we also believe that theological understandings of human experience are crucial to a full understanding of the place of humanity in the universe. Science and theology are complementary rather than mutually incompatible."

BISHOP LEE: All right, is there a second to that amendment? There is a second. Would you like to speak to it?

VETTER: Yes, I would like to. I apologize for the length of this amendment, but the current language, I think, is unsatisfactory for two reasons. First of all, I think, as a church it's important that we give our support to science. There are many religions both in history and in current times who like to reject science and challenge its claims in ways that question the validity of what most of us accept as scientific discoveries. I think it would be a good thing for our church to go on record as being compatible with science. And the second element that is incorporated that goes beyond what is in the present language is to expand our understanding of what it means for science and theology to be compatible with each other. And I think that's a very good statement to say that without theology, science is incomplete, and without science, theology is incomplete in a sense of understanding our world to the fullest extent of the human potential of discovery.

BISHOP LEE: All right, thank you. *[applause]* Now I know that you appreciate his effort in that. I do hope, though, that we will refrain from any applause because everyone needs to have a right to hear their voice. Now, or make their voice heard, may be a better way to put it. *[laughter]* All right. Is there anyone who would like to speak in opposition. It is an amendment by substitution. Yes, if you would please go to the nearest microphone, and I will try to call the number. Yes, microphone 1.

WILLIAM D. SCOTT III (Mississippi): I chaired the subcommittee on the Church and Society Legislative Committee that dealt with this issue. While I'm not totally opposed to some of the wording of the proposed amendment, I am opposed to the rationale given for supporting that. I am a trained chemist, and I do know that science deals with things that are relative. And theology deals with things that are absolute. And if we get into the position of saying that science is absolute, then we're going to create science as a religion, and I'm opposed to that, and therefore, I would support the language as it is proposed by the legislative committee.

BISHOP LEE: Thank you very kindly. Yes. Please go to microphone 9. We've had a speech for and a speech against.

FRANK L. DORSEY (Kansas East): I want to speak for the amendment. Before going into ministry, I as a trained biologist. And I believe that Jeremy has set forth a holistic view of the relationship of science and theology. And I believe, in a growing era of fundamentalism, that we ought to confirm that kind of understanding, holistic understanding, that Jeremy has brought.

BISHOP LEE: Thank you very kindly. Is there anyone who would like now to speak against that amendment. Yes, I see a card in the back. Microphone 9, please.

BRIAN K. BAUKNIGHT (Western Pennsylvania): Bishop, I'd like to request, or maybe you can recommend that maybe we can postpone until we can see that resolution in writing that Jeremy gave us. I request that especially in light of the comment made over here at microphone 1 a little while ago. So I would move that we postpone until it can be printed in the *DCA*.

BISHOP LEE: That is in order. You have made a motion, then, to postpone any action on this until you have it in writing. Is there a second to that? There is a second. All right, I do not see anyone asking for the floor at this time, so I will ask you to vote on that proposal to postpone further action on this until we have it in writing. If you...please vote when the light appears. [Results: yes, 654; no, 259] And it has been postponed. All right, so we need to move on to the next calendar item, please.

*Calendar Item 753*
*General and Complete Disarmament*

PIKE: Right. Next Calendar Item is on page 234, Calendar Item 753. General and Complete Disarmament. The committee recommends concurrence as amended. It is petition number—let me give you a *DCA* page. In the white *DCA*, page 1229. Petition 20059. You'll find it at the bottom of the right hand column. General and Complete Disarmament. The committee recommends concurrence as amended by a vote of 74, nine, and four.

BISHOP LEE: All right. That is before you. Recommended concurrence as it has been amended by the committee. You seem to be ready. All right, if you will please vote when the light appears. [754 approved] It has been supported. All right.

PIKE: Our next item is on page, calendar—*DCA* blue, page 234, Calendar Item 754, first in that column. The text of the petition is in your white *DCA*, page 1255. It is resolution 20062, left hand column, bottom of the page under other resolutions. The committee by a vote of 83 to six recommends nonconcurrence.

BISHOP LEE: Calendar Item 754 now is before you. You seem to be ready to vote. If you will please vote when the light appears. [704 approved] Committee's recommendation of nonconcurrence is sustained. Thank you.

PIKE: Likewise, on page 234 of the blue *DCA*, Calendar Item 755, middle of the page, right hand column. You will find the text for that in your white *DCA*, page 1230. It is Petition 22328, left hand column, second from the top. The committee, by vote of 72 to 14, recommends nonconcurrence on the grounds that what is being suggested there is adequately covered in a number of other places.

BISHOP LEE: All right. Calendar Item 755 is before you. Recommendation of nonconcurrence. I believe you are ready. You'll please vote when the light appears. And it has been sustained. [798 approved]

PIKE: I think, Bishop, that concludes our report for this evening.

BISHOP LEE: All right, thank you very kindly. I see a card in the center section here. If you'll please go to microphone 8.

BETTE T. TRUMBLE (Nebraska): I move that the information from my minority report on Calendar Item 764 be referred to the Connectional Process Team for their consideration.

BISHOP LEE: Is there a second? There is a second, and that is in order. All right, it is just a matter of reference. I see a card in the rear. If you'll go to microphone 15, please, or whichever is closer. Fourteen.

THELMA L. JOHNSON (West Ohio Conference): Help me to understand something. I thought yesterday we voted that articles' votes that had 10 or less, that we would not do unless they were pulled from the Consent Calendar. And yet we have done those that had six against, eight against, nine against. I don't quite understand.

DON PIKE: I can explain it. These were all acted on before you made that rule. Once something is published in the *DCA*, we have to wait a full day before we can report on them. Everything that is printed in today's *DCA* conforms to that 10 negative vote rule. But we cannot report on them until tomorrow. So there is a one day lag. So this all happened before you passed that rule.

JOHNSON: So tomorrow we should have it that way.

BISHOP LEE: That is correct. Now let me remind you, we do have a motion on the floor, and that motion is simply to refer the minority report that was attached to Calendar Item 764, and I believe that is the item that was defeated, maybe this afternoon, I do not remember exactly when. But the item is to just simply refer it as a matter of information to that particular committee that will be created. All right, are you ready to vote on that? If you will refer that material, please vote when the light appears. [702 approved]

All right, the motion to refer has been passed. Now we've been here about an hour and a half. We've got another hour to go, well, you've already taken up five minutes of that hour. I would like to suggest that perhaps we just take a standing break for about two and a half minutes. Please do not leave the room, but stand and stretch, if you will.

*(short recess)*

BISHOP LEE: All right, will you please come to order now? Thank you. Will you please be seated? Thank you, we are ready to begin now. Dear friends, we cannot begin until you are seated, please. And if you would please close your conversations. All right, I have a recognized card here. Come to microphone 4. This was the earlier request for a point of order. Microphone 4. Would you please? All right, thank you, we're ready now.

CHARLES E. LIPPSE (Holston Conference): Thank you, Bishop Lee, I do have a point of order to raise in regard to the Plan of Organization and Rules of Order, page 99, Rule 13. I rose a while ago, but I realized it would be best to wait until we were between dealing with other legislative matters. It's not that immediate, but I do want it to be addressed this evening. At the time I rose, we had just received a packet of material on our desks, and it came to other delegations as well, from an unofficial group. And this is the "Open the Doors" group, and this is the third time in this General Conference that the point has been made that unofficial material is being distributed to the desks. Now if that rule says that groups that do that can be prohibited from distributing any other material, I think it's time to take that action. And that's my appeal of the point.

BISHOP LEE: All right, thank you. We are sorry that the rules have not been followed as we have already discussed earlier in our sessions. We would ask the cooperation of all groups at this point to do what has been done. If you have something that is imperative to be distributed to the delegates, that you ask for the suspension of the rules and do it that way. Thank you for your bringing that to our attention. All right, I see a card in the very back of the section C, I believe. If you will go to microphone 14.

*Proposal to Limit Debate Defeated*

JUDITH HILL (Central Pennsylvania): Bishop Lee, I would like to move limiting debate on the pro and cons of these speeches to two each, effective Wednesday morning. Let me have a second.

BISHOP LEE: All right, just a moment, please. All right, that is a proper motion, and the motion is to limit debate to two persons on each side of the question. Did I understand that right, Judith?

HILL: Yes.

BISHOP LEE: All right, and it has been seconded. Would you like to make a statement? I believe you said that would be effective tomorrow morning.

HILL: Yes. Tomorrow morning. You know, during the past General Conference meetings, on the last day, someone always moves to refer all of the remaining items to appropriate committees, and we have much to discuss. And I think, in all fairness to the legislative committees, I believe that we should respect the work of the legislative committees and the work they've committed thus far. Thank you.

BISHOP LEE: Thank you. Is there anyone who would like to speak on the other side? I see a card here. If you will please go to—microphone 7, I believe, is the nearest one.

GARNETT M. WILDER (North Georgia): I believe this motion at this time is premature because the two most crucial issues before this conference have yet to come before us. And to limit discussion and debate on those two issues, namely homosexuality and the structure and ministry of the church, must have full attention by this body.

BISHOP LEE: All right, thank you. All right, I believe you're ready to vote at this point. There's a motion to limit debate to two persons on each side of the question to be effective tomorrow morning. If you will support that you would vote yes. If you do not, you would support no. Please vote when the light appears.

[Results: yes, 356; no, 522] The motion fails, and we will be under the regular rules. Now I see one other card here. You will come to microphone 9.

ROBERT SWEET (New England): Bishop Lee, in order to save time tomorrow, I would like to move to suspend Rule 28—sorry. I move to suspend Rule 28(6) on page 104 of the *Advance DCA*, changing the number five to ten beginning with the Wednesday morning session. In addition, that those items with five signatories by three o'clock today be given until noon tomorrow to gain five additional signatures.

BISHOP LEE: I believe we have already acted on at least the first part of your motion, have we not? If I've not...I am not looking at the rule; will you ...

SWEET: This rule, sir, refers to the number of signatures that are required to lift from the Consent Calendar. The motion I did yesterday, I'm afraid, was incomplete, which only dealt with the number of dissenting votes in the committees.

BISHOP LEE: All right, read it for us one more time. What is the amendment to this standing rule?

SWEET: That standing rule 28(6) on page 104 in the *Advance DCA*, that we change the number five, which is the number of signatures required to lift an item from the Consent Calendar, to ten, beginning with the Wednesday morning session. In addition, that those items that had five signatures by three o'clock today be given until noon tomorrow to gain five additional signatures.

BISHOP LEE: All right, my advisers tell me that we need to suspend the rules in order to do that at this time. So your first motion is to suspend the rules for that purpose?

SWEET: I so move.

BISHOP LEE: All right, is there a second? Second. I believe you are ready. If you will vote to suspend the rules for this purpose, then you will please vote yes, or if you are against it vote no. Please vote when the light appears. [Results: yes, 579; no, 301] I do not have a two-thirds vote at this point; we have not suspended the rules. Thank you. All right, now we need to move to the calendar items, and they come next for Higher Education and Chaplaincy. Dr. Allen Norris.

### *Church Affiliation in Institutions of Higher Education*

ALLEN J. NORRIS (North Carolina): Thank you, Bishop. I would refer you to the blue book, page 256, Calendar Item 772. The petition may be found in the white book, page 1381. Calendar Item 772 is titled "Requirements for Church Affiliation in Institutions of Higher Education." The legislative committee voted nonconcurrence by a vote of 55 to 24 with one abstention. Rationale that is based on the prevailing belief that the *Discipline* should not place policy restrictions on individual institutions. Bishop, there is a minority report to be presented by Stefanie Gray.

BISHOP LEE: All right, we will have the minority report presented. Then we will come back to perfect the majority report, then perfect the minority report, then give you an opportunity to debate it, then vote. All right, if you will give your minority vote.

STEFANIE A. GRAY (California-Pacific): Thank you. Paragraph 1519.4, according to the minority report, would read: "To qualify for affiliation with The United Methodist Church, institutions must maintain appropriate academic accreditation and protect the civil and basic rights due to all persons regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, national origin, sexual orientation, or physical disabilities." The difference—do I speak to it now or just present it?

BISHOP LEE: I'm sorry?

GRAY: Can I speak to it now or do I present it?

BISHOP LEE: We would like for you just to interpret it to the group now, and then you will be given an opportunity to speak for it.

GRAY: OK, so I will just explain the difference between the minority report and the original petition that was nonconcurred in committee is that the minority report no longer requires United Methodist schools to have policies prohibiting discrimination of several sorts; however, it does make an effort to affirm the basic civil rights that are currently in our Social Principles for people at United Methodist schools and prospective United Methodist schools who are not treated in accordance to those Social Principles.

BISHOP LEE: All right, thank you. Now we will go back to the chairperson to see if there is any perfecting that you would like to do as a body to the main report, Calendar Item 772. The committee has recommended nonconcurrence. All right, I do see a card at the far right. Microphone 6, please.

### *Clarification on Presenting Minority Report*

DENNY WHITE (Western North Carolina): I think I know the answer to this before I ask it, but I want to ask it anyway as a procedural matter or enlightenment upon our rules. In our legislative committee we operated on the assumption that when a legislative committee came forth with a recommendation of nonconcurrence that a minority report was not in order because the substitute may not simply reverse the action of the committee. Now, the minority presented here is not precisely identical to the original petition, but it is so close as to call in my mind the question of whether, in fact, this minority report is in order. And I think for our enlightenment in future General Conferences it would be helpful to know what our rule really is in this situation.

BISHOP LEE: I believe you are correct at this point, that with the committee's vote of nonconcurrence this minority report would not be in order as a substitution. It is entirely possible in my thinking that it would be appropriate as an amendment. Perhaps this is the only way they felt they

could change the text to make it acceptable.

It is our judgment, in order for this minority report to be properly before us, the body would first of all have to reject the committee's recommendation of nonconcurrence. Then that would make it possible for the group to concur. But before we actually acted so that they could concur, we could take that as an amendment.

NORRIS: The committee is recommending nonconcurrence, Bishop, based on the prevailing belief that the *Discipline* should not place policy restrictions on the institutions.

BISHOP LEE: All right. So this is before you, and you understand what you would have to do if you do want to consider this other material in the minority report as an amendment at a later time. All right. Recommendation is nonconcurrence. Calendar Item 772. You will please vote when the light appears.

[Results: yes, 630; no, 275] All right, they concur with the committee's nonconcurrence. And the minority is now out of order.

ALLEN NORRIS: All right. Our next item is in the blue book again on page 256, Calendar Item 773. The petition may be found in the red book on page 823, the left hand column in the middle, Petition 20630. The title is, "Support of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry." The committee voted nonconcurrence by a vote of 65 to 8, with 1 abstention.

I would point out to the body that this petition is similar to one that we considered yesterday or earlier, and this one would substitute the words "apportioned general program agency funds" for the words "world service monies as the source of support." The majority of the committee affirms World Service and we ask that you sustain the recommendation of nonconcurrence.

BISHOP LEE: All right. Calendar Item 773 is before you. I see a card. Please go to microphone 10.

DAVID LIVINGSTON (Kansas East): Actually, this is a Point of Order on 772, which we just discussed. What I'm wondering is, we didn't actually discuss 772. I'm not aware that there was ever an opportunity to discuss that. That's the one that we had the minority report on, and I'm sure that one of those 10 people who made that minority report would be willing to, or would want to discuss that. I think there was some confusion. I know there was some confusion on my part in regard to what exactly we were suppose to be doing in order to discuss that. So, I'm not sure if our votes to concur with that were actually in order at that point, without having a good opportunity to discuss it.

BISHOP LEE: Well, I'm very sorry. Don't feel that your confusion is just on your part. I was confused somewhat myself. However, before we did vote on the nonconcurrence, which I pointed out that you would have to defeat the committee's recommendation in order to take any part of the minority report, that I did give a chance for any...I looked around and I saw no one asking for the floor. So I'm sorry, but that action has taken place. All right, we're on Calendar Item 773. I believe you are ready to vote. The recommendation of the committee is nonconcurrence. Please vote when the light appears. [828 approved] The committee's recommendation of nonconcurrence is sustained.

NORRIS: The next item is also on blue book 256, Calendar Item 774. Red book, page 823, right hand column at the bottom, Petition 21278. The committee recommends concurrence by a vote of 58 to 16 with 4 abstentions.

BISHOP LEE: All right, Calendar Item 774 is before you.

### *GBHEM Facilitates Between Agencies and Higher Education Institutions*

NORRIS: Bishop, the rationale for recommending concurrence in this petition. The committee majority supports the involvement of the Division of Higher Education as facilitator in discussions between church-related institutions and the agencies of the church, when these agencies make inquiry into the work of the educational institution.

Please note that the wording indicates that the Division of Higher Education should be involved. And, as liaison and bridge-builder, the Division's presence can be most helpful since most colleges are independent organizationally in terms of ownership. So we would recommend, sir, concurrence with this petition.

BISHOP LEE: All right, you seem to be ready to vote. Please vote when the light appears. [832 approved] The committee's recommendation is sustained.

### *Funding Evangelical Seminary of Puerto Rico*

NORRIS: Next item is Calendar Item 775 on blue book 256. The petition may be found in the white book beginning on page 1383 and continuing to 1384, Petition 22788, titled, "Funding the Evangelical Seminary of Puerto Rico." The committee recommends concurrence by a vote of 70 to 1 with 1 abstention. Concurrence as amended. And the amendment would apply as follows: in the paragraph following the "therefore" clause, which is on page 1384, beginning with number 1, delete the word "continue" and insert in its place the words, "give strong consideration to the continuation of." And the paragraph would continue to read in the same paragraph, you would delete the words "at the 1992 level."

And our rationale for this concurrence, as amended, the committee majority wishes to ask the Board of Higher Education and Ministry to give strong consideration to continued funding within its budget parameters, through the year 2000, to the Evangelical Seminary of Puerto Rico, without mandating the level of support. Therefore, we would recommend concurrence as amended.

BISHOP LEE: All right, it is before you, Calendar Item 775. Recommen-

dation of concurrence as amended. Yes?

Dr. Norris, does this remove the financial element from...

NORRIS: Yes, sir, it's really saying to the board, we recommend that you continue funding within your budget parameters.

BISHOP LEE: All right. Thank you for that clarification. I believe you're ready to vote. If you will please vote when the light appears. [884 approved] The committee action has been sustained.

*Objectives of Division of Higher Education*

NORRIS: Continue in the blue book on page 256, Calendar Item 776. The petition is in the white book on page 1380, the left column, the second item, Petition 22665, "Objectives of the Division of Higher Education."

The committee recommendation is nonconcurrence by a vote of 67 to 13 with 1 abstention. The rationale for this recommendation of nonconcurrence is the content of the proposed addition pertains to seminaries, and therefore is really inappropriate to paragraph 1513 dealing with the Division of Higher Education objectives. And the general subject addressed is already a part of the University Senate criteria for theological schools.

Bishop, there is a minority report to be presented by Gregory McGarvey. I would say that again we have a committee recommendation for nonconcurrence. And I'm not sure how you want to take this, sir.

BISHOP LEE: All right. We're going to handle this the same way that we did a while ago. We'll give the person representing the minority report the opportunity to at least give us some interpretation, and then I will rule on whether or not it is in order.

NORRIS: All right.

GREGORY MCGARVEY (South Indiana): Thank you Bishop Lee, sisters, and brothers. Our opinion as members of the minority committee that by moving the words that are printed before you on page 256, "United Methodist Schools of Theology," though I'm sure the biblical, historical, and theological studies are faithful to the church's positions as stated in doctrinal standards in our theological task, to the end of paragraph 1531, carried the intent of the original author as well as making a good amendment to our *Discipline*.

BISHOP LEE: All right. I believe we are in exactly the same situation we were a few moments ago, and that is, this is really not in order at this point since the committee had voted nonconcurrence. The body can, if it desires, you can debate whether or not you want to vote nonconcurrence or not at this point or to support the nonconcurrence. But it's up to you as a body as to whether or not you want to support the committee or whether you do not want to support the committee. Now, that is open to debate at this time. That's the only issue that's open to us. Would your statement, Mr. Chairman, come at this point or would you want to have it at a later time?

All right, a point of order, that would take precedence. Microphone 7, please.

WILLIAM C. CROUCH (North Texas): Perhaps this is a parliamentary inquiry. This petition addresses paragraph 1513, and the minority report asks to move to paragraph 1531. Is that in order?

BISHOP LEE: That is in order at this time. All right. Microphone 1, please. Or microphone 2 will be fine, since you're heading this way.

BRADLEY F. WATKINS (Central Illinois): I was a member of that committee, and the rationale given for minority reports for this particular minority report was given to us for both of these minority reports. The difference was not caught up in any particular paragraph, but because those particular persons were in disagreement with the action of the committee. And so, while we can do that kind of parliamentary procedure, the essence, the fairness of that, is that both of these petitions had minority points of view because they did not agree with the vote of the committee.

BISHOP LEE: Thank you. We are going to deal only with what is before us at this point. And I think I have explained to you that if you do in fact want to give support to what is in the minority report, that there is a way of doing that. But this matter of supporting the committee's recommendation of nonconcurrence is the item that is before us now. And you wanted to have a statement.

NORRIS: All right. Let's ask the maker of the minority report. He would like to speak just as a delegate at this point.

MCGARVEY: Just speaking against nonconcurrence is all I'm allowed to do at this point?

BISHOP LEE: I believe that's right.

*Minority Report Addresses Seminaries*

MCGARVEY: As United Methodists we are proud of our heritage and United Methodist schools of theology for training leaders for our great denomination. We recognize the vital role of United Methodist Schools of Theology in preparing outstanding leaders for today and into the 21st century. As we creatively seek to address the needs of individuals, communities, and congregations facing the challenges of culture in the present day, it is imperative that our United Methodist schools of theology be clear about our covenant as United Methodists.

United Methodists do not exist in a doctrinal vacuum. We do have fine standards that have withstood the ebb and flow of faddish theology and doctrine through the two centuries of our life. Our *Discipline*'s doctrinal standards and our theological task section offers guidelines that, as United Methodist schools of theology do their work, they will find good guidelines. We are aware of the grass roots criticism of our United Methodist schools of theology. We seek to respond to their legitimate concerns. Many laity want assurance that their

schools are keeping faith with our covenant as United Methodists.

Academic freedom is vital. This disciplinary change will not be a threat to academic freedom nor preclude the teaching other disciplines of religious thought.

However, teaching of other religions, thought, should be distinguished from Christian teaching. This is not a litmus test of doctrine and theology. A litmus test validates or invalidates based on one or a few criteria. We believe the breadth and depth of our *Discipline's* Doctrinal Standards and Our Theological Task are such that the document does not lend itself to a litmus test. So we ask the United Methodist seminaries would follow through on these and would share these, would allow them to be a part of the *Discipline*. So we would encourage you to vote against nonconcurrence.

BISHOP LEE: All right, thank you. I see a card here in the middle. Microphone three. This is a speech against.

JIM REED (Kansas West): A point of clarification, Bishop. My understanding, if we would vote against nonconcurrence, what we allow, in reality, are voting for, then, is the original as it appeared before the committee. Is that correct?

BISHOP LEE: That is correct, and you would have the opportunity to amend the original at that time.

REED: That's what I needed to be sure about.

BISHOP LEE: Thank you kindly. I saw a card at the rear. Please go to microphone 14, or...yes, that'll be fine.

SHAWN HARTMAN (Central Pennsylvania): I believe just not more than a few calendar items ago we specifically said that we did not want to put into our *Discipline* any criteria or rules for our schools. I believe this is, in essence, just doing what you voted against earlier.

BISHOP LEE: All right. I believe you are ready now to vote now on the question. I do see a card here. If you will please go to microphone two.

RICHARD PARKER (New York): I am so glad to be a United Methodist, and I am very glad that I am not a Southern Baptist. In spite of what the representative of the minority report says to us, my fear is that this is the beginning step of trying to evaluate the positions of theological professors and faculties and leadership in our seminaries and trying to so limit them that we might be in the position of never being open to theological diversity and never changing the standards which are already before us. I hope we will support the action of the committee.

BISHOP LEE: All right, thank you. All right, I see another card at the back. Please go to microphone 14. I believe the way our speeches are going, you would need to speak, please, if this is your position, in opposition to the committee recommendation.

WARNER H. BROWN JR. (California-Nevada): Parliamentary inquiry. The minority report is speaking to paragraph 1531, and if we should act to adopt this as a substitution, I am unclear what this will do with our main motion, which is addressing paragraph 1513.4.

BISHOP LEE: We would have to wait and see what amendment is made as to how it would finally affect it.

BROWN: Thank you.

BISHOP LEE: All right, I believe you're—All right, I do see, yes, a card, a green card. We haven't had one of those for a while. Would you go to microphone 13, please.

BILL HINSON (Texas): Mr. Chairman, I hope in the ecumenical spirit that we have shown this day, if we can avoid speaking of a sister denomination in a derogatory sense. We must be very careful that we not surrender any moral high ground that we might have had.

BISHOP LEE: Thank you. All right, I believe we're ready to vote. I'm going to turn now to the chairperson of the committee for a statement.

ALLEN NORRIS: Bishop, I'm assuming then that we are voting on the recommendation of the committee for nonconcurrence. Is that correct?

BISHOP LEE: That is correct.

NORRIS: And of course, the rationale really is that the content of the proposed addition pertains to seminaries and, therefore, is inappropriate to paragraph 1513 dealing with Division of Higher Education objectives.

BISHOP LEE: All right, thank you. Recommendation of the committee is nonconcurrence. We've had a discussion of what this involves. If you will please vote when the light appears.

[Results: yes, 649; no, 229] The committee's recommendation of nonconcurrence is supported, so the other is not before us at this time. Thank you.

NORRIS: All right, the last item that we have to bring before you is blue book page 257.

BISHOP LEE: All right. Just a moment. I see a card. Is your's a point of order? All right, please go to microphone 2.

*Rule 35 Concerning Minority Reports*

JARED NEWMAN (Rocky Mountain): I have a point of order pursuant to Rule 35 dealing with minority reports. It says that minority reports shall be represented as substitute for the committee reports. As I understand the committee reports, the committee's recommendation would be included in that. Therefore, a substitute motion to concur with a different petition would be, in turning to Rule 24, which says the substitute motion needs not to be a simply negation of the main motion, which it would not be. Therefore, I feel that the minority report was in order, and that we need to reconsider the issue, because it was not presented like it is supposed to be.

BISHOP LEE: I appreciate your concern, and this has been a problem for us this evening, but the point has to be made that the recommendation of the committee was not for concurrence, but for nonconcurrence. And so the minority report was not in order. You could have considered that if

you voted down the committee's recommendation of nonconcurrence, but the committee was sustained by the action of the house. Thank you.

NORRIS: Blue book page 257, Calendar Item 777.

BISHOP LEE: All right, point of order. Come to microphone 4, please.

DALE SEGREST (Alabama-West Florida): In the spirit of fairness, I must protest the ruling from the chair concerning the minority report. There was a definite difference in the minority report and the majority report, in that the rationale given for the majority report was that it was under the wrong paragraph. The minority report would have put it under the right paragraph. The minority report was entitled to receive attention, because of the fact that we might very well have voted on the basis that it was improperly placed.

BISHOP LEE: All right, thank you. All right, let's go to Calendar Item 777.

### *National UM Native American Center Funding*

NORRIS: Calendar Item 777. The petition may be found in the white book page 1356. The left hand column at the bottom, Petition 22037, entitled, "The National United Methodist Native American Center." The committee recommends concurrence by a vote of 66 to 6 with 3 abstentions. Concurrence, with reference to GCFA, since this proposal includes a budgetary request in the amount of $316,000. It is the understanding of the committee in our deliberations that the center projects a budget of $640,000 of which two general boards have committed $324,000. GCFA would consider and recommend regarding the $316,000 balance needed. Therefore, we recommend concurrence with reference to GCFA.

BISHOP LEE: All right. This is before you. I see a card. Would you please go to microphone 3?

SAMUEL WYNN (North Carolina): Bishop, I would also call the attention to the conference, in the red book, to report number 14, page 643, Petition 21688. This is a report of the General Council on Ministries, over the quadrennium, of the work that's been done with the general agencies and the general secretaries trying to secure funding for the center.

This particular issue has been to this General Conference for 12 years. Each General Conference, we have voted to support the center. But there has always been the problem of funding, and it keeps coming up over and over, again and again. The center has a valid ministry. It is a ministry that is seeking to train persons for the ordained and diaconal ministries. And so I believe it is time for us in the church to say, "yes, we feel this is important," and to put some money to help the center continue the work that it has been doing for the past 16 years. I would encourage you to support this.

BISHOP LEE: All right. Thank you. I believe you are ready to vote. The recommendation of the committee is concurrence. Please vote when the light appears. [809 approved] The committee's recommendation is supported.

NORRIS: Bishop Lee, to my knowledge, this completes the work of the Legislative Committee on Higher Education and Chaplaincy. And I would like to thank the committee for its hard work and the body for your consideration of our work. Thank you, sir. [*applause*]

BISHOP LEE: Thank you. All right, we have arrived at that time for adjournment this evening. There are a number of announcements to be made and a couple of other committee reports to be heard from. I'd like to ask for Rex Bevins to please come with the report of the Presiding Officers Committee.

### *Presiding Officers Announced for Wednesday*

REX BEVINS (Nebraska): Bishop and members of the Conference, the presiding officers for Wednesday, April 24, are as follows: Wednesday morning, Bishop George Bashore of the Pittsburgh area; Wednesday afternoon, Bishop Clifton Ives of the West Virginia area; and Wednesday evening, Bishop Melvin Talbert of the San Francisco area.

BISHOP LEE: All right. Thank you very kindly. We'll hear now from the Committee on the Calendar and Agenda, Sarah Miller. Thank you for your enthusiasm. [*laughter*]

SARAH S. MILLER (Wyoming): I know you know who is coming tomorrow. Mrs. Clinton will be with us at 2:00. We'll also vote on nominees for the Judicial Council in the morning. And we have a heavy legislative agenda for tomorrow. In the morning, we'll consider legislation around the ministry study. In the afternoon, we're lumping together all items related to homosexuality. In the evening we'll discuss abortion.

Let me suggest that you be reminded of the offering for the 67 conference pages and 71 marshalls who have served us so very well. That offering will take place at the end of the morning session, so if you'll be prepared for that. And I'm asking the production crew to show us the percentage of petitions we've cared for so far. Thank you. We're coming along.

BISHOP LEE: We're on the way, but not very far. All right, we're going to call on the secretary in a moment for announcements, but I have been asked by Jim Perry of the Troy Conference for a matter of personal privilege. Where are you, sir? Yes, come into microphone 8.

### *Green Mountain College*

JAMES M. PERRY (Troy): I rise for a moment of personal privilege to read to you the following: "Whereas, Green Mountain College in Vermont reaffiliated with The United Methodist Church in 1995; and whereas, this reaffiliation represented the end of a 25-year interruption in that relationship; and whereas, Green Mountain College and its predecessor institution, the Troy Conference Academy, church relationship began over 100 years ago; and whereas, Green Moun-

tain College has become only the 5th institution of higher education in the U.S. and the first United Methodist-related institution to take as its primary mission, an environmentally-focused liberal arts curriculum; therefore, be it resolved that the 1996 General Conference acknowledge this reaffiliation and join with Troy Annual Conference and Green Mountain College in celebrating this renewed relationship.

BISHOP LEE: [*applause*] Thank you. If you approve that, let's applaud. [*applause*]

PERRY: Thank you, Bishop.

BISHOP LEE: I think you would want me to bring to your attention that today is a very special day. One of my colleagues that has been assisting me this evening reminded me of a birthday, and I thought he was talking about the fact that Bishop Felton May's birthday was today. But he says there's a better birthday for us to celebrate than even Felton May's birthday. And that is that 28 years ago today, at the General Conference session in Dallas, we became the United Methodist Church. *(applause)*

I thank Bishop Yeakel for reminding us of that. It is something we should not forget. We will call upon the secretary now for announcements.

CAROLYN MARSHALL: Two announcements. First, is that the Central Conference College of Bishops are requested to meet at the podium immediately following adjournment. The second one will be a bit of a guidance for us for tomorrow. As Sarah Miller, when she brought the report a few minutes ago from the Committee on Agenda and Calendar, mentioned, tomorrow afternoon Mrs. Clinton will be here. The timing for our day will be rearranged a bit, inasmuch as the morning session will adjourn at 11:30. We are requested, at that time, to remove all knapsacks, bags, any containers that you have of any kind. Books may remain on the tables, but we thought it might be well for you to have that information now, in case any of you wanted to take anything with you this evening. Just be aware that sometime between now and 11:30, all bags will have to be removed from the area.

BISHOP LEE: All right. Thank you. I want to thank the conference for your indulgence this evening. We've had a couple of difficult times, and I'm aware of the fact that some of you are frustrated. We believe that we've moved through these things, and you've done it with such a wonderful spirit. And I want to thank you for it, and I want to thank my two colleagues, Bishop Bruce Blake and Bishop Joe Yeakel, for their assistance this evening. And I've called on Bishop Christopher Jokomo to come and lead us in our closing prayer this evening. We've celebrated Africa University today. Africa University is located in Zimbabwe, and that is Bishop Jokomo's area. And I think it's fitting for him to come and to lead us in our closing prayer this evening. We'll ask you please to rise.

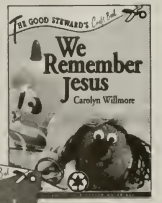
BISHOP JOKOMO: Let us join in prayer. *(prayer)*


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## Wednesday Morning April 24, 1996

*Bishop George W. Bashore, presiding*

BISHOP GEORGE W. BASHORE (Pittsburgh Area): We certainly want to offer our thanks and gratitude for the stirring music, and for the presence of those from Lovers Lane United Methodist Church. We are deeply indebted to you for giving us the dance in our spirits. *(applause)*

We also want to express thanks for those who have led us in worship. For Bishop William Dew and the others who shared of themselves and presented the Word. Now may we please gather, and if we could begin to watch and listen to the conversation subside, we can move on to the items which are before us. So will you please take your seats.

And will those who are visitors, please, we ask for your courtesy so that we will be able to hear and move on with our business. I think we've had a great setting, this morning. I'm reminded of the 150th Psalm. "Praise God with the trumpet sound. Praise the Lord with lute and harp. Praise the Lord with tambourine and dance. And praise the Lord with strings and pipe. Praise the Lord with clanging cymbals and praise the Lord with loud clashing cymbals. Let everything that breathes praise the Lord."

We have started on this wonderful note, as we seek today to join in the dance with the Lord of the dance. Now, we need to enter into our time of discernment. Several persons have spoken to me and expressed concern about this time. They've indicated that as we have shared our hopes, sometimes that period has turned into a time of complaint and negativism. I would like to read another portion from one of the psalms, and then suggest as you turn to one another, that maybe we ought to concentrate more on the second part than on the first part, about looking at what our hopes are for the next few hours, but to try to delight in what God's hopes are for us as a General Conference in these next hours. Listen to these words from the 84th Psalm. "Happy are those whose strength is in you, in whose heart are the highways to Zion. As they go through the Valley of Baca, they make it a place of springs. The early rain also covers it with pools. They go from strength to strength. The God of gods will be seen in Zion."

We have seen the God of gods at work. We have celebrated the new Hispanic hymnal. We have been thrilled about seeing the choir here from Africa University and beginning to see the results of the commitment to Jesus Christ, the Lord of the dance, on the part of the General Conference. Let's spend now this time together, one on one, and let's share together the celebrations of God's hopes being fulfilled, and what those hopes are for us as a General Conference. Talk one on one and then we'll have our time of prayer.

*(conversation)*

BISHOP BASHORE: All right, now. If you will enter into a brief time of prayer with your partners, please.

*(prayer)*

*(song)*

BISHOP BASHORE: We'll turn to Jerry Reist now who will guide us through our morning agenda. Jerry.

FITZGERALD REIST (Coordinator of the Calendar): Thank you, Bishop Bashore. We will be dealing today with the calendars found in your *DCA*, numbered 7, volume 3, number 7. Sarah OK? Consent Calendar A04 is found on page 303, and the list of items removed begins on page 482. There are no changes from the list removed that's printed in the *DCA* on pages 482 and 483. Given the number, I don't suppose.. Do you want me to read each one?

BISHOP BASHORE: It is not necessary. I think they can see those. Sarah?

*Consent Calendar A04, B04, C04 Adaopted*

SARAH MILLER: Bishop, I move the adoption of consent calendar A04 with the exceptions noted on pages 482 and 83.

BISHOP BASHORE: All right. that is before us. I don't see anyone wishing the floor. We are ready to vote. When the light goes on, please vote. Somebody turning on the light? [It wasn't ready] All in favor, will indicate with the uplifted hand, pleased. Thank you, those opposed like sign. And, it is approved. Thank you.

FITZGERALD REIST: Consent Calendar B04 is found on page 329. You'll notice the corrections, Calendar Items 639 and 640 have been placed on Consent Calendar B04. The corrections are found on pages 483 and 484. I have no additional corrections.

SARAH S. MILLER (Texas): Bishop, I move the approval of Consent Calendar B04 with the exceptions noted.

BISHOP BASHORE: All right, thank you. Those in favor will indicate with the uplifted hand please. Those opposed, like sign. Thank you. I believe our technology is set up for the next item. And, I think I threw them a curve on this so, we'll proceed this way.

REIST: Consent Calendar C04 is on page 339. The corrections to that or the removals from that are page 484. There are no other changes.

MILLER: Bishop, I move the approval of Consent Calendar C04, with the exceptions noted.

BISHOP BASHORE: All right thank you. All right, I don't see any cards. Are we ready to vote? If you approve, will you indicate with the uplifted hand, thank you. Those opposed like sign. Thank you. And that is approved.

REIST: I just wanted to say that I'm glad the correction to my misstatement about the 10 delegates needed to lift was not made until after the sessions were over. It was so much

easier to find five names we could read that way.

BISHOP BASHORE: All right, thank you. Sarah?

MILLER: A note about the agenda: you have it printed in today's *DCA*, but I want to change it. I learned this morning, that many of the members of our Korean-American delegations are leaving this evening. We had intended to consider the Korean-American missionary conference proposal tomorrow. Cashar? Oh I'm sorry. He's got his hand up. Is that wrong?

BISHOP BASHORE: Is this a point of order? No, go ahead Sarah.

MILLER: So, we have moved things around to enable us to consider the Korean-American Missionary Conference this morning at 10:30, which would then have us move the items for ministry to this evening. Let me review the revised agenda for this morning because we've juggled times to make it work. We expect to vote on nominees to the Judicial Council as soon as I'm done. Then we would take up some items from Discipleship, including United Methodist Men. If there is time, we would go to General and Judicial Administration items. Then at 10:10, we would take the special offering for pages and marshals just prior to our break. And then at 10:30 come back for calendar items related to the Korean-American Missionary Conference. Our lunch will be at 11:30 as scheduled.

BISHOPS BASHORE: All right, thank you for that information, Sarah. Some of us thought we were going to be dealing with the ministry study this morning and have spent a good many hours in relationship to that. But God is a God that takes us through interruptions and changes, and so we'll make the adjustment. Thank you. Yes? Is there a point of order here?

CASHAR EVANS JR. (North Carolina): I move that the General Conference request an oral argument for the referral of Petition 21560, Calendar Item A04838 to the Judicial Council.

BISHOP BASHORE: I wonder, would you mind repeating, maybe standing away a little bit away. I was having a hard time. Would you repeat that information for us please?

*Judicial Council Oral Argument on Item 838 Approved*

EVANS: I move that the General Conference request an oral argument for the referral of Petition 21560, Calendar Item A04838 to the Judicial Council.

BISHOP EVANS: Where is that found, please? Can you tell the page?

EVANS: 308 and its at the bottom of the left column. If I could get a second, I'd be glad to speak to this.

BISHOP BASHORE: All right, you have it.

EVANS: When this petition came in, it included a request for a Judicial Council decision, and my motion just asks for an oral argument, sir.

BISHOP BASHORE: All right, that is before us, any discussion? You know what it is before us then? We'll have you vote when the light is on. [Results: yes, 523; no, 225]

*Judicial Council Voting Explained*

BISHOP BASHORE: All right, that has been approved. Thank you very much. Now I think we're ready to move along to the item of voting on the nominees to the Judicial Council. Let me say a word about the procedure for the voting. You know that we will be selecting two persons from the list of nominees.

BISHOP BASHORE: When we consider the nominees, we will vote two times. Each time that we vote, you will enter the number corresponding to the person for whom you wish to vote. Reminder, if you change your mind while the green light is on, press the star key to cancel, and enter the correct number for your vote. Now, you will be voting twice, which means you will be voting for two persons. We will go through the entire process first and you will vote for one. When that is completed, we will come back through the list of names, and you will vote, then, for your second person. I need to mention to you that you cannot vote for the same person twice. That if you do that, with the wonders of technology, that will be known and your vote will be considered invalid for that person. Are we clear?

We will throw the names on the screen, and then when I indicate, you will vote for one person. All right, you will see there 15 names. Now these names are done with their complete names. We will then throw onto the screen all fifteen names with just their last name. Now, those names are before you. Please vote for one person. Press your key of the number. All right, vote when the light is on. Now it's on. All right proceed. All right, it will take a little time for the results to be tallied. We will now put on the screen the names of the clergy, and follow the same procedure. Oh, I'm sorry. We need to have the second opportunity for the lay. Thank you. The lay names, nominees, will be placed on the screen again. They're there. Now you will vote for your second person when the light is on. All right, thank you. Now that will take a little time to tally the results.

Now, we will turn to the list of the clergy. They will be placed on the screen, please. It's on the way. Yes, second screen. All right, the complete names have been before you, and now we will have all the names on one screen. We are ready now to vote for one person. All right, when the light is on, please vote. All right, we're ready for the names to appear again. Now you are ready to cast your second vote for the clergy. When the light is on, please vote.

*Methodist/EUB Merger Anniversary*

Now, it's my understanding that it will take a little while yet to tally the results, so at this moment, there is a key celebration taking place in the life of our church, especially involving the part of the family from the former Evangelical United Brethren Church

that will be celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the merger of the Evangelical Church and the United Brethren in Christ Church. We have been asked by the Commission on General Conference to take a few moments to celebrate this occasion, and we will turn to Bishop Paul Milhouse out of the former Evangelical United Brethren tradition who will lead us.

BISHOP PAUL W. MILHOUSE: Mr. Chairman, delegates, visitors, I've been asked to remind you about this celebration which will be in two events: one at Johnstown, Pennsylvania, the other Dayton, Ohio, on November the 16th this year. This is the anniversary of the birth of the Evangelical United Brethren Church which united with the Methodist Church in 1968. In the Methodist church, you remember, was a 1939 reunion of Methodist-Protestant, and the north and south branch. The Evangelical United Brethren Church in 1946 was the result of a union of the Evangelical Church and the United Brethren.

The Evangelical Church came out of the preaching of Jacob Albright who preached among the German-speaking people in the colonial days. He was born in Pennsylvania, reared and confirmed in the Lutheran Church, later joined the Methodist Church because he was attracted by the spiritual discipline that he witnessed among the Methodist people. As he preached, congregations were formed, and in the early 1800's three of them came together and organized the newly organized Methodist Conference. Then they changed the name to Evangelical Church, and elected Albright as their bishop. When they came into the union in 1946, they brought four conferences from Germany, two conferences from Canada and work in Nigeria and Japan.

The United Brethren Church, as a result of the preaching of Phillip William Albright—or Otterbein, who preached among the people of eastern Pennsylvania and in the Shenandoah Valley. Otterbein was reared in the Reform Church. He came to the United States in response to an appeal that was made in the chapel of Hetterbaun University where he was teaching. Mr. Slatterer who had been in America, worked among the German Reform people, went back to the Dutch Reform Church to Amsterdam, reported on the sad condition they were in and asked for money. The Dutch Reform Church said we will provide money for six missionaries to go to America. Slatterer went down to Hetterbaun, preached in the chapel, asked for six volunteers. Professor Otterbein and six students responded. They landed in New York in 1752, began preaching among the German-speaking colonists. Most of these people had come from Palatinate of Germany where the Black Plague had devastated the country and the population, and then the 100 Years War had just about destroyed their villages and their farming. So they came as indentured servants and by the time they served out their time to pay for passage, they were still about as poor as they were before. Otterbein, from his pastorate in Baltimore preached among these people. Then he met Martin Boehm preaching to the Mennonite preachers one day. He went up to him after the sermon and he said, "Der seine bruder, we're brethren." And together they brought together a group of preachers in 1800 and organized the United Brethren Church. When this church came into the union of '46, we brought conferences from Sierra Leone, the Philippines, Japan and China, and Hong Kong, and I've been told, that there are 13 bishops of the present council who have their spiritual roots in the Evangelical United Brethren Church.

Bishop Maynard Sparks who is not able to be here and myself were members of the uniting conference in 1946, and we came into the United Methodist Church as bishops of the Evangelical United Brethren Church. And, as I call these names, of these bishops, I would like for them to stand and remain standing: Wayne Clymer, George Bashore, Thomas Bangura, Reuben Job, Hermann Sticher, Joe Yeakel, Walter Klaiber, Sharon Rader, Joseph Humper, Neil Irons, Peter Dabale. And then I would like to ask among the delegates and visitors those of you who have your spiritual roots in the Evangelical United Brethren Church, would you stand, please. We might see where you are. *[applause]* Thank you.

BISHOP BASHORE: Thank you very much. In the spirit of what has been mentioned, I know that we will wish to work [wir sind Brudern und Schwestern] today in Jesus Christ. And so we will be working in that. Yes? I see a flag back there. Number 9, please.

GRAYSON ATHA (W. Ohio): I should have spoken at the time the agenda was mentioned, but I'm a little slow sometimes. We have some really major items to come up, and we've done two of the studies, we have two more to come. Last night, twice a motion has been made to limit debate. That was squelched because there were important items coming up. Today we had one of those important items and were told that folks need to leave so we need to adjust to do something about that. I'm really feeling uncomfortable that we continue to deal with items that ... and we delay some of the major items that we have before us. I really don't have a motion to make, but I'm feeling very uncomfortable about the way the agenda is proceeding, and I may be the only one here, but I wanted to express that and I would like to see the Agenda Committee really address this matter. Perhaps they have, and everything's been done. I'm just giving my perspective on it.

BISHOP BASHORE: All right, thank you. I know there are others who agree. We need to move on so that we can take care of the Calendar Items which are before us. Now, I think we're ready for the results of the election for Judicial Council. They will be placed before us and then we will move on for another ballot.

### *Laity Ballot Produces No Judicial Council Election*

BISHOP BASHORE: For the lay persons first. All right, you will note that we need 426 to elect. There is no election. All right, you have the listing

and the votes that have been cast. We'll be ready now for another ballot...Yes, is there a point of order? A request. Well, we'll listen to it while we're waiting. All right, number 7, I guess.

KATHARINE LEHMAN (North Indiana): Could we see the numbers again? That happened so quickly—we could take another look please?

BISHOP BASHORE: All right. They have heard the request, but they're ready to put up the clergy results, so let's get the clergy results, then we'll try to respond to your request. I believe they're ready for the clergy results now. All right. You notice that we needed 444 votes for election. No one has been elected. All right, Bevins, 400; Corry, 312; Brockwell, 238; Tews, 212; Sweet, 147; Chalker, 109; Collins, 102; Topolewski, 82; Pickens, 70; Cain, 60; Eckert, 40. Now the results of the lay ballot will be presented to you again. Valid votes 1,702, valid ballots 896, needed to elect 426, invalid ballots 36.

All right, Matheny, 283; AsKew, 270; Geis, 233; Gray, 170; Plowman, 130; Hill, 129; Sessums, 94; Bonney, 78; Lett, 69; Panganiban, 55; Church, 54. Gordon, 52; Kolasa, 35; McLane, 26; Danburam, 24. Now I believe we'll see which one appears on the screen. We will follow the same procedure again since no one was elected, so we will have two ballots for each, clergy and laity. Yes microphone 9. It's a point of order? Question, all right.

NYLE HERSHBERGER (Western Pennsylvania): What constitutes an invalid ballot?

*Second Judicial Council Ballot*

BISHOP BASHORE: Well, I don't know that completely. If you voted for the same person twice, that would be an invalid ballot. Or you may have voted for a number that was not there, also. All right. All right, are we ready to place this on the screen? Now the names are being placed in front of you again. This is the first frame and the rest of the lay persons. Now vote for one person using a number that corresponds with the name. All right, when the light goes on please vote. OK, now this is the second ballot. So you will cast your second vote. When the light goes on, please vote. All right, thank you.

Now I believe we're ready for the slate of the clergy. All right, now we have the first frame for the clergy and the rest of the clergy names. All right, you have all in front of you, and you will vote for one person, please. When the light goes on, please vote. The screen will appear again, and then you will vote for the second person. There it is before you. When the light goes on, please vote.

All right, it will take a little while to tally the results, but it sure is better than the old system. We've just gone through an election of General Conference and Jurisdictional Conference delegates, you'll remember, and how long that takes to tally when you don't have the technology, so we're grateful. I want to turn to Carolyn Marshall because we also need to elect persons on the Commission to General Conference. Carolyn will you help us with that item?

CAROLYN MARSHALL: The persons who have been nominated to the Commission on the General Conference are listed on page 25 left hand column about a third of the way down in the April 17th edition. Please note that it's the April 17th edition. That was before the error of beginning with renumbering again every day was caught. So you've probably got more than one twenty-five.

The names that are in brackets are continuing that list, the entire list for the Commission on General Conference, by classes, and only the ones that are without brackets around them are those which are before us now for election. They have been presented by the Council of Bishops. Bishop Bashore. [*Nominees are found on page 25, volume 3, number 2*]

BISHOP BASHORE: All right, thank you. These names are before us.

MARSHALL: Bishop Bashore, also to note a correction that was in your *DCA* a day or two ago, and that is the substitution on line 11, "central conferences of Rololfo Beltram for Maximo Dizon." That is a nomination to fill an unexpired term.

BISHOP BASHORE: All right, thank you. Yes, the card back here. Microphone 9, I guess.

WILLIAM A. HINES (West Ohio): I'd like to make a motion, bishop. In the light of the pronouncement of the 15, we now request before an afternoon vote on this matter, that all United Methodist bishops who support unrevised scriptural standards, unrevised ...

BISHOP BASHORE: I'm sorry. We can listen to that motion at another time, but we are right in the midst of election right now. Will you hold that, can we handle that at another time, please.

HINES: Will you call me back, sir?

BISHOP BASHORE: All right. I may need to be reminded, but please, we will need to finish this process. All right? Thank you. Yes, microphone 1, please.

SHIRLEY PARRIS (New York): Bishop Bashore, I would like to suggest to the General Conference Commission, that for the next, in the year 2000 for elections, that they provide the delegates with a sheet with the numbers of the candidates, the names and the numbers of the candidates, that we can refer to while the election is going on, rather than having to wait to see them on the screen. I think that would be very helpful.

*Commission on General Conference Elected*

BISHOP BASHORE: All right, thank you. I'm sure that that suggestion has been heard, and will be referred. Now, we're ready, I think, to elect the Commission on General Conference. Does somebody want the floor? I think we're ready to elect, and since we're dealing with the technology for the other issue, we'll do this by hand.

If you will approve these persons and elect these persons as the Commission on the General Conference, indicate with the uplifted hand, please. Thank you. Those opposed,

like sign. And they are elected. Thank you. Now, are we ready for the continuation of the vote? We'll have the results of the lay ballot.

*Second Judicial Ballot Fails to Elect*

Valid votes, 1841; valid ballots, 942; need to elect, 461; invalid ballots, 22. There is no election. You have the names in front of you as AsKew 407, Matheny 388, Geis 260, Gray 197, Plowman 139, Hill 101, Bonney 65, Sessums 63, Panganiban 49, Lett 47, Gordon 34, Church 33, Danburam 22, Kolasa 18, McLane 18. Now we should be ready to have the screen in front of us for our next ballot. We will again need to have two ballots for the laity side.

All right, I guess we're going to get the clergy results first. Valid ballots 1852, valid ballots 937, need to elect 464, invalid ballots 22. I need to raise a question. Thank you, I'm sure you are as confused as I was, because if your arithmetic is at all decent, you wondered about the "need to elect." You must first, we should say, total ballots instead of valid ballots. Then you need to subtract the invalid ballots, and that is why the majority "need to elect" seem to be lower than what it should be. But then it will make some sense. All right?

*Rex Bevins Elected Clergy to Judicial Council*

So we need to elect 464. Now may we have the results. There is an election. [*applause*] Rex Bevins has been elected to the Judicial Council. Now, if you will note the rest: Corry 415, Tews 259, Brockwell 250, Sweet 107, Chalker 98, Collins 70, Topolewski 49, Pickens 42, Eckert 26, Cain 19. The next screen, please. I guess that's it. All right.

Now, we'll see what comes on the screen. Now, there will be, to vote for lay persons on the Judicial Council, so you will still have two ballots. Vote one time now for the lay persons. When the light is on, please vote.

All right, thank you. Now we'll wait until the lay persons come back on the screen again for your second vote. All right, there it is. Now, will you cast your second vote for a lay person on the Judicial Council. When the light goes on, please vote.

All right. Hopefully, we'll see the clergy... [*Bishop Bashore confers with Bishop Yeakel and Bishop Skeete*] They need to reset this matter, so I'm going to turn now to Paul Ervin, I think, from the discipleship, so we can begin to handle calendar items. And, in between, we will continue the election process. Paul?

PAUL R. ERVIN JR. (North Georgia): Thank you, bishop. We have two matters to bring before you. The first will be Calendar Item 1681, page 386, of the blue book. Larry Powell from the Desert Southwest Conference will present it, and will be assisted by Gil Hanke from the Texas Conference.

*UM Men Commission Proposed*

LARRY POWELL (Desert Southwest): Bishop, members of General Conference. Item 1681 will be found in the blue *DCA* on page 386. That would be Volume 3, number 7, dated April 23. Should be able to locate that in the left-hand column, lower left-hand column. We'll also relate to Volume 2, the white book, on page 1285, also in the left-hand corner of that one. The Petition 20712. The title is the General Commission on United Methodist Men, and basically what the petition calls for is a new commission on United Methodist Men. The commission would be amenable to the General Conference; and during the period of time when the General Conference is not in session, it would relate to the General Council on Ministries.

It does have monetary significance—would have to be referred to GCFA if it were passed here. However, the petition itself is written in such a way as to be self-sustaining and not have a significant budget impact as far as the dollars that are already allocated to United Methodist Men. There is also a provision in it that requires that if the commission is unsuccessful in becoming self-sustaining within the next four years, then it would revert back to something similar to where they are currently lodged within the General Board of Discipleship. Bishop.

BISHOP GEORGE BASHORE: All right, this matter is before the body. Any discussion. Yes, over here, at the side. Microphone 6, please. Will this be speaking for or against?

MARY ALICE MASSEY (Florida): For.

BISHOP BASHORE: All right, thank you.

MASSEY: As a wife and mother of three sons and a United Methodist Woman, I know personally the blessing of having a Christian father who was a wonderful spiritual role model, but I also know that not everyone has been blessed to have that same experience. In an age when we need more spiritual male role models, I celebrate the United Methodist Men and their Christian leadership. If a new structure will help facilitate their ministry, then I wholly, fully support it and ask you to support it as well.

BISHOP BASHORE: All right, thank you. It's been called to my attention that there may be a mistake on the top of page 387 in the blue *DCA*, the very top line in the first column. The College of Bishops should be the Council of Bishops, I believe. That's just so that we understand that's a correction. Now we need a speech against this. A question, microphone 4, please.

DON MENDENHALL (Iowa): I would like to ask again for a little more clarity around the financing, mainly because if things do not work out, does that pull from other agencies or boards? More clarification around the financing.

BISHOP BASHORE: All right, thank you.

*Funding Moved from GBOD*

GILBERT HANKE (Texas): As the petition is written right now, the financing that would already be allo-

cated to Methodist Men's programs in the budget of GBOD, General Board of Discipleship, that monies would be transferred over into the new commission. So there would be no additional funding requested in the petition.

BISHOP BASHORE: All right, thank you. Now, does anyone wish to speak against?

Yes, microphone 8 please.

DONALD WILLIAMS (West Michigan): Bishop, I offer a substitute motion.

BISHOP BASHORE: All right.

WILLIAMS: I move that rather than the current Calendar Item 1681, that the Board of Discipleship prioritize for the coming quadrennium the study in needs, concerns of men in our church and provide every programmatic and structural support to address the needs of United Methodist Men rather than a United Methodist Men commission.

BISHOP BASHORE: All right. Is there support for this amendment? Yes, I hear a second. You may speak to it.

WILLIAMS: I would raise a couple of issues. Yesterday we spent a great deal of time debating downsizing, restructuring. I am amazed that we would add a new structure at the same time that we talked of restructuring. Secondly, I feel that the Board of Discipleship is equally able to address the needs as I understand them in my reading of this petition. I urge your support of the substitute motion.

BISHOP BASHORE: All right, thank you. Now the substitute amendment is before us. Does anyone wish to speak against the substitute? Yes, right here in the center, please. Again microphone 8, please.

JUDY BENSON (Oklahoma): The United Methodist Men has been lodged under the Board of Discipleship, but the United Methodist Men feel that really hasn't met their needs. That's been kind of like a secure nest. However, that environment and attitude of a secure nest has not always allowed for the achievement of the highest potential. We feel that risking a free-standing committee will allow for growth and leadership and empowerment of United Methodist Men in meeting their needs and concerns on all levels, which hasn't really been done before. So we believe that a vote against this will be for growth for United Methodist Men, a restructuring for mission, and a freeing of the spirit.

BISHOP BASHORE: All right. Thank you. Now does anyone wish to speak for the amendment? Yes, back in the far corner. Microphone 14.

PHYLLIS FERGUSON: (Pacific Northwest): I'm not against men and I have father, grandfathers, great grandfathers, and great great grandfathers. I have a husband, five brothers—not in that order—and I have one son, innumerable uncles, and male cousins. I am not against men. But as a speaker of this amendment, I cannot understand why United Methodist Men cannot work with Board of Discipleship to achieve whatever it is they want to achieve. Thank you.

BISHOP BASHORE: All right. That was for the amendment. Now is there anyone who wishes to speak against the amendment? All right. Over here. Microphone 9, I guess.

JEROME K. DEL PINO (New England): Bishop, I have a question.

BISHOP BASHORE: Yes, Jerome.

DEL PINO: I would appreciate it very much if the presenters of the motion would clarify specifically what would be the financial implications of this for the long term, especially vis-á-vis entry into local United Methodist churches.

HANKE: May I speak to that?

### *UM Men Longterm Funding Discussed*

BISHOP BASHORE: Please.

HANKE: It has been a—I have had the honor of chairing the Long Range Plan for the National Association of United Methodist Men's presidents. And it has been a long-standing goal of our organization, the United Methodist Men, to be independent financially. We currently raise a significant amount of the funds used to operate that office now, and those funds will continue. And we think being a free-standing agency will increase giving to that agency. So it is our intent, and with the work we have done on this we feel that the current petition that is before you will not cost any additional funds, and in four years when we meet again, we will be financially independent, which has been our long-term goal and desire. So that those world service funds that we currently use can be freed up to use, to build up other programs within our church.

BISHOP BASHORE: All right. Now, we still have an opportunity for a speech against the amendment. Yes? Question? Microphone 5.

MEL BOWDAN (Kentucky): I'm a little concerned about what I hear from the presenters about we feel this, we think this, about the financing, financial impact. The programmatic money going to United Methodist Men is one thing, and I'm a little concerned—I want, the question I have is, have you looked at what that financial impact is when, in fact, you then begin to look at salary for general secretaries and associate secretaries and staff, and can that be absorbed in the current money that's set aside for United Methodist Men?

BISHOP BASHORE: All right.

HANKE: Yes.

BISHOP BASHORE: All right. Now, speech against? Yes, right here. Microphone 3. This is against the amendment.

WILLIAM R. AUVENSHINE (Central Texas): I rise to speak against the amendment.

BISHOP BASHORE: Bill.

AUVENSHINE: I've served two quadrenniums on the Board of Discipleship. During that time, the Methodist Men have gone from, we can say infancy into mature status. At this time, they ask to stand on their own. We're simply, with the original motion, asking that they stand on their own.

BISHOP BASHORE: All right. Thank you. Now we've had two for

and two against. Are you ready to vote on this? Well, all right, microphone 7.

THOMAS W. FLINN JR (Baltimore-Washington): I have a question for the chairs. Could you be very specific and tell me exactly what would be accomplished by moving from the General Board of Discipleship to independence that you could not already accomplish being a member of the General Board of Discipleship?

*Problems in UM Men Staying within GBOD*

HANKE: That's an excellent question. Many of the things that we are able to do right now as a division within the Board of Discipleship, when an idea comes up, an area of ministry that we want to pursue, we are unable to pursue that completely on our own. It sometimes slows our ability to interface with other agencies of the church because we need to use the structure of the Board of Discipleship to facilitate that. We feel that we could have, just as we do in many annual conferences, direct access to areas of ministry in a much more rapid time period to provide better ministry. Three of the areas—the three areas of United Methodist Men's ministry is in the area of evangelism, mission, and spiritual growth. Being an independent commission will allow us to pursue those more directly, more rapidly, with the leaders of those different areas of ministry.

BISHOP BASHORE: All right. I think we are about ready to move on, are we not? OK, that seemed to take the cards down, so I think we are ready to vote. This is on the amendment. Do you recall the amendment? That basically is to give the Board of Discipleship the opportunity to study this matter of finding ways to bring about intensity of faithfulness on the part of the United Methodist Men. All right. If you favor this amendment, indicate with the uplifted hand, please. Oh, we're ready for the other. All right, now we can do the other. When the light is on, will you vote, please? [Results: yes, 262]

*UM Men Commission Approved*

All right, the amendment is defeated. Now, we're ready for the main motion. Are we ready to move along on the main motion? All right, I believe that's the body's wish. When the light appears, please vote. [754 approved] That is approved. All right. Thank you very much.

Now we are ready to move onto the results of the election. So we'll hear the results of the election and take ballots, and then we will have the opportunity for the offering for the pages and the marshalls, and then we'll have a break. All right, now you have the names before you. You'll notice that number one already says elected. If you vote for number one, that will be an invalid ballot. So you have the list of clergy. Please vote for one person when the light is on.

*Offering Taken for Pages and Marshalls*

All right, while we are waiting for the lay ballot, we will have the opportunity to receive an offering for the pages and the marshalls. These are persons who are here, who have served us and continue to serve us in such wonderful fashion and often come at their own expense, and we need to be generous as we share our appreciation in an offering. Yes? Is this related to this. All right, microphone 4, please.

EDWARD A. KAIL (Iowa): If we wanted to write a check, to whom should that be made out?

BISHOP BASHORE: Just make it to the General Conference, if you want to write a check. Now, I think we are ready to receive the offering. While we're doing this, is there any chance that we can sing a song or have some music. *(Bishop Bashore leads group in hymn, Blessed Assurance.)*

*Askew Laity Elected to Judicial Council*

Thank you very much. We will now continue in our election process. All right, we should have the lay results in front of us. Valid votes 868, total ballots 940, need to elect 468. Invalid ballots 20. There is one election, AsKew, with 515. All right, results of vote: AsKew 515, Matheny 399, Geis 261, Gray 194, Plowman 125, Hill 82, Bonney 67, Sessums 42, Panganiban 40, Lett 38, Gordon 35, McLane 23, Church 20, Kolasa 14, Danburam 13.

Now we have the list in front of us and remember, well I hope...This is the clergy. These are the clergy results, but we didn't have the first frame. We need the summary. While we're waiting, microphone 1, please.

JANE A. MIDDLETON (New York): Thank you Bishop. Just for a quick moment of personal privilege, and an affirmation, and a word of gratitude to the General Conference for joining in singing "Blessed Assurance," written by Fanny Crosby who comes from our neck of the woods.

BISHOP BASHORE: Thank you very much. Thank you Jane. All right, are we ready? I think its time to take a break, my watch says 10:20, would you be back please by 25 minutes before 11 a.m. and ready to work.

*(break)*

*(song)*

BISHOP BASHORE: All right, let us come to order, please. We've been grateful to Cynthia and also to S.T. for the fantastic guiding in the music area for us this week. Can we come to order please. We will be ready to take another ballot.

All right. Will we come to order, please. Now there have been some questions raised about this afternoon about our belongings. Someone wanted a definition of bag, as to what's included in that. I think, over here we can get some help at microphone 1, please. Microphone 1, let us be in order now please.

RICHARD NICODEMUS (New York): Roger Cruise, our general manager, business manager, has agreed that delegates may take their bags, their tote bags which weigh 20

pounds or better, to their respective legislative rooms and leave them there during the entire afternoon session, and then collect them prior to, or after, coming back from dinner. The rooms will, in fact, be monitored by marshals and pages, so they will be relatively secure.

BISHOP BASHORE: Wait just there, please. One of the questions was related to, I understand those bags, but what about purses? That was the question.

NICODEMUS: I understood that purses can be brought in. Ladies can bring their purses in, but other briefcases and bags cannot be brought back.

BISHOP BASHORE: All right. I think there is an announcement. Before we adjourn, there will be an additional announcement regarding that matter. Thank you.

Now, are we ready to proceed? All right, now. Let's have your attention please. We have the lay persons in front of us. One person has been elected. So, I want to give just a point of advice. If you are voting multiple numbers, that is two numbers like a 10, 11, 12, 13, make sure you press those quickly. Do not delay, because it may come out just 1, if you're voting for 13. You can see on your own monitor and check that. All right? Now, we're ready. We'll vote just for one person on the lay side. When the light is on, please vote.

All right. Thank you. All right. You can see that we have the results in front of you, both the numbers and percentages. Matheny 329, Geis 189, Gray 114, Plowman 57, Bonney 37, Gordon 24, Hill 20, Panganiban 19, Lett 10, Sessums 10, Church 6, Danburam 6, Kolasa 5, McLane 1.

All right. We are ready now. You had the results. We're speeding up the process. This, again, is the lay person on the Judicial Council that is before you. When the light is on, please vote. All right. You have the results of that vote, I think. Do you want me to keep reading the tally? Good. You can read them. Let's have the next screen. Matheny 370, Geis 196, Gray 110, Plowman 49, Bonney 29, Gordon 22, Hill 22, Panganiban 16, AsKew 13, Church 9, Danburam 8, Kolasa 4, Lett 4, Sessums 3, McLane 1.

All right. Do you have the results of that? Now we're ready again for the slate. All right. The names are before you. Vote for one person. When the light is on, please vote. (Still no election). Matheney has 47.0 percent at 419 out of 892, Geis 213, Gray 101, Plowman 45, Bonney 22, Gordon 21, Panganiban 20, Hill 15, AsKew 11, Church 9, Danburam 4, Lett 5, Sessums 3, McLane 3 Kolasa 1,) All right, you now see the results.

OK. The next screen please. All right. I believe we're ready now for the listing for the ballot.

*Matheny, Layman Elected to Judicial Council*

BISHOP BASHORE: You know we need a majority fifty plus one in order to elect. All right, ready to vote? When the light is on please vote. All right. Thomas Matheny has been elected [he received 477 votes] and now that completes the lay side, we need to move to the clergy side. AsKew and Matheny have been elected. All right. Yes, microphone 9, please.

ROBERT SWEET (New England): I've been deeply honored by the nomination to the Judicial Council by my annual conference delegation. However, I think there's something far more important, and that's the racial inclusiveness of the council, and so I would like to withdraw at this time.

*Corry Elected Clergy Member of Judicial Council*

BISHOP BASHORE: All right, thank you. Are we ready? All right, now we have one person yet to elect on the clergy side. You see the slate in front of you. Vote for one person. When the light is on please vote. All right John Corry has been elected. [he received 478 votes] So Corry and Bevens have been elected on the clergy side. We've completed the elections of the Judicial Council. Yes, there's a card over here microphone 5, please.

JUNE GOLDMAN (Iowa): Thank you Bishop Bashore. I rise for a point of inquiry. I wish to inquire whether a response is in process to the request that I made last night that a cross be placed somewhere on the platform as a focus for our General Conference. Bishop Dew in his address to us this morning said that words do not mean much unless they are accompanied by action. We speak a great deal about Christ-shaped servanthood but we have no cross to command our attention. We talk about the cross being central to our faith, but there is no cross for us to look at at the front. We sing "Lift High the Cross," but there is no cross. I would request respectfully, once more, that the appropriate committee place a cross somewhere on the platform that we might focus on it.

BISHOP BASHORE: All right thank you, June. That matter, I've been told, has been referred to the Commission on General Conference. Are you going to speak to that, Bill? All right. Microphone 8, please.

WILLIAM QUICK (Detroit): In response to that request, though we're all beneath cross of Jesus, we'll see that a cross is there for the afternoon. Thank you.

BISHOP BASHORE: All right, thank you very much. Now I need to remind everybody that we're really not done with the election because we need to elect alternates. So we need to have six alternates on each side, so we'll be in this process for a little while. All right, way back in the corner, microphone 14.

*(Continued in Next Issue)*

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*Daily Report*

# Daily Christian Advocate

Denver, Colorado | Friday, April 26, 1996 | Vol. 3 No. 10

## Delegates Experience World Church, Quicken Legislative Pace

In sharp but beautiful contrast to the jazz band Wednesday morning, delegates were greeted Thursday by the Christ United Methodist Church Deaf and Sign Choir, Peggy Johnson, director. (See separate worship story.)

Delegates experienced yet another example of the worldwide nature of the church. Oklahoma Area Bishop Dan E. Solomon, General Board of Global Ministries president, helped delegates have a telephone conversation with exiled Bishop J. Alfred Ndoricimpa of Burundi, transmitted through the plenary sound system. The bishop, living in exile in Nairobi, Kenya, answered delegates' questions about the serious conditions in Burundi and the fate of United Methodists there He expressed thanks to the many people and churches who have sent aid to thousands of refugees fleeing Burundi to Kenya, without food, goods or shelter, especially children and youth. "Send assistance to refugees in surrounding countries as well," the bishop said. "The need is enormous!"

Bishop Solomon expressed regret that the U.S. government would not give Bishop Ndoricimpa a visa to attend the General Conference. It was reported that the visa was denied because the U.S. State Department accused the bishop of running arms. Delegates then prayed that God

(continued on next page)

### Agenda

### Friday, April 26

| | |
|---|---|
| 8:15 a.m. | Choral Music |
| 8:30 a.m. | Worship |
| 9:00 a.m. | Call to Order and Discernment |
| 9:05 a.m. | Consent Calendar |
| 9:10 a.m. | Calendar Items<br>Council on Finance and Administration<br>Budget |
| 10:30 a.m. | Break |
| 10:50 a.m. | Remembrance of Chernobyl Disaster |
| 10:55 a.m. | Calendar Items<br>Local Church |
| 12:15 p.m. | Personal Privilege and Announcements |
| 12:30 p.m. | Lunch Recess |
| 2:00 p.m. | Call to Order |
| 2:05 p.m. | Welcome to East Ohio in 2000 |
| 2:10 p.m. | Recognition of Retiring Bishops |
| 2:20 p.m. | Commission on Central Conference Affairs |
| 2:30 p.m. | Calendar Items |
| 3:10 p.m. | Introduction of Staff |
| 3:20 p.m. | Break |
| 3:35 p.m. | Calendar Items |
| 4:55 p.m. | Announcements |
| 5:00 p.m. | Dinner Recess |
| 7:00 p.m. | Call to Order<br>Calendar Items |
| 10:00 p.m. | Adjournment! |

### A Conference Moment



*"We share each other's woes, our mutual burdens bear; and often for each other flows the sympathizing tear."*

"Blessed Be the Tie That Binds" Hymnal #557, verse 3

Bishop Kulah, bishop of Liberia, is embraced by the body of Christ.

photo: Mike DuBose

(continued from front page)

would uphold the bishop and his family "in strength and love, to serve God's call."

Presiding Bishop Joseph H. Yeakel, Washington Area, led the period of discernment and prayer to begin the business of the day.

### Site Selection Task Force Report

Following a detailed report from the Site Selection Task Force for the General Board of Global Ministries, delegates voted overwhelmingly not to move the board's headquarters in the near future. In view of the studies approved earlier on world and U.S. structures, the conference assigned the issue to a standing joint committee of the General Council on Ministries and the General Council on Finance and Administration, which regularly reviews the suitability of all general agency locations. (See additional report elsewhere in the *DCA*.)

Delegates were moved by a personal word from North Alabama clergy delegate Kelly A. Clem and her husband, the Rev. Dale Clem, of Piedmont, Ala. They thanked the worldwide church for its immediate and direct assistance when the Goshen United Methodist Church was hit by a tornado during Palm Sunday services last year. Twenty persons lost their lives, including the Clems' 4- year-old daughter. Birmingham Area Bishop Robert E. Fannin termed Ms. Clem's widely televised, heroic response "a sign of the ultimate depth of those called to ministry."

The conference unanimously approved inviting First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton to be honorary chair of the church's "Focus on Young People" and adopted legislation to implement that program.

### Other Conference Actions

In other conference action, delegates:

- received word that the Southwest Texas and Rio Grande conferences (San Antonio Area) would give copies of the new Hispanic hymnal *Mil Voces Para Celebrar* to each delegate and send a special copy to Mrs. Clinton.
- approved development of a comprehensive plan for town and country ministries, with a task force representative of all levels of the church.
- approved continuing development of Shalom Communities in urban and rural areas facing crisis and transition.
- supported the principle of cooperative parish ministries in rural, town/country, urban and suburban settings. Primary responsibility was assigned to the General Board of Global Ministries with the General Council on Ministries to study the effectiveness of the approach to ministry.
- approved continuation of the Special Program on Substance Abuse and Related Violence with a proposed quadrennial budget of $1,440,000 plus a guarantee of $127,000 per year for programs in Northern Europe, Baltic and Eurasian Areas conferences. The "national" director title was changed to "international."
- spelled out six program areas for the General Board of Global Ministries: Evangelism and Church Growth, Community and Institutional Ministries, Mission Context and Relationships, Mission Education, Mission Volunteers and Mission Personnel.
- approved a resolution proposed by United Methodist Communications: "A Call for Truth, Fairness and Accuracy," emphasizing truth, fairness and accuracy in reporting and the principle of free speech in an open forum.
- voted to limit debate for the next sessions to two speeches of two minutes for and against.
- rejected proposals to have the work of the General Commission on Communication evaluated by the

(continued on next page)


## Daily Christian Advocate

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## Seminary Students Participate in General Conference

Among the many delegates and visitors at General Conference is a group of more than 60 people who are an important aspect of The United Methodist Church's future. They're students at Boston University School of Theology, Drew University—The Theological School, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary (G-ETS), Iliff School of Theology and Methodist Theological School in Ohio (Methesco).

Representing many United Methodist annual conferences, the seminarians demonstrate serious interest in the future of The United Methodist Church. Some students work with caucus groups. Others observe and participate as part of a seminary course.

G-ETS has offered a General Conference course for more than 40 years. Doris Rudy, director of continuing education, attended General Conference as part of her seminary education. She and Richard Tholin, senior scholar in senior social ethics, now lead student groups at General Conference. A similar course has been part of the Methesco curriculum for several years. Iliff students have had a special opportunity this year as they've volunteered to help host General Conference.

What have the seminarians learned? Some have commented that amid the struggle to deal with diverse opinions and experiences, it is possible to have a spiritual experience that augments the educational experience.

*—Greg Edwards, Methesco student*

(continued from last page)

Council of Bishops for program matters (in addition to the General Council on Ministries) and to establish a new General Commission on Alcohol and Drugs. Instead, urged the General Board of Church and Society to establish a standing committee on the subject.

- referred to the General Commission on the General Conference a concern that no World Service funds be spent by general agencies for promotional materials distributed at the 2000 General Conference.
- approved a plan for the National Committee on Deaf Ministries by a vote of 704 to 39.
- approved by a large margin continuation of the Interagency Task Force on AIDS, pending budgetary approval.

As the afternoon session drew to a close, delegates prepared to open the evening session with debate on the long-term controversies related to abortion and homosexuality issues.

*—Roger and Donah Burgess*

## Announcement

Attention: bishops, district superintendents, conference chancellors, chairpersons of ordianed ministry: Look for a joint mailing in two weeks from GCFA and GBHEM relating to important information you will need for your upcoming annual conference sessions regarding changes in the church's internal disciplinary process (administrative and judicial) that will go into effect immediately at the close of General Conference.

Florida Annual Conference has designated the 1996 annual conference offering to purchase Spanish hymnals for Cuba. Florida Conerence UMM have already purchased 250. Anyone wishing to help, make checks to Florida Conference Treasurer marked Spanish Hymnal and mail to: P.O. Box 3767, Lakeland, FL 33802.

Discussing the Disciple Bible Study today at 1:15 p.m. are Arkansas Area Bishop Richard B. Wilke and his wife Julia. Delegates and visitors are invited to meet with the Wilkes in the Abingdon area of the Cokesbury display. Honored last week at the 10th anniversary of the Disciple Bible Study, they are co-authors of the study manual for all phases of the study. Their lifelong interest and commitment to Bible study have been the driving forces behind the vision for the Disciple Bible Study program. Bishop Wilke will retire this year, but will continue to contribute to Disciple Bible Study, phase four. He will provide training and information through the Disciple office at The United Methodist Publishing House.

It's not too late to get a *DCA*. The *DCA* will only be available for three months afater General Conference. You can order them by calling 1-800/672-1789 and asking for Joyce Wolf.

## Elected April 24, 1996

### COMMISSION ON THE GENERAL CONFERENCE

1. North Central clergy: Kenneth Chalker (2004)
2. North Central lay: Aileen Williams (2004)
3. Northeastern clergy: James Perry (2004)
4. Northeastern lay: Robert Brandt (2000)
5. South Central clergy: Carole Cotton-Winn (2000)
6. South Central lay: Nancy Foster (2004)
7. Southeastern clergy: Charles White Jr. (2004)
8. Southeastern lay: Mollie Stewart (2000)
9. Western clergy: Anita Iceman (2004)
10. Western lay: Kimball Salmon (2000)
11. Central Conferences: Rodolfo Beltram (2000)
12. At-Large: Harry Shaner (W) (2000)
13. At-large: Roberto Gomez (SC) (2004)
14. At-large: Phylemon Titus (NC) (2004)

## Judicial Council Elections

| | |
|---|---|
| President | Tom Matheny<br>P.O. Box 221<br>Hammond, LA 70404 |
| Vice President | John G. Corry<br>Box 507<br>Meharry Medical College<br>Nashville, TN 37208 |
| Secretary | Sally Curtis AsKew<br>1603 Montevideo Road<br>Elberton, GA 30635 |

## Cookie Coordinator Caters to Conference

Ruth Post has the sweetest job at General Conference. She's the coordinator of the 120 cookie volunteers and the 120,000 cookies which are provided for delegates and others working at the conference. Early this year, a call went out to 276 churches to donate 40 dozen cookies apiece. Nearly all of them responded.

Trinity United Methodist Church, Denver, in addition to serving 11 lunches and four dinners during the conference, sent 65 dozen cookies. But small-member congregations also responded enthusastically. Two small Wyoming churches, Midwest and Carpenter, with 14 and 12 members respectively, each sent their full complement of 40 dozen cookies.

Members in the Yellowstone Conference pitched in, too. They provided cookies for Monday, April 22.

In keeping with the theme of the local hosts' focus on "Welcoming the World to Our Neighborhood," home-baked cookies are a way to show care and love to delegates and visitors.

*—Linda Patzke*



**Who's bigger—the child or the cookie? Neva Hope, 2, takes a bite from a Rocky Mountain-size cookie. Helping her manage the unexpected treat is her father, the Rev. Arundal Hope, pastor of Grace United Methodist Church, Covington, Ga.**

*photo Brad Motta*

## And Now, a Word from a Host Committee Member

It's very important,
It must be done now.
I suppose it could wait,
But I cannot see how.

I've lost my committee.
Can you give me directions?
My chairman is silly
and won't let me ask questions.

So I've come here to ask you,
I've come to find out
All of the answers
Now don't make me pout.

I've misplaced my dentures.
Do you know where they are?
I drive well in England;
Can I borrow your car?

My back hurts; my leg hurts.
My digestion is bad.
My arm's falling off,
And the lighting is bad.

I've got spots in my eyes;
Nothing can be seen.
My doggie is sick;
Can you send some vaccine?

You gave away coats,
But mine was there too.
Since you gave it away,
I'll have one from you.

I just got here. It's late.
I'm not feeling too well.
I must go to sleep.
Do you have a hotel?

Please call me a cab.
Please get me a car.
I just cannot walk;
Two blocks is too far.

I know you are gracious;
I know that you care.
I don't know how to do this.
The cookies go . . . where?

My wife needs a wheel chair,
With lifts for her legs.
My breakfast was awful;
I'm allergic to eggs!

My committee is missing;
They just disappeared!
They're trying to dump me.
It's just as I feared!

There's a little old lady,
Standing right there.
She must be the one
In need of our care.

Lead her right up.
We'll get this chore done.
She's here! She's happy!
She's the wrong one?!?!

But everything's done
This week everything finished
Was done with a smile.
Did you look up that dentist?

That's right, her teeth hurt—
The upper incisor
Will we ever be finished?
Please, Lord, give an answer.

We've cookied. We've coffee'd.
We've smiled and we've taken.
We've walked all day long,
'Til our feet feel like bacon.

But when all of it's through,
When all of it's done,
When nobody's looking,
We'll admit we had fun.

*—Brian Riecke*

# *Prayer Requests*

Please raise these persons in prayer:

- People of Liberia
- Lamark J. Cox Sr., lay leader of Liberia
- Arthur F. Kulah, bishop in Liberia
- Henry Greene
- Walter Carpenter - recovering from brain tumor surgery
- O'Dell Thompson and family - daughter-in-law died unexpectedly
- David Sakers - lung transplant surgery in Pennsylvania
- Andre' Pieters of Belgium - critical condition
- Nathaniel T. Grady - 10th year of imprisonment, awaiting appeal
- Alexandra - 4 years old, undergoing treatment
- Karen and Bob - Karen is pregnant, and undergoing chemotherapy
- Isaiah Johnson, 16, awaiting sentence for armed robbery. Our prayer is that he will be tried and sentenced as a juvenile.
- Hazel Bell
- Rev. John Innis - Liberia - In hiding for his own safety.
- Charles Yrigoyen Jr. - He flew home to be with his son, who was rushed to the hospital today.
- Please keep Dana and Lilanthi Ward in your prayers. Lilanthi had a miscarriage.
- Ron Bailey, Barb's husband, has shingles.
- Martha Page, wife of Central Pennsylvania lay delegate Conrad M. Page Jr., and Gary D. Sowers, a lay delegate from the same conference, were taken to the hospital April 23.
- Ida Florine Tarver Jones
- President William Jefferson and First Lady Hillary Clinton
- B.J. Pasley, South Carolina delegate unable to attend due to health problems
- I. Carolyn Briscoe, South Carolina
- Elizabeth G. Hinnant—health
- Galen Goodwin's family on death of father-in-law
- Kris Hansen—recurrence of pain related to brain tumor removed in November.
- Students and staff of the Methodist Theological School for their faithful following of and engagement with this General Conference
- Four Corners Native American Ministry (New Mexico Conference) participants in General Conference
- Susan—terminal cancer
- Doris Johnson, 75, diagnosed with lupus
- Steve Tabor, North Alabama, awaiting heart-lung transplant
- Reconciliation and healing
- Buni Weller, recovering from surgery
- Beth Jones, youth with cancer

# Can You Top This?

Only one more issue to go, so if you don't make tomorrow's issue, maybe in 2000!

## A FAMILY AFFAIR

Spouses Paul Extrum-Fernandez, lay, and Renae D. Extrum-Fernandez, clergy, are delegates from the California-Nevada Conference. Paul chairs the delegation. Both were elected on the first ballot and are 38 years old. They said: "We are the first couple in our conference to be elected in 50 years. Most certainly we are the first couple in our conference where the clergy delegate is a woman and the lay delegate is a man." Paul's father, Arturo M. Fernandez, is a reserve clergy delegate in the Oregon-Idaho Conference.

Spouses Bernard "Skip" Keels, clergy, and Christine Dean Keels, lay, are delegates from the Baltimore-Washington Conference. Skip chairs the delega
tion.

## FOUR DECADES AND COUNTING

Bob Lear, a member of the United Methodist News Service (UMNS) team, first attended General Conference in 1956 as the newly hired director of Iowa Methodist Information. His first full General Conference was in Denver in 1960, and he has covered every regular and special session since, plus two sessions of the former Evangelical United Brethren General Conference. He retired from UMNS in 1992.

## WAY TO GO, B.K.!

South Central Jurisdiction has five B.K.s (bishops' kids) serving as delegates: James J. Bryan, son of retired Bishop Monk Bryan (clergy reserve, Missouri West Conference); Mary Brooke Casad, daughter of retired Bishop Benjamin R. Oliphint (lay, North Texas); Charles Crutchfield, son of the late Bishop Finis Crutchfield (clergy, New Mexico); Randy Smith, son of the late Bishop A. Frank Smith (lay, Texas); and Donald W. "Don" Underwood, son of the late Bishop Walter Underwood (clergy, North Texas).

## MOST DELEGATES FROM ONE CHURCH

St. Paul and St. Andrew United Methodist Church, New York City, is represented by the following members and regular participants: Ressie Mae Bass, lay delegate, Florida Conference; Linda Bloom, United Methodist Communications (UMCom); Edward C. "Ed" Horne, clergy delegate, New York; Don Reasoner, translator; Bruce Robbins, general secretary, General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns; Pat Rothrock, translator; Shirley Struchen, UMCom; and Connie Takamine, treasurer, Women's Division, General Board of Global Ministries. Visitors from that congregation include Barbara E. Campbell, Frances Helen Guest, Betty J. Letzig and Melissa Morgan.

## PAGES OF TIME

The Rev. Glenn L. Courts, Kentucky Conference, is serving as a page for his fifth General Conference.

## SEEING DOUBLE—TIMES TWO

Stephen R. "Steve" Pacey, lay delegate, Central Illinois Conference, has six children. "Big deal," you might say. Well, here's the "Can You Top This?" part: four of them are 10 years old! They're quadruplets Ed, John, Rachel and Robert. They have an older sister, Sarah, and a younger brother, Tom.

## SETTING A GOOD EXAMPLE

Paul and Gwen Curtis, along with their children Caitlin, 6, and Bryan, 4, are volunteers in mission, working on the Habitat for Humanity "General Conference House." This is Caitlin's and Bryan's fourth mission trip. Gwen said: "We choose to make mission trips our family vacations for a very clear reason: As we hammer nails, hang sheet rock and lay brick, our children play with Native-American, African-American, Appalachian and Denver children." At General Conference, Caitlin has made drawings and written messages to bishops, music directors and delegates.

## SOMETHING IN THE WATER? PART II

Does LaGrange [Ga.] College hold the record for alumni serving as delegates in the greatest number of conferences? Six LaGrange graduates/General Conference delegates include: L. Cecile Adams, lay, Detroit Conference; I. Carolyn Briscoe, lay, and Betty Moss B. McGuirt, lay, South Carolina; E. Malone Dodson, clergy, North Georgia; John E. Horton, clergy, South Georgia; and Louise K. Schock, lay, Northwest Texas. In addition, another LaGrange alumna, Sally AsKew, North Georgia, serves on the Judicial Council.

## Opposites Make Beautiful Music Together

At first, just look and listen. General Conference music directors Cynthia Wilson-Felder and S T Kimbrough Jr. seem to have little in common. She's a diaconal minister; he's clergy. He sings opera; she sings the blues and jazz. He's deliberate on the platform; she's energetic.

A case of opposite attracting opposite? They sing and work together well enough that they've just released "Spirituals: Songs from the American Experience," available from Cokesbury (here in Denver) as a tape or a CD.

They share a love of singing and stellar musicianship, nurtured from childhood by their families and honed with excellent classical music training which they've shaped into their own styles.

Growing up in New Orleans, Ms. Wilson-Felder and her six brothers sang jazz and blues on radio and television. "My daddy was a musician," she said, "and music was always part of our family life." A voice education degree from Dillard University, study at Eastman School of Music and a graduate degree from Southern Methodist University refined her technique but didn't diminish the soul at the heart of her performances.

Now a diaconal minister of music at Ben Hill United Methodist Church in Atlanta, she is in demand as a performer and music director for church events nationwide.

On the CD, he's Steven Kimbrough ("S T is my given name, but people always seem to hear 'Steve,'" he says), and global music is now one of his major interests. Trained at the Birmingham Conservatory, and holding theological degrees from Duke and Princeton universities, he sounds like an opera singer for a good reason. Mr. Kimbrough is executive secretary for mission evangelism for the General Board of Global Ministries.

He sang more than 40 operatic roles, mostly in Germany, from 1970 to 1982. As much as he loves that type of music, however, Mr. Kimbrough says "operatic style isn't right for everything."

The two laugh often as they work together. They auditioned 75 individuals and groups on tape—"everything from quartets to a steel drum band," Ms. Wilson-Felder said—before settling on and assigning the nine groups which sing for opening worship services and provide afternoon concerts.

Her experience with a wide variety of musical styles and his work with the General Board of Global Ministries' "Global Praise" project make them appreciate the many musical ways United Methodists have to praise God in song.

Their love of the same God and their love of many kinds of music keep them singing together—as different as they can be.

*—Tom Slack*



Cynthia Wilson-Felder and S T Kimbrough Jr. make beautiful music together.

*photo John G. Goodwin*

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# Bishop Kulah Expresses Hope After Harrowing Journey

Throughout their harrowing, week-long journey from war-ravaged Liberia to Denver, Liberian Area Bishop Arthur F. Kulah and his wife Violet faced great personal risk in order to ask the conference not to "give up on Liberia."

They arrived Wednesday evening to a joyous reception after which Bishop Kulah tearfully and haltingly brought greetings from his sisters and brothers in Liberia. He characterized his country, devastated by six years of civil war, as "rich in human resources but poor in human relationships."

At a press conference yesterday, Bishop Kulah said he and his family of 13 daughters and two sons faced grave danger at the numerous checkpoints between their home in Monrovia, Liberia's capital city, and the border of Sierra Leone where for several days they awaited visas to the United States. They faced interrogation; and the Kulah children and grandchildren, now safely relocated in Dananae, Ivory Coast, were taunted by young soldiers with threats of cannibalism and brutality.

Soldiers among the warring factions, their courage heightened by internationally supplied drugs and firearms, are brutalizing citizens and burning homes. Bishop Kulah said he unsuccessfully confronted a United Methodist pastor's militant son whose sense of reason, feeling and fear was distorted by drugs. "Drugs are destroying the moral fabric of the nation," the bishop said.

"Pray for us," said Bishop Kulah, who fears the bitter fighting that has plagued Liberia since 1989 could spread to other West African countries. Although he acknowledged the United States has provided hundreds of millions of dollars in humanitarian aid to Liberia, he appealed to the United Nations and the United States "to take a decisive role in bringing the dissension to an end."

Despite the risks of his role as an outspoken proponent of peace in Liberia, Bishop Kulah plans to return to his people; but Mrs. Kulah will join their children. "The fear is so great for our Methodist women and for all our families," she said. Bishop Kulah was detained under house arrest in Gbarnga Jan. 16-20 by members of the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) and subsequently suffered the loss of two members of his extended family who were beaten to death by soldiers of the NPFL.

Confirmation of the two deaths near Gbarnga, site of the 1996 annual conference of the Liberian United Methodist Church, was received March 26 by General Board of Global Ministries officials. NPFL commanders have since found charges of improper actions by Bishop Kulah were "unfounded, untrue, falsified and misleading." Still, he lives each day in danger.

Despite the civil war, Bishop Kulah said the church in Liberia continues to grow and have influence. He thanks God daily for the safety of the many refugees the church has housed and his own ability to serve. "Do not give up on Liberia, for we have hope...in our Lord Jesus Christ," he said. "And we too shall rise again. Continue to pray for us!"

—Carolyn Stephens



Artist Tom Gibson works on his collage of scenes from General Conference.

*photo Mike DuBose*

# Russian Observers Cite Similarities, Differences

Anton Zakharchenko (Zah HAR chen ko) and the Rev. Andrei Kim are Russian observers attending General Conference.

From Samara, a city of 1.5 million in the Volga area, Mr. Zakharchenko said he will take back his impressions of the conference. "I see and hear and try to understand everything" that is happening here, he explained. A teacher at the Electrical Communication Institute, he is a member of the administrative council of the [national] Russian Methodist Church.

An ordained deacon and pastor of Perovo Methodist Church, Mr. Kim lives in Moscow, a city of 6.5 million people. He said he will assure his 75-member congregation that The United Methodist Church is deeply concerned about what is going on in the rest of the world. The "ecumenical worship service and the problems, concerns, style of work and different admonitions impress me greatly," he said, adding, "I think that in the future, Christianity will develop only on the basis of ecumenical cooperation."

Russians, Mr. Zakharchenko said, see the United States as "the main country of Methodism in the world." His congregation has 1,000 members, with about 200 worshiping each Sunday. His pastor, Vladislav Spectorov was the first ordained Russian Methodist elder.

Mr. Kim said his congregation has become well-established because of its ability to absorb the culture of the region, retaining its own traditions and customs. In Russia today individuals are free to organize churches and worship as they choose. He believes the United Methodist General Conference should give more freedom to congregations to organize locally.

Ten years ago, on a trip to Estonia, Mr. Zakharchenko met some Methodists. They shared their faith and taught him about Bible study. Now every year he returns to Estonia to get religious literature for the Samara church. He said his congregation has an organized group, in which participants study the Bible and discuss spiritual matters. The group, which started with just a few persons, is growing steadily.

Mr. Zakharchenko is eager to "tell United Methodists about Russian Methodism. In the United States there seems to be little knowledge of Russian Methodism and Russian life in general." He said this is a mutual problem because Russians also know very little about the United States. "We must have [more] contact with each other and learn about each other," he added.

"A tremendous event" is how Mr. Kim described United Methodism's General Conference. He said the debates are interesting, the issues vitally important. Although he participated in the Ordained Ministry Legislative Committee, he said most of the problems weren't directly related to Russia so had little relevance for him.

Instead of a quadrennial General Conference, Mr. Zakharchenko said the Russian Methodist Church meets annually for a three-day session. He noted that while The United Methodist Church is struggling with issues like homosexuality and relocation of general boards, the Russian Methodist Church deals daily with human-rights concerns and basic needs such as food, clothing and shelter.

This is Mr. Kim's third visit to the United States. While he speaks little English, he feels no discomfort here, he said. People are friendly, responsive and helpful.

*—Barbara Dunlap-Berg and Joan Shoup*

## Conference Declines to Move General Board of Global Ministries

On Thursday morning the General Conference declined a call to move the headquarters of the General Board of Global Ministries. The 1992 General Conference had narrowly approved a move from the board's current New York location and authorized a task force to make a recommendation for a new site.

But that recommendation—to relocate to Reston, Va., at an estimated total cost of about $72 million—was rejected unanimously by the 1996 Legislative Committee on General and Judicial Administration. Instead, the committee offered majority and minority reports.

The majority report, which passed with one amendment by a vote of 584 to 354, recommended a delay in mandating a move until General Conference 2000 "so that any restructuring of the general boards and agencies can be incorporated into the site relocation decision and a more economical site can be determined . . . ."

As amended by the Rev. Ernest S. Lyght, Northern New Jersey, the majority report declared that the standing joint committee of the denomination's General Council on Ministries and General Council on Finance and Administration should continue its assigned duties of reviewing the suitability of all locations of the denomination's boards and agencies. The adopted majority report did not require the development of an alternate site proposal for the board.

The minority report, which failed by a vote of 400 to 558, would have required that recommendations of at least two alternative headquarters sites be presented in 2000. The same standing joint committee would have made those recommendations.

*—Linda Bloom*

## Church Overhauls Ministry

After 30 years' discussion, the 1996 General Conference agreed April 24 to reorder the church's ministry. Underlying the proposals adopted was an affirmation of the ministry of all baptized Christians.

The adopted plan calls for two separate offices of ordained ministry: deacon, one who pledges to serve God and the church through "word and service" to the community, and elder, one who serves through "service, word, sacrament and order."

Most local churches in the denomination still will be led by ordained elders. As with current practice, only elders will be eligible for the offices of district superintendent and bishop.

The bulk of the ministry proposal came from a four-year study and subsequent proposals submitted by the 130-member Council of Bishops, which called for two orders of ordination. The bishops' proposal would have retained the tradition of first ordaining elders as deacons. However, the Legislative Committee on Ordained and Diaconal Ministry modified the proposal by recommending a one-step process for elders and a separate process for deacons. That modification was accepted by delegates.

Delegates rejected the bishops' proposal for a new category of "lay ministry steward," those individuals who feel called to special service. Members of the legislative committee argued successfully that the lay steward category would create an unnecessary hierarchy among laity.

The General Conference vote marks the end of three decades of discussion on the definitions and duties of people who are ordained in The United Methodist Church.

Elders are "members in full connection" of annual conferences, are appointed annually by their bishops and itinerate (move from place to place). They bear the title "the Rev." and are the only people authorized to administer the sacraments. However, deacons may assist.

Like diaconal ministers, the new deacons will not itinerate but will be considered clergy. The new deacons will seek to connect the local church in ministry to the world in a variety of ways.

Diaconal ministers may continue in that category or may become ordained as deacons. No new diaconal ministry candidates will be accepted after Jan. 1, 1997.

*—Garlinda Burton*

# Paula Johnston Wraps Up Conference Duties, Anticipates Renewed Local Church Involvement

Howard Johnston is about to get his wife Paula back.

When the gavel sounds the adjournment of the 1996 General Conference, Paula Johnston will complete her responsibilities as Local Committee chair, a job that has been "a driving force during the past few weeks."

Paula, who has served as a delegate to three General Conferences and as a member of the 1992 Commission on the General Conference, is familiar with the time demands. She admits, however, that this General Conference has been much more time-consuming. "Since Bishop Roy I. Sano [Los Angeles Area] asked me in 1991 if I'd chair the Local Committee, I've actually been involved with this one for five years," Paula said. Never one to claim well-deserved credit for herself, she heaps praise on others. "I had six good committees, and each of those had subcommittees," she said. More than 500 volunteers were involved.

However, any volunteer will tell you that Paula's leadership was key to the success. For example, she doesn't mention that for months before General Conference, she made the 80-mile round-trip drive from her home in Longmont, Colo., to the Denver Area office an average of twice a week. Nor does she mention that during General Conference, she has spent 12- to 14-hour days in the Local Committee hospitality room.

Instead, Paula would rather talk about the services the committees have provided. "I'm so pleased," Paula said, "that we have involved people from every local congregation—from the smallest to the largest. We laugh about the cookies, but they are gifts of love from across the conference."

She cites the first-aid station in the hospitality room as among the most important benefits to delegates and visitors. "I'm so grateful for Gerrie Evans, a volunteer registered nurse, who was on duty seeing 50-some people every day. She took a lot of blood pressures and dispensed a lot of Band Aids."

Paula had hoped the Denver Area would receive delegates and visitors with an attitude of Christian hospitality. Each congregation in the Rocky Mountain and Yellowstone conferences was assigned prayer partners. "I'm thrilled about the success of the prayer partners. Congregations and delegates have said this was unique."

As one would expect of any meeting this size, there have been glitches. "Once we got people [to downtown Denver], our transportation services have been good," she said, "particularly taking people on the mission minitours, the Special Event Day tours and the Central Conference delegates to eight off-site lunches. "However, since we couldn't determine arrival times, we did have a problem getting people here from the airport. About 500 people arrived within an hour-and-a-half span, so there were delays." Paula considers another problem, that of running out of name tags, a "good problem to have."

"Besides wanting to do what the General Commission asked us to do, part of my mission was to get a large number of visitors from the area to come and observe. This was a wonderful opportunity to increase their understanding of the connection and General Conference," she said.

With 1,500 visitors from the local area, she considers that mission accomplished. "Howard and I," she said, "are going to spend some time in the mountains and take a motor-home trip to Alaska. My local congregation has been so understanding, they've not asked anything of me lately. I know I've got to get back in the swing soon. There is work to be done."

*—Sue Calvin*

♀♀ *Blessed Be the Women: Be Counted!* ♀♀

Plenaries: Note - Women = 35%, Men = 65% of body

| Date & Topics | Participation: % Women | Comments % Men |
|---|---|---|
| 4/22, Calendar Items | 22% | 78% |
| 4/23, COCU & Cal Items | 17% | 83% |
| 4/23, Connection Issues | 29% | 71% |
| 4/23, Cal Items | 16% | 84% |
| 4/24, Balloting & UMMen | 40% | 60% |
| 4/24, Homosexuality | 25% | 75% |
| 4/24, Ministry | 44% | 56% |
| 4/25, Site Relocation & Cal Items | 29% | 71% |

- General Observations: Committees made progress in the two weeks toward more parity in participation; but plenaries have been weighted toward male clergy.
- Recommendation: That the Commission on General Conference consider monitoring sessions of GC2000 as an official service in collaboration with GCORR & GCSRW.

*Our thanks to the leadership and delegates of GC for their support of this ministry & of their own monitoring for inclusiveness.*

# JUDICIAL COUNCIL DECISIONS

## DECISION NO. 782

IN RE: Petition from the West Michigan Conference for a Declaratory Decision as to the Status of a Clergy Member Affected by Leave of Absence Procedures, in Light of Pars. 36, 448.1, 704.4, and 705.6.

IN RE: Review of Bishop's Decision of Law in the West Michigan Conference Concerning Legality of Leave of Absence

Recommendations and Actions.

DIGEST

The respondent is placed in the same status as he would have been before the special clergy session of the West Michigan Annual Conference. He is entitled to salary and other benefits as of July 1, 1995, and to a pastoral appointment immediately. The questions of law referred to Donald Ott, the presiding bishop, and his answers are now, in light of the ruling on this declaratory decision, either duplicative or irrelevant to the issue.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

Clergy member Marvin Rosa was on voluntary leave of absence for the 1994-1995 year and on December 8, 1994, he requested in writing to terminate this voluntary leave effective July 1, 1995.

The Board of Ordained Ministry approved this request. On June 13, 1995, the clergy session of the 1995 West Michigan Annual Conference, in response to that motion, voted that Rosa "be continued on leave of absence." At a Cabinet meeting on June 27, 1995, the district superintendents voted to place Rosa on involuntary leave of absence with the effective date to be determined upon completion of the processes pursuant to Pars. 448.1(b) and 2622 of the *Discipline*. The basis given for this action was that the clergy session of the past June voted to continue Rosa "on leave of absence." Rosa was notified of his rights to a hearing if he so requested within 10 days. The hearing was held on August 31, 1995 by the executive committee of the Board of Ordained Ministry with the full Cabinet present and the decision was made to place Rosa on an interim involuntary leave effective September 1, 1995. On October 23, 1995, a special clergy session of the West Michigan Annual Conference was held to review the Executive Committee's action. A two-thirds vote was not received for approval of the action.

Matters involving the same issues have reached the Judicial Council from two routes. Sixteen questions of law were presented by Marvin Rosa to the presiding Bishop Donald Ott, were answered, and came to the Judicial Council for review.

In addition, by motion, the special clergy session of the West Michigan Annual Conference seeks a declaratory decision from the Judicial Council on four questions in accordance with Par. 2616 of the *Discipline*. Some of the questions in the motion and in the questions and answers of law overlap.

Although the Judicial Council does not ordinarily grant an oral hearing on a review of a decision of law by a presiding bishop, an oral hearing was held in reference to the motion for a declaratory decision, with Bishop Donald Ott and S. Dale Lathers participating.

Jurisdiction

The Judicial Council has jurisdiction under Pars. 2616 and 2613 of the 1992 *Discipline*.

Analysis

In the course of the clergy session on June 13, 1995, a motion was made that, "By the will of this executive session, Marvin Rosa be continued on leave of absence." It was seconded and passed by a majority vote of 147 yes, 120 no, with 6 abstentions.

Bishop Ott gave a lengthy explanation of what he believed the conference's parliamentary status was regarding the vote. Bishop Ott explained, "I wish to explain the parliamentary situation you are in. The motion would overturn the action of the Board of Ordained Ministry.

It would confirm the desire of this body to retain Marvin Rosa on leave of absence. Immediately, it would require the Chairperson to go to Mr. Rosa to ask if he would remain in "voluntary leave of absence." If he were not to accept, you would be placing him on leave of absence without consent. That would trigger protection from the Discipline. The cabinet would need to meet. They would have to determine that there were reasons. They would have to vote. They would have to inform Marvin Rosa. A hearing would include the Executive Committee of the Board of Ordained Ministry, the Cabinet and the Bishop. That hearing would determine whether he were to be placed on involuntary leave of absence. If this happened it would take place away from the seat of conference. It would be an ad interim involuntary leave of absence. Such involuntary leave of absence would have to be approved at the next clergy session.

We will take the questions submitted for declaratory judgment in numerical order.

Question 1.

Did the June 13, 1995 West Michigan clergy session have the right to initiate matters relative to the conference relationship of one of its members, in light of the 1992 *Book of Discipline* paragraphs 36 (The Constittion

Section VII, Article II); 704.4, 705.6 and Judicial Council Decision 6907 (sic).

We quote with favor the facts as outlined on page four of respondent counsel's brief, which state: During the 1994-95 church year, Rev. Rosa was on a voluntary leave of absence. In December of 1995 (sic) he made a timely request to return from leave effective at the end of the one year period on July 1, 1995. The Board of Ordained Ministry met to review the circumstances surrounding the leave of absence and voted to return Rev. Rosa from Leave effective July 1, 1995. He was advised by this decision by letter of February 28, 1995.

Prior to the clergy session on June 13, the District Superintendents did not take action to initiate a leave, Rev. Rosa did not request additional leave, the Board of Ordained Ministry took no action except that indicated on February 28 to return Rev. Rosa to an appointment, Rev. Rosa received no notice that further leave was being considered, and Rev. Rosa had already received an appointment to be effective July 1, 1995 which both he and the local church had accepted.

As a result of the vote of the clergy session on June 13, 1995, Rosa did not receive an appointment, but was rather placed at that time on an illegally processed leave of absence. Par. 448.1 of the *Discipline* states:

Leave of Absence.- 1. This relationship is granted to clergy who are probationary, associate, and full members who because of sufficient reason, are unable to or who chose temporarily to cease to perform the duties of full-time itinerant ministry. This relationship may be initiated by the minister as a voluntary leave of absence or the district superintendents as an involuntary leave of absence through the Board of Ordained Ministry, and granted or renewed by the vote of the executive session of clergy members in full connection of the Annual Conference upon the board's recommendation. The fair process as set forth in Par. 2622 shall be followed in any involuntary leave of absence procedure. Between sessions of the Annual Conference, leave of absence may be granted or terminated, with the approval of the bishop and district superintendents, by the executive committee of the Board of Ordained Ministry. This interim action shall be subject to the approval of the executive session of clergy members in full connection with the Annual Conference at its next session. This leave shall be counted as a part of the eight-year limit for probationary members unless the eight-year limit is extended by the executive session of the clergy members in full connection with the Annual Conference upon the recommendation of the Board of Ordained Ministry. Should there be grievances, complaints, or charges pending at the time of a request for leave of absence, they should be placed in the file of the clergy member. All subsequent actions concerning such entries should be duly noted and placed in the file. Clergy members on leaves of absence shall have no claim on the conference funds. However, in exceptional circumstances, on the recommendation of the district superintendents, salary and/or other benefits may be granted by vote of the executive session of the clergy members in full connection with the Annual Conference. In an interim between sessions of the Annual Conference, by vote of the bishop, Cabinet, and executive committee of the Board of Ordained Ministry, salary and/or benefits may be granted. Clergy members on leaves of absence shall not be eligible for membership on Annual, Jurisdictional, Central, or General Conference agencies and may not be elected or serve as delegates to General or Jurisdictional Conferences. Involuntary leaves of absence shall be approved by two-thirds vote of the clergy members in full connection at a session of the Annual Conference.

a) Voluntary Leave of Absence. - The written request for this relationship should be made at least ninety (90) days prior to the Annual Conference session, giving specific reasons for the request. Representatives of the Annual Conference Board of Ordained Ministry may interview the clergy member to determine sufficient cause. This relationship shall be approved annually upon written request of the clergy member and shall not be granted for more than five years in succession except by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the clergy members in full connection.

b) Involuntary Leave of Absence. - The District Superintendents may request an involuntary leave of absence without the consent of the clergy member, at least ninety (90) days prior to the Annual Conference session. They shall give to the clergy member and the Board of Ordained Ministry in writing specific reasons for the request. The clergy member has the right to a hearing before the bishop, district superintendents, and executive committee of the Board of Ordained Ministry prior to being placed on involuntary leave of absence. By two-thirds vote of the executive session of clergy members in full connection with the Annual Conference, upon recommendation of the bishop, district superintendents, and Board of Ordained Ministry, the ninety-day notice requirement may be waived. This relation shall be approved annually upon written request of the district superintendents and shall not be approved for more than three years in succession. There will be an Administrative Review Committee composed of three members and one alternate in full connection who are not members of the Cabinet, Board of Ordained Ministry, or Joint Review Committee. This committee shall be nominated by the bishop and elected quadrennially by the executive session of clergy members in full connection with the Annual Conference. Its purpose shall be to ensure that the *Disciplinary* procedures for involuntary leave of absence were properly followed. The entire process leading to the recommendation for involuntary leave of absence shall be reviewed by the Administrative Review Committee and it shall report its findings to the executive session of clergy members in full connection with the Annual Conference.

Involuntary leave of absence shall be approved by two-thirds of the clergy members in full connection at a session of the Annual Conference. The vote held on June 13 of the clergy session did not fulfill this requirement nor the requirements of Par. 2622, or Pars. 36, 704.4, 705.6. (See also Decision 697.)

Therefore, we rule that while the West Michigan clergy session did have the right to vote on Rosa's request to come off voluntary leave, it could not legally place Rosa on an involuntary leave.

**Question 2.**

In light of the fact that on June 13, 1995 the clergy session sustained the motion that "by the will of this executive session (the names (sic) clergy person) be continued on leave of absence" and in light of the facts that neither had the clergyperson requested a continuance of a voluntary leave of absence, nor had the District Superintendents initiated a process for an involuntary leave of absence; was a two-thirds requirement of the 1992 *Book of Discipline* Paragraph 448.1 applicable to this motion?

To reiterate, extension of the voluntary leave was not voted on, and could not be under the circumstances.

We refer to Decision 650 of the Judicial Council in which a similar situation existed, and we hold that even if it were legally possible to vote for an involuntary leave, there was a requirement for a two-thirds vote in this matter, which was not met.

**Question 3.**

What was the status of the clergyperson from July 1, 1995, until September 1, 1995, when the clergyperson was placed, ad interim, on involuntary leave of absence following the initiation of such processes by the District Superintendents on June 27, 1995, and a hearing before the Executive Committee of the Board of Ordained Ministry, the Bishop and the District Superintendents on August 31, 1995?

It is to be noted that the 1992 *Discipline* substantially changed the language of Par. 448, and that a requirement of fair process was added under Par. 2622.

Therefore, Rosa was without an appointment and was placed on leave of absence in an improper fashion from July 1, 1995 through August 31, 1995. He is entitled to salary and other benefits for that period.

**Question No. 4.**

What is the current status of the said clergy person subsequent to the action of the October 23, 1995, clergy session in which the session did not sustain an involuntary leave of absence motion, and in light of the June 13, 1995 clergy session action that "by the will of this executive session Marv Rosa be continued on leave of absence"?

Again, we quote with favor from Counsel's brief in which he stated that the action of the clergy session was illegal for the following reasons:

- The meeting of June 27 was not a meeting of the District Superintendents, but rather a Cabinet meeting at which the Bishop and assistant were involved.
- The District Superintendents state the reasons for their action was that the clergy session had already voted to place him on leave. This notice does not provide "sufficient reasons" for a leave as required by 448.1.
- Neither did the notice received relative to the right to hearing provide specifics required for the respondent to prepare a defense as required by 2622.2.
- At the hearing before the Executive Committee of the Board on August 31, the presumption of innocence was not maintained in violation of 2622.

Therefore, the appropriate answer to this question is that since July 1, 1995, Rosa has been improperly listed on leave of absence.

Having reached this four-part declaratory decision, it is not necessary or helpful to rule on the 16 questions of law, as the material is either duplicative or irrelevant.

We find that the provisions for fair process and the two-thirds vote requirement for the imposition of an involuntary leave were not followed. Consequently, the respondent is placed in the same status in which he would have been prior to the special clergy session and is entitled to salary and other benefits retroactive to July 1, 1995.

**Decision**

The respondent is placed in the same status as he would have been before the special clergy session of the West Michigan Annual Conference. He is entitled to salary and other benefits as of July 1, 1995, and to a pastoral appointment immediately. The questions of law referred to Donald Ott, the presiding bishop, and his answers are now, in light of the ruling on this declaratory decision, either duplicative or irrelevant to the issue.

April 25, 1996

**Concurring Opinion**

In Par. 448 of the 1992 *Discipline* there is a missing link related to voluntary leave of absence and involuntary leave of absence. There is lack of clarity on the subsequent status of a clergy member, who makes a timely, written request to terminate a voluntary leave of absence,

with the affirmative recommendation of the Board of Ordained Ministry to the clergy session. A major problem arises, in the event, vote of the clergy session denies the request to terminate the voluntary leave of absence. A majority vote of the clergy session is required to grant a voluntary leave of absence, if the circumstances of the leave have been alleviated or resolved (Par. 448.4). The primary question of subsequent status of the clergy member arises when the vote denies the termination of voluntary leave of absence. Is the clergy member in "good standing" by default without an intentional majority vote of the clergy session or does the status of voluntary leave of absence continue?

In brief, when termination of voluntary leave is requested, the 1992 *Discipline* is not clear that by majority votes the clergy session may continue the status of voluntary leave of absence, or that the clergy member's status reverts to involuntary leave of absence.

Regarding the right to vote, Decision 632 notes: "Par. 36, Article II of the Constitution reserves to the Annual Conference the right to vote on, and thus determine, all matters relating to the character and conference relationship of its ministerial members. Since an "involuntary leave of absence," as set forth in ¶ 448.1, is a conference relationship to be determined by the Annual Conference under ¶ 36 of the Constitution, Par. 448.1 is constitutional."

The phrase "involuntary leave of absence" as used in ¶ 448 has reference to a relationship which a ministerial member holds to the Annual Conference. It is not punitive.

With involuntary leave of absence an additional problem exists. The current process requires two-thirds (2/3) vote to grant or terminate involuntary leave of absence (Par. 448.1(b)) and the fair process (Par. 2622) which includes notice, hearing, right of advocacy, etc. The effect of this required two-thirds (2/3) vote by the clergy session means that one-third (1/3) plus one additional vote may determine the status by not granting an involuntary leave of absence. One consequence of such action during the Annual Conference session most certainly places a clergy member at disadvantage for the proper consultation in an appointment process, which in many conferences would be near completion. Par. 448.1(b) allows for the ninety (90) days notice to be waived. Even interim involuntary leave of absence, family leave (Par. 451), and disability leave (Par. 449) are subject to such a potential vote when reported to the clergy session.

The *Discipline* is not clear on the effect of the noted actions on these two leaves of absence by the clergy session. Attention to legislation by the General Conference is needed in Par. 448:

1. To address a process for granting or terminating voluntary leave of absence, which continues allowing the clergy session to restore qualified clergy into full membership in the conference by at least by majority vote, rather than default.

2. To clearly state whether or not a clergy member, who requested termination of voluntary leave of absence, may be continued on voluntary leave of absence by majority vote which denies the termination.

3. To address a process for granting or terminating involuntary leave of absence, which is determined by more than one-third vote plus one vote.

4. To determine whether or not, when a stated margin of votes is not received, a clergy member on voluntary leave of absence may be continued, until the circumstances for granting the leave have been alleviated or resolved (Par. 448.4) or the fair process is followed to change status to involuntary leave of absence.

## MEMORANUM NO. 783

IN RE: Petition from the 1996 General Conference Regarding the Constitutionality, Meaning, Application or Effect of Proposed Legislation to Delete the Second Paragraph of Par. 810.3.

A petition proposing to delete the second paragraph of Par. 810.3 came before the General and Judicial Administration Committee. The Committee's only action was to refer the petition "for a Judicial Ruling as to the constitutionality of this legislation." The 1996 General Conference voted approval of the referral. The Judicial Council has jurisdiction under Pars. 2609.2 and 2616 of the 1992 *Discipline*, determining that the petition is "proposed legislation." (See Decision 481).

A petition proposing to delete the second paragraph of Par. 810.3 is within the constitutional authority of the General Conference.

This matter reached the Judicial Council by way of the Consent Calendar, which is not the most effective method of referral to the Judicial Council.

### DIGEST

A petition proposing to delete the second paragraph of Par. 810.3 is constitutional under Par. 15.14.

April 25, 1996

## DECISION NO. 784

IN RE: General Conference Petition for Declaratory Decision on Questions of Law Submitted by the Northeastern Jurisdictional Review Committee Relating to Grievances, Statute of Limitations, and Double Jeopardy.

DIGEST

A grievance which has been judicially terminated cannot be the subject of another grievance based on the same facts and time period even though titled "amended grievance" as such would constitute double jeopardy. Only material not barred by the statute of limitations can be considered in the handling of the grievance. The date of receipt of the grievance stops the running of the statute of limitations.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

On April 18, 1996 the General Conference referred to the Judicial Council a petition for a declaratory decision on certain questions from the Northeastern Jurisdictional Review Committee. The three questions of law are:

1. Can an amended grievance, after a portion of an original grievance is time-barred, be considered by the NEJRC? Par. 513

2. Does consideration of an amended grievance constitute double jeopardy under the provision of Par. 2622.5?

3. How does the statute of limitations apply to material included in an amended grievance? Is the relevant date of the statute of limitations the date of the original grievance or the date of the amended grievance?

These questions arise from actions taken by the grievant, the respondent, the College of Bishops of the Northeastern Jurisdiction, and the Northeastern Jurisdictional Review Committee.

On January 26, 1995, a grievance was filed with the College of Bishops of the Northeastern Jurisdiction against a bishop, alleging offenses of sexual misconduct and abuse of power of the office, which occurred between May 1986 and December 21, 1994. In due course, the College of Bishops referred the matter to the Jurisdictional Review Committee as provided in Par. 513.2 of the 1992 *Discipline*. Inasmuch as some of the allegations occurred more than two years prior to the filing of the grievance, the Jurisdictional Review Committee petitioned the Judicial Council as to whether the 1992 General Conference lengthened the statute of limitations under Par. 513.5 from two years to six years as was done in Par. 454. While the matter was pending before the Judicial Council, the Jurisdictional Review Committee held a hearing on September 11, 1995, at which time testimony was received from both grievant and respondent with a verbatim record being made by audio tape. The Review Committee withheld final consideration of the matter until the Judicial Council ruled on the matter of the statute of limitations under Par. 513.5.

On October 27, 1995, the Judicial Council in Decision 761 held that the statute of limitations against a bishop is two years as provided in Par. 513 of the 1992 *Discipline*.

On November 20, 1995, the Northeastern Jurisdictional Review Committee met and returned the grievance to the College of Bishops with copies to the grievant and the respondent. The text of the document reads as follows:

In light of the Judicial Council Decision #761, the Review Committee acknowledges that all of the alleged misconduct of prior to January 26, 1993 is barred from consideration by the statute of limitations. (Para 513.5)

The alleged contacts between the grievant and the respondent after January 26, 1993 are not sufficiently definitive, as written, to justify sending the complaint to the Committee on Episcopacy.

We are therefore returning the grievance to the College of Bishops.

The NEJRC, nevertheless, recognizes that serious violation of covenants have occurred, therefore justice and healing must be sought for all concerned, the grievant, the respondent, the families and the College of Bishops.

We therefore recommend that:

1. The principals in this case be offered therapy and spiritual direction and that financial resources be sought to share in the cost of such assistance.

2. As an expression of the committees concern and care for the bishops, we encourage the College of Bishops to do what is necessary for healing within its community.

3. We encourage the bishops to give leadership within each of their episcopal areas to continue and intensify training and resourcing in areas of clergy sexual misconduct.

4. The College of Bishops find ways to eradicate the continual racial polarization around issues of clergy sexual misconduct.

On December 12, 1995, David Polhemenus, the Secretary of the Northeastern Jurisdictional Review Committee, wrote to the respondent stating:

This is to inform you that all of the tapes made of your interview were destroyed at the November meeting of the Review Committee in the presence of the committee.

On December 16, 1995, the Northeastern Jurisdiction College of Bishops received an "amended grievance" dated December 15, 1995 from the grievant which alleged "offenses of immorality and disobedience to the Order and *Discipline* of The United Methodist Church" against the respondent bishop, which set forth essentially the

same allegations in the earlier grievance for the period between January 26, 1993 and ending December 21, 1994.

On February 5, 1996, the College of Bishops referred the December 16, 1995 "amended grievance" to the Northeastern Jurisdictional Review Committee. On April 9, 1996, the Review Committee met and petitioned the Judicial Council for a declaratory decision on the questions set forth above. The petition was referred to the Judicial Council by action of the General Conference on April 18, 1996.

Jurisidiction

The Judicial Council has jurisdiction under Par. 2616 of the 1992 *Discipline*.

Analysis

In order to answer the questions presented, it is necessary to consider the facts of this matter in relation to applicable *Disciplinary* provisions and Judicial Council Decisions. The Judicial Council has held that once a formal grievance is filed, the judicial process begins (Decision 697). At all levels of consideration fair process must be followed as set forth in Par. 2622 of the *Discipline* and by Decision 763.

Under Par. 513 of the *Discipline*, the College of Bishops had, in addition to seeking the required reconciliation, several options in dealing with the grievance. One option was to forward the grievance to the Jurisdictional Review Committee. Acting on that option, the grievance was forwarded to the Jurisdictional Review Committee by the College of Bishops. Upon receiving the grievance, and after consideration of the matter, the Jurisdictional Review Committee, in addition to seeking reconciliation, had the option of taking one of two actions. One option was to dismiss the matter. The other option was to "prepare a complaint and forward it to the Jurisdictional/Central Conference Committee on Episcopacy" (Par. 513.4).

In considering the matter, the Jurisdictional Review Committee held a hearing in which fair process was required: i.e., both grievant and respondent present, and verbatim testimony recorded as required by Par. 2622.1 and Judicial Council Decision 698. While the matter was pending before the Jurisdictional Review Committee, the committee had the right to hold additional hearings with grievant and the respondent to obtain additional information concerning alleged contacts between the grievant and the respondent within the period allowed by the statute of limitations. A written grievance must contain sufficient information to allow the respondent an opportunity to prepare a response to the allegations, but the language of the grievance does not restrict testimony to specifics of the grievance so long as testimony does not introduce new charges and so long as testimony is defining of the matter contained in the grievance. In the instant matter, after Decision 761 was rendered, the Northeastern Jurisdictional Review Committee met and acknowledged that all the alleged misconduct prior to January 26, 1993, is barred from consideration by the statute of limitations. There was no additional testimony and the Jurisdictional Review Committee returned the grievance to the College of Bishops. In taking this action, the Jurisdictional Review Committee no longer had the matter pending before the committee. In addition, the committee destroyed the tapes of the testimony; this fact alone is sufficient to bar further proceedings.

We hold the action of the Jurisdictional Review Committee constituted a dismissal of the grievance. The only other action the committee could have taken was to refer the matter to the Committee on the Episcopacy, which they did not and could not have done because they had destroyed the tapes.

We held in Decision 698 that a verbatim record of the proceeding must accompany the recommendation to a body which has the authority to recommend remedial action, as in this case, from the Jurisdictional Review Committee to the Jurisdictional Committee on the Episcopacy in Par. 513.6. We stated in Decision 698 that the absence of a verbatim record of the proceeding would deprive the respondent of the right to be heard by the entity required to develop a response based on the report of the Review Committee. Failure of the verbatim record to accompany the recommendation of the committee would constitute a violation of Par. 2622 which was developed to ensure fair process in accordance with Par. 18 of the Constitution.

Having related the facts, *disciplinary* provisions, and Judicial Council Decisions to the matter, we issue our ruling on the questions asked as follows:

1. Can an amended grievance, after a portion of an original grievance is time-barred, be considered by the NEJRC? Par. 513

Answer: There is no provision in the *Discipline* for an amended grievance; however, this does not prevent a body in the judicial process which has a matter properly pending before it from obtaining additional information or facts upon which to file a complaint in connection with the filed grievance. The Northeastern Jurisdictional Review Committee could have considered the portion of the grievance which was not barred by the statute of limitations and obtained additional testimony in order to prepare a complaint to forward to the Committee on the Episcopacy. The committee chose instead to return the grievance to the College of Bishops and destroy the tapes, which action we hold constituted a dismissal of the matter.

2. Does consideration of an amended grievance constitute double jeopardy under the provision of Par. 2622.5?

Answer: Under the facts of this case, the processing of this grievance, even though titled "amended grievance", alleging conduct covering the same time periods or a portion thereof of a grievance which has already been dismissed, constitutes double jeopardy under Par. 2622.5.

Therefore, the "amended grievance" which was filed in December 16, 1995, covering alleged conduct of the same period, constitutes double jeopardy and no proceeding can be pursued in connection with the amended grievance.

3. How does the statute of limitations apply to material included in an amended grievance? Is the relevant date of the statute of limitations the date of the original grievance or the date of the amended grievance?

Answer: Again, we hold there is no provision in the *Discipline* for an amended grievance,whether or not the statute of limitations is involved. Again, we hold that a body can obtain additional information or facts relating to a grievance which is properly pending before the body. We further hold that the relevant date of statute of limitations relates to the date of the filing of the grievance. Inasmuch as we hold there is no provision for an amended grievance, the second part of this question is moot.

The Judicial Council offers no opinion on the truth of the allegations of the grievant, which have been denied by the respondent, and renders this opinion on the basis of procedures and fair process as set forth in the 1992 *Discipline.*

Decision

A grievance which has been judicially terminated cannot be the subject of another grievance based on the same facts and time period even though titled "amended grievance" as such would constitute double jeopardy. Only material not barred by the statute of limitations can be considered in the handling of the grievance. The date of receipt of the grievance stops the running of the statute of limitations.

April 25, 1996

Concurring Opinion

We find it grievous that bodies of the church charged with responsibilities in this matter have failed to follow the procedures for fair process in a timely and efficient manner. Fair process, as defined in the 1992 *Discipline*, clearly provides for conclusion of matters such as this while ensuring fairness to all parties.

Sally Curtis AsKew, Wesley Bailey, Evelynn S. Caterson, John G.Corry, Susan T. Henry-Crowe, Zan Holmes, Tom Matheny, Theodore H. Walter

MEMORANDUM NO. 785

IN RE: Petition from 1996 General Conference for a Declaratory Decision as to the Constitutionality, Meaning, Application or Effect of Newly Adopted Legislation in Pars. 710.1, 710.7, 711, and 716.1a(2) Regarding Adjustments to Annual Conference Budgets.

The General Conference has petitioned the Judicial Council to render a declaratory decision on whether newly enacted legislation to amend Pars. 710.1, 710.7, 711, and 716.1(a)(2) of the 1992 Discipline is constitutional. This legislation would permit the Conference Council on Finance and Administration, the Conference Council on Ministries, and the bishop to make adjustments between conference sessions to the budget which had been approved by the Annual Conference.

Par. 36 of the Constitution states: "The Annual Conference is the basic body of the church and as such shall have reserved to it . . . rights as have not been delegated to the General Conference under the Constitution . . . ."

The Judicial Council has ruled consistently that the Annual Conference cannot delegate to any other entity responsibilities which have been granted to the Annual Conference by the Constitution. (See Decisions 78, 79, 584, 682) This legislation would allow such unconstitutional delegation of responsibility.

Oral argument was heard at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, April 25, 1996 in the Judicial Council meeting room at the General Conference site. Mary Logan represented the General Council on Finance and Administration.

DIGEST

The proposed amendments to Pars. 710.1, 710.7, 711, and 716.(a)(2) are unconstitutional.

April 25, 1996

# Council of Bishops
# NOMINATIONS

4/26/96

*The Connectional Process Team*

(Twenty-four persons nominated by the Council of Bishops and elected by the 1996 General Conference. The entire committee will reflect the ethnic, gender, age and geographical diversity of The United Methodist Church, and include at least one person from each of the five ethnic groups in the United States...a majority shall be laity. *DCA*. p. 252)

North Central:
1. Clergy: *Richard Jones* (WI)
2. Lay woman: Aileen Williams (MN)
3. Lay man: Yung Lee (IA)

Northeastern:
1. Clergy: *Marcus Matthews* (Balt - WA)
2. Lay woman: Zedna Haverstock (C PA)
3. Lay man: Ernest Swiggett (NY)

South Central:
1. Clergy: *Kirbyjohn Caldewell* (TX)
2. Lay woman: Deanell Reece Tacha (KAN E)
3. Lay man: Jeremy Vetter (NE)(YA)

Southeastern:
1. Clergy: *Jack Loflin* (MS)
2. Lay woman: Anna Gail Workman (NC)
3. Lay man: Dale Seagrist (AL-W FL)

Western:
1. Clergy: *Marilyn Huntington* (Cal-Pac)
2. Lay woman: Vivian Bull (OR-ID)
3. Lay man: Paul Extrum-Fernandez (Cal-Nev)

Africa:
1. Clergy. *Dujundu Lungi* (Zaire)
2. Lay woman: Natalia Chamusso (Mozambique)
3. Lay man: Amoz Beio (West Africa)

Asia: (all from Philippines)
1. Clergy: *Benjamin Justo*
2. Lay woman: Aurora Aljuino
3. Lay man: Carlito Puno

Europe:
1. Clergy: *Frederic Wegelius* (N Europe)
2. Lay woman: Ingeborg Putzke (Germany)
3. Lay man: Roland Siegrist (Central & S Europe)

Six bishops elected by and representing the Council of Bishops, three Central Conference bishops and three U.S. bishops:

Central Conferences:

1. Emerito Nacpil
2. Joseph Humper
3. Walter Klaiber

United States:
1. Woodrow Hearn
2. Melvin Talbert
3. Sharon Brown Christopher

The Council of Bishops shall name one of the bishops on the CPT to convene the first meeting no later than October 1, 1996: Woodrow Hearn

An additional number (up to seven) of members will be nominated by the Council of Bishops in consultation with the GCOM to ensure continuity, inclusivity, expertise and representation of churches of different sizes. Attention will also be given to representation from regions of greatest membership strength. These persons shall be elected by the CPT through mail ballot before the first meeting.

Further, an additional three non-voting members from Affiliated and Autonomous churches will be solicited and named by the Council of Bishops.

*General Council On Ministries*

(New ¶1007.2 Supplemental members: one from North Shaba and one member from Nigeria AC).
1. *Kasongo Lenge* (North Shaba)
2. Peter D. Marubitoba (Nigeria)

Five persons from Central Conferences, with alternates) nominated by the Council of Bishops and elected by the GCOM:
1. Clergy: *Øystein Olsen* (Norway)
Alternate: Patrick Streiff (C & S Europe)

2. Clergy: *Olga Raimundu Choto* (Mozambique)
Alternate: *Benvinda Mendoza* (E Angola)

3. Laywoman: Franelli Pablco (Philippines)
Alternate: Judith V. Sulimani (Sierra Leone)

4. Laywoman: Marilina de Carvalho (Angola)
Alternate: Maria Machado (East Angola)

5. Layman: Solomon Chiripasi (Zimbabwe)
Alternate: David Caypuno (—Philippines)

*General Board Of Discipleship*
(New ¶1204.1.b Supplemental Members: one from South Shaba and one from Nigeria).
1. South Zaire: *Kajoba Kilimbo*
2. Nigeria: *John Simon Jattatu*

(New ¶1204.1.c. Five Central Conference members nominated by the Council of Bishops, including one elected president of a national organization of UM Men, selected by the Commission on Central Conference Affairs)
1. *Doris Lenga-Kroma* (Sierra Leone)
2. *Christian Alsten* (Denmark)
3. A. Grace Jumbi (Zimbabwe)
4. Anselmo Lupdag (Philippines)
5. UM Men President: Roland Pattuggatan (Philippines)

*General Board Of Church & Society*
(New ¶1106.1.b. Supplemental members, one from Central Zaire and one from North Shaba).
1. Central Zaire: Mumba Djamba
2. North Shaba: *Tshimwanga Muzangish*

(New ¶1106.1.c. Four Central Conference members nominated by the Council of Bishops:
1. *Edward Puslecki* (Poland)
2. Rustico Panganiban (Philippines)
3. Helen Byholt Thorsen (N Europe).
4. Ulrich Meisel (Germany)

*General Commission On Archives and History*
Nominated by the Council of Bishops (new ¶1894.2) and elected by the General Conference.
1. *Ralph Blanks* (E PA)NE
2. *Michelle Grube* (ME)NE
3. *Richard O'Neil* (WI)NC
4. *John Piper*(Central PA)NE
5. Russell Richey (W NC)SE
6. *Robert Rosas* (PNW)W
7. Emilie Sims (C IL) NC
8. (Mrs.) Gerry Reiff (WNC) SE
9. Harold Batiste, Jr. (SW TX)SC
10. Michel Weyer (Germany)CC

*General Board of Higher Education and Ministry*
(New ¶1507.1.b Supplemental members - one from North Shaba and one from South Shaba)
1. North Shaba: Dr. Ilunga Kaseya
2. South Zaire: *Dr. Kasap Owan*

(New ¶1507.1.c. Four Central Conference members nominated by the Council of Bishops:
1. Heinrich Meinhardt (Germany)
2. J. Samson (Philippines)
3. Tord Ireblad (N Europe)
4. Elena Stepanova (Eurasia)

*General Commission on Communication*
(New ¶1907.1.c. One member of the Central Conferences elected by the Council of Bishops)
1. *Dr. Lodi Pungumbu* (Central Zaire)

*General Commission On Christian Unity*
(New ¶2006.1.c. One person from the Central Conferences elected by the Council of Bishops)
1. *Lars Erik Nordby* (N Europe)

*United Methodist Publishing House*
(New ¶1702. One member of the Central Conferences elected by the Council of Bishops).
1. Wilma Fuentes (Philippines)

## EPISCOPAL MEMBERS OF GENERAL AGENCIES

*General Council on Ministries (¶1007.1a[2])*
1. North Central: newly elected bishop
2. Northeastern: newly elected bishop
3. South Central: J. Woodrow Hearn
4. Southeastern: newly elected bishop
5. Western: newly elected bishop
6. Central Conferences: Fama Onema

*General Board of Pensions (¶1602.1a)*
1. Bruce Blake
2. William Morris

*General Board of Publication (¶1702)*
1. Judith Craig
2. George W. Bashore

*General Commission on Archives on History (¶1894.2)*
1. Newly elected bishop Southeast
2. Emilio J.M. de Carvalho

*General Commission on Christian Unity & Interreligious Concerns (¶2006.1)*
1. Roy I. Sano
2. Ruediger Minor
3. Fritz Mutti
4. Ecumenical Officer of the COB

*General Commission on Communication (New ¶1907.1)*
1. Joe Wilson
2. Sharon Z. Rader
Committee to nominate additional members (¶1907.11): Sharon Rader

*General Commission on Religion and Race (¶2103)*
1. S. Clifton Ives
2. Elias Galvan

*General Commission on the Status & Role of Women (¶2204.4)*
1. Newly elected bishop South Central
2. Newly elected bishop North Central

*National Youth Ministry Organization Steering Committee (¶1307.1)*
1. Fritz Mutti

General Board of Church & Society (New ¶805.2b)
1. North Central: Charles Wesley Jordan

2. Northeastern: Susan Morrison
3. South Central: Joel Martinez
4. Southeastern: Marshall Meadors
5. Western: Melvin Talbert
6. Central Conferences: Kainda Katembo

*General Board of Discipleship (New ¶8005.2b)*
1. North Central: Sharon Brown Christopher
2. Northeastern: Hae-Jong Kim
3. South Central: Ann Sherer
4. Southeastern: Kenneth Carder
5. Western: Mary Ann Swenson
6. Central Conferences: Done Peter Dabale

*General Board of Global Ministries (New ¶805.2b)*
1. North Central: Newly elected bishop
2. Northeastern: Felton May
3. South Central: Dan Solomon
4. Southeastern: Robert Morgan
5. Western: Elias Galvan

Central Conferences:
1. Arthur Kulah
2. Heinrich Bolleter
3. Benjamin Gutierrez

*General Board of Higher Education & Ministry (New ¶805.2b)*
1. North Central: Woodie White
2. Northeastern: Neil Irons
3. South Central: William Oden
4. Southeastern: Robert Fannin
5. Western: William Dew
6. Central Conferences: Christopher Jokomo

*General Council on Finance & Administration (¶905.1)*
1. Richard Looney
2. Donald Ott
3. Alfred Norris

*Committee on Official Forms and Records (¶905.4c):* Donald Ott

*National Council of Churches (¶2402.2b)*
1. Kenneth Carder
2. William Oden
3. Sharon Brown Christopher
4. Felton May
5. Ecumenical Officer of the COB

*General Commission on United Methodist Men (New ¶2301.1)*
1. Ray Owen
2. Newly elected bishop Southeast

## Corrections

In "First Lady's Visit a Joyous, Historic Event," page 521 *DCA*, paragraph three, the first sentence should read: Giving quick approval to a lengthy Consent Calendar, the conference began electronic voting for new Judicial Council members who will serve until the year *2004*. In the fourth paragraph, the last sentence should read: Celebrations are scheduled this summer in *Johnstown*, Pa., and Dayton, Ohio.

In "A Conference Moment," page 521 *DCA*, the second sentence of the cut line should read: "I can remember the lessons there, sometimes more vividly *than* what I have read or seen just last week."

The cut line for the choir pictured on page 529 *DCA* should read: *The jazz band from Lovers Lane United Methodist Church, Dallas, had feet tapping and delegates and visitors swaying as band members offered themselves through the gift of music.*

*J.D. Phillips, Arlington, Texas,* preached Sunday at St. Paul United Methodist Church, Pueblo.

In "Announcements," page 538 *DCA*, item 2 under "Denver International Airport returns" should read: 2. Dash has given us the special rate of $12 from the Convention Center to DIA. Call 342-*5454* to make arrangements.

Mark Trotter, chair of the Baptism Study Committee, wants to make it clear that a celebrant at a reaffirmation of baptism should not use water in such a way that it can be mistaken for the Sacrament of Baptism.

# Address by Hillary Rodham Clinton

HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON: Thank you. *(applause)* Thank you very much. *(applause)* Thank you so much, Bishop Wilke, for that kind introduction. We're going to miss Bishop and Mrs. Wilke in Arkansas, but I am particularly pleased to have just learned as I was walking in that they will both be working on the *Disciple Bible Study* in their continuing efforts.

I have to confess to you that I have not been this nervous, with 150 bishops, someone told me, behind me, since I read my confirmation essay on "What Jesus Means to Me" in my home church. *(laughter and applause)* And I got through that all right. I hope I am able to convey to you my great sense of honor and pleasure at being here.

This quadrennial General Conference is important to all of us who are Methodists. And Methodism has been important to me for as long as I can remember. My father came from a long line of Methodists who had immigrated from England and Wales. And they took their church very seriously. And when my brothers and I were born, despite the fact we were then living in Chicago, my parents took us back to the Court Street Methodist Church in Scranton, Pa., to be christened in front of my grandfather and other relatives. We recently took back my nephew to go through the same experience at that church.

My parents belonged to a very large and active congregation in Park Ridge, Ill., the First United Methodist Church. It was the center not only for Sunday morning worship, but Sunday evening youth groups, and often during the week, for other activities. My mother taught Sunday school, and my brothers and I were there as often as the church doors opened, sometimes, although my mother later confessed that one of the reasons she taught Sunday school was to keep an eye on my brothers, so that they actually showed up and stayed after they were dropped off.

The church was a critical part of my growing up. And in preparing for this event, I almost couldn't even list all the ways it influenced me, and helped me develop as a person, not only on my own faith journey, but with a sense of obligations to others.

It taught me practical lessons as well; for example, how to recover from the embarrassment of passing out in an over-heated sanctuary when I was playing an angel during the Christmas pageant. [*laughter*] That particular lesson has stood me in good stead on many occasions in my adult life.

But most importantly, I learned from the ministers there, and the lay leaders there, the men and women such as yourselves, who ran the church life, about the connection between my personal faith and the obligations I faced as a Christian, both to other individuals and to society.

I am particularly indebted to the many people who taught Sunday School and Vacation Bible School. I can remember the lessons there, sometimes more vividly than what I have read or seen just last week. How many times did I sing the song, "Jesus Loves the Little Children of the World—red and yellow, black and white, they are precious in his sight." Those words have stayed with me more personally and longer than many earnest lectures on race relations. And to this day, I find myself wondering how anyone who ever sang them could be prejudiced against any group. [*applause*]

When I graduated into Methodist Youth Fellowship, I was fortunate to have a youth minister who arranged for us, living in our very comfortable, middle-class, all-White suburb of Chicago, opportunities to go into the inner city; to have exchanges with church groups of Black and Hispanic youngsters; to baby-sit for the children of migrant workers who, for those of you who did not grow up around Chicago in the 1950s and can only imagine flying into O'Hare where everything looks developed, might find it hard to believe how many farm workers we would have. And our church took some responsibility for helping. We visited the residents of nursing homes. We would go to public events that would feature speeches by people we'd barely heard of like Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. We discussed what our faith meant in the world; and I am so grateful for those lessons and those opportunities.

I am equally grateful that my daughter has had the same, both at her church in Little Rock, and now at her church in Washington. Her Sunday School teachers there have helped her and her peers explore and express ideas and fears. One time just this past year, Bill and I went to a meeting of the teen-age Sunday School group where the teen-agers talked about what bugged them about their relationships with their parents. And it helped to have another child say what your own child didn't want to say to you directly. It was one of the many experiences that we have had because of the loving and faithful adults who care for young people in the Methodist Church. [*applause*]

And I hope that one of the lessons that we all take from our own experience, and one of the messages that comes forth from this conference, is that despite all the headlines and the problems that we face in helping our children and young people, we have so many wonderful young people. [*applause*] And just a few days ago, I received a letter from a young man who is a delegate here from Arkansas. You are going to think that between the bishop and me, we are promoting Arkansas. He wrote to me about all the good things that were happening in his church and conference, and he said to me, "Our church and our world must know that youth are not just involved in gangs, drugs and violence; they are also involved in youth programs, missions, and the life of our church."

And I hope that each of us, and certainly from my background with the debt I owe to so many who helped me, understand that in today's world, churches are among the few places in society where young people can let down their guard, let off steam, and be part of a fellowship that offers them the opportunity for religious and spiritual expression and acts of humanity. And if we look at the positive side of what we can offer to young people, then we know that at the center of that experience is our faith and our mission as Methodists and as Christians.

That faith has certainly meant a great deal to me over the years. But I know that today, here at this conference and throughout the world, we are faced with many new challenges and opportunities that test and try us; that ask

us how we will put into action what we believe. We know we need to strengthen the spiritual and moral context of our lives. And we know that we need a new sense of caring about one another in which every segment of society, every institution, fulfills its responsibility to the larger community, and particularly to families and children.

Here, in the United States, and certainly in the other countries represented here, we see too many children and people who remain on the margins of society. We see children who are unloved, unfed, unhealthy, and unschooled. We see women and people of color who are marginalized because they are denied the opportunities they deserve to become full participants in society. Those are the continuing challenges; and yet, we now know much more about what we can do together to meet those challenges. Despite the problems of poverty, and illiteracy and violence, there are solutions being born, being born in churches and communities, throughout the world.

The bishop mentioned a book that I have written, *It Takes A Village*, which really does, for me, express my fundamental belief that we all have an obligation to reach out to assist each other; and that we all should be willing to work toward solutions to our problems. It is easy to complain about the problems we face. It is harder but far more rewarding to roll up our sleeves and work together to solve them. [*applause*]

I was heartened, therefore, when I read a text of this year's episcopal address, to see that the Council of Bishops has renewed its call to make the welfare of children a top priority. And I commend the council for adopting the Episcopal Initiative on Children and Poverty, which will amplify the discussion of this very important issue worldwide. Children need us. They are not rugged individualists. They depend, first and foremost, on their parents who bare the primary responsibility for their upbringing.

And, yet, as a mother, I know that my daughter's life has been influenced and affected by countless other people, some of whom I know; many, many others I will never meet. Think of it: the police who patrol our streets to keep our children safe; the government officials who monitor the quality of air and water and food; the business leaders who employ parents and make decisions about what kind of income and benefits they will receive; the executives who produce the programs that our children see on television.

As adults we have to start thinking and believing that there isn't really any such thing as someone else's child. [*applause*] My child, your child, all children everywhere must live and make their ways in society. And now, in the increasingly shrinking world we live in, in the larger *globe* as well.

For that reason, we cannot permit discussions of children and families to be subverted by political or ideological debate. There are strong feelings about what should or should not be done, but there are also, I believe, strong areas of agreement where people should get beyond their disagreements to work together. There should be no disagreement about the fact that the family structure is in trouble; not only here, but in many parts of the world. There should be no debate that children need the nurturing and care that a stable family can provide. And there should be no debate about a common sense truth that children are the result of both the values of their parents and the values of the societies in which they live.

And so, if we look honestly at the problems we have, as the Episcopal Initiative is doing, then we should be asking ourselves, "What areas of common agreement do we have that can lead us as individuals, as a church, as community and society to work together on behalf of our children?" We know the biblical admonitions about caring for each other. We know so well what Jesus said to his disciples in Mark, holding a small child in his arms, "that whoever welcomes one such child in my name, welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me, welcomes not me, but the one who sends me." If we could only keep that in mind, and see in every child's face that faithful hopefulness. Take the image we have of Jesus—I can remember so clearly walking up the stairs so many times to my Sunday School class and seeing that picture that is in so many Methodist Churches of Jesus as the Shepherd—taking that face and transposing it onto the face of every child we see. Then we would ask ourselves, "Would I turn that child away from the health care that child needs? Would I say that there is no help for that child because, look who he is, or look who her parents are?" No, we would take a deep breath in the face of disappointment in our efforts to help, and we would continue to try.

For me, the Social Principles of the Methodist Church have been as much a description of our history as a prod for my future actions. We can find direction if we look to the church's call to strengthen families and renew our schools, and encourage policies that enable each child to have a chance to fulfill his or her God-given potential.

Now, it is not easy to do that. I don't think it ever has been. I believe if one looks back, not only into the Bible, but certainly since then, and reads the stories of John and Charles Wesley, and looks to other church leaders in the last century, we know that acting on our faith is never easy. And it is often a test of our own resolve as much as anything else. I think of the stories that I heard, even as a child, of John Wesley preaching to people who did not want to hear him. There was that one memorable story of where they were throwing whiskey bottles at him. And I think to myself, how many of us, myself included, would even go into places now where we were likely to be the object of thrown whiskey bottles? Not many of us. And in part what we have to confront is our own willingness to take the blessings we have and take them into a world that is complex, often turns away, and may even be hostile.

But just look at the tradition we come from. We continue in this church to answer John Wesley's call to provide for the educational, health, and spiritual needs of children. We can be proud that our church has been a leader in the fight to improve the quality of education, promote parental responsibility, curb smoking among young people, expand comprehensive health care, strengthen marriages, and help people of all kinds of backgrounds. I'm heartened by the work I see being done in the Communities of Shalom Initiative, where individual churches and churches in union are looking to transform just four city blocks in some instances. But taking that responsibility on, being there one-on-one with people unlike ourselves, often letting people hear the message

of the gospel as well as the example of our works, will do more to change lives than any program that could be passed by any legislative body. *[applause]*

As I look at this great gathering, I see reflected here John Wesley's words that "the world is my parish." And if that be the case, then I am optimistic. Despite the headlines of the moment, and all of the difficulties we know lurk outside in this city we are in today, and every other one, I am optimistic because I see spiritual growth and action, based on that, beginning to manifest itself in so many different ways. In my book I wrote a little chapter called "Children Are Born Believers" because I feel so strongly that we owe our children a chance for them to have a spiritual life; for them to be part of a church. And it is not only something we do for them; we do it for ourselves, and we know that in ways we might not even predict, consequences can be positive.

A recent survey of young people and drug use found that children and youth who had regular religious involvement and attendance in a church or synagogue were far less likely to engage in self-destructive behavior like drug use. So we do it because we believe. And we do it because we trust that it will lead our young people to a better life for themselves.

Just this past month, I attended the funeral of a young man who epitomized the Methodist spirit of compassion and charity. He was the grandson, the son, and the nephew of Methodist ministers. His name was Adam Darling. He attended Foundry Church in Washington, as my husband and daughter and I do. And he had accompanied Commerce Secretary Ron Brown on his trip to Bosnia and was among the men and women who died on the side of that mountain in Croatia. He was only 29-years-old. But in the four years the President and I had known him, we had seen a young man who not only blossomed professionally, but was committed to rebuilding cities, rebuilding communities, living in one of the toughest neighborhoods in Washington, getting to know his neighbors, babysitting for their children when he had time, hitting a ball with them in the street. Because he understood from the way he was raised that fame and success were fleeting. But a commitment to the spirit, involvement in the work of his church, would give him satisfaction and build a legacy that others, themselves, could take advantage of. I raise his name because when one contrasts what his short young life meant, and what he was attempting to rebuild, it gives me a great deal of energy and optimism about what all young people can do if they are given the chance.

I know that we have disagreements in society. We even have disagreements in the church. I think one of the reasons that I'm a Methodist is because I think disagreements are part of life. I think *[applause]* it's part of how we grow together. And I think all of us know that despite our disagreements, as the *Book of Discipline* puts it, we are engaged in a task to articulate our vision in a way that will draw us together as a people in mission. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are called to work within our diversity, while exercising patience and forbearance with one another. Such patience stems neither from indifference toward truth nor from an indulgent tolerance of error, but from an awareness that we know only in part, and that none of us is able to search the mysteries of God except by the spirit of God. That call to humility, and forbearance, and patience is not only important for the work of the church within the church, but it's critical to our work outside. It calls us to try, time and again, to reach into the lives of those who are left out. And it also prods us to look for ways we can work together to help our children.

If we were able, even within our own church in every congregation represented here, to help every mother and father be the best parent that parent could be, we would have done a wonderful piece of work. *[applause]* If we were able to persuade every parent that it's important to talk to a baby, to be affirmative toward a child, to wrap that child in the love, attention and discipline every child needs, then by the time those children reached our schools we would be able to persuade our teachers to look at every child and see hope, and see possibility. And we could renew and reform our schools so that they involved—even welcomed—parents, threw open their doors to the community, and were determined to leave no child behind.

We would also ask those in the business community to think about the decisions they make in terms not only of their primary responsibility to their bottom line, but also to the communities that they serve and work in. To ask how they, too, could be *[applause]* part of strengthening families. [*applause*]

Even simple things, like giving time off to parents to go to parent-teacher conferences in schools, would send a wonderful signal about what is important. [*applause*]

And if we were able to persuade everyone who has any control of what appears on our televisions and what we hear on our radios, to think about their own children (would they want their own children to see and hear what comes into our homes on a daily basis, or would they rather not?) [*applause*] and therefore change what they produce. [*applause*]

And we would ask all of us who are members of churches, and synagogues and mosques, we would ask all of us to set an example of love and respect. We would ask all of us, in whatever form it appears in our holy writings, to follow what we call "the Golden Rule." We would ask all of us to act on the outside of church the way we try to act inside, [*applause*] and to throw open the doors [*applause*] of our churches, and welcome in those who John Wesley sought out. And open those doors after school, on weekends, especially in some of our tougher neighborhoods, so that children have places that are safe to go.

There is so much we can do in meeting these challenges; and so many opportunities for us, as Methodists, to grasp and be part of fulfilling.

I am grateful for my Methodist upbringing. I am grateful for this church. I watch with great interest and appreciation those of you who struggle to make the decisions that will govern us for the next four years. And I appreciate that you are grappling with the hard issues; being willing to debate and discuss what needs to be done. And I would hope that many of us, not only members of this church, but all people of faith, would say we have so much in common that we can do, and summon our energy on behalf, first and foremost, of our children.

If we were to do that, I know we would see changes before our very eyes; and that the church you serve, and that has served us, would continue to grow because it was serving the world, living out the gospel, and being a servant for those who need to hear that message.

With that in mind, I thank you for keeping alive the Methodist traditions and teachings; for helping to awaken and strengthen the spirit and faith of men, women, and children; and for helping all of us to have courage in the face of change; to be willing to struggle forward doing what we can individually; and to make common cause with others who believe that we are called, both for personal salvation, but also for the work we must do in this world. Thank you very, very much. [*applause*]

## American Methodism in the White House

WILLIAM K. QUICK (Detroit): Bishop Ives and colleagues, delegates, and guests to this conference. As I came on the stage today, someone said, "I suppose you were picked because your name is Bill and it's going to be the Bill and Hillary show." I said, "Not at all."

I want to talk about American Methodism in the White House; for this denomination of ours has been described as America's most characteristic church. And the description in these words: "It's short on theology, long on good works, brilliantly organized, primarily middle class, frequently bigoted, incurably optimistic, zealously missionary, and touchingly confident of the essential goodness of the person next door. It exhibits all the chief American faults and virtues, and has done so for all its life."

Since 1789, when George Washington was inaugurated as our first president, 41 men have held this nation's highest office. And each of them has either held membership or has attended church. The denominational breakdown shows that there have been 11 Episcopalians, six Presbyterians, five Methodists, four Unitarians, four Baptists, three Disciples of Christ, two Dutch Reformed, two Quakers, one Congregational, and one Roman Catholic.

Thomas Jefferson, who considered himself a deist, attended the Unitarian and Episcopal churches on occasion. And Abraham Lincoln, though he never joined, attended the Presbyterian Church. But Lincoln had the highest regard for the Methodists. And on May 18, 1864 he said, "It is no fault in others that the Methodist Church sends more soldiers to the field, more nurses to the hospitals, and more prayers to heaven than any. God bless the Methodist Church." Blessed be all the churches and blessed be God who in this, our great trial, giveth us the churches." And history records for us that his dear and perhaps closest friend, Bishop Matthew Simpson, was chosen to deliver his final funeral oration.

The Methodist Episcopal Church, as we all know, was organized at that Christmas Conference at Lovely Lane in Baltimore in 1784. And in the conference of 1788, Bishops Francis Asbury and Thomas Coke were instructed to go and call on the newly-elected president, George Washington. They did so, and they offered the new president the prayers and support of the Methodists.

And that was the beginning of the long association and connection between the Methodist Church and the White House. It has been said that you cannot read the history of the United States in the 19th century apart from the history of Methodism. Be that as it may, the facts are that the five Methodist presidents were all elected in the 19th century. And they were born in states where Methodism continues to be a vital and active witness in the late 20th century.

James Knox Polk and Andrew Johnson were born in North Carolina. Ulysses S. Grant, Rutherford B. Hayes, and William McKinley were born in Ohio. Three presidents were educated in our United Methodist-related colleges. James Buchanan at Dickinson, William McKinley at Allegheny, and Richard Nixon at the Duke University Law School. We take a brief glimpse at these five Methodist Presidents.

James Knox Polk's parents took him as an infant to be baptized in the Presbyterian Church. But the pastor refused to perform the service unless both parents professed their faith in accordance with Presbyterian doctrine. For his mother that was no problem, but his father refused. And an argument between Mr. Polk and the clergyman followed, and the former stalked out with this wife and the unbaptized child. In 1833, James Polk attended a Methodist camp meeting and was profoundly moved by the preaching of the Rev. John McFerrin. He was converted and became a Methodist privately, affirming his devotion to Methodism. He married Sarah Childress, a well-educated woman at the exclusive Moravian Female Academy in Salem, North Carolina. She was a strict Moravian. And in the White House, she and the president refused to attend the theater or horse races. She banned dancing and card-playing and alcoholic drinking at the White House, refused to let visitors come to the White House on Sunday. And on his death bed, President Polk summoned the preacher under whom he had been converted, now Bishop McFerrin, who baptized him a Methodist before he died.

Andrew Johnson attended Methodist services with his wife, Eliza McCardle, who at 16 married at a younger age than any of the first ladies. He occasionally attended Catholic Mass, defended Catholicism from its critics. He never attended a single day of school, barely taught himself to read. But his better-educated wife tutored him, teaching him to write and to figure math and to greatly improve his reading and writing. And while he labored in the tailor shop, she read aloud to him. Johnson, though a Methodist, never formally joined the church.

Rutherford B. Hayes neither smoked or drank, but married Lucy Webb of Cincinnati, a devout Methodist, and she was the first of the first ladies to graduate from college. They attended church regularly. Lucy Hayes vigorously opposed slavery and convinced her husband to

abandon the Whig Party for the anti-slavery Republican Party. And as the first lady, she brought her zeal for temperance to the White House and was nicknamed "Lemonade Lucy." She banned all alcoholic beverages. But I want to tell you something that most historians don't record. On one occasion, the reception for the Grand Duke of Russia in 1877, Lemonade Lucy allowed wine to be served. The Women's Christian Temperance Union hailed her policy and in gratitude commissioned a full-length portrait of her which now hangs in the White House.

I think you would find it interesting that in the Hayes administration a typical day in the White House began with prayer. And in the evening the family gathered together for prayer, for music and hymn singing. And as president, he introduced the practice of group hymn-sings in the White House on Sunday night. And we are told that they set a good example for the American family and gained respect for their hospitality, their simplicity, and their modesty.

It was the Hayes who introduced the custom of Easter Egg Rolling for the children on Easter Monday on the White House lawn. Hayes wrote, after he left the presidency, "I try to be a Christian. I want to be a Christian. I want to help to do Christian work." And he gave freely both of his money and his time, contributed 25 percent to the construction cost of a new Methodist Church, and bore another 25 percent of its reconstruction cost after it burned down.

Ulysses S. Grant, as a youth, rarely went to church. But this all changed when he fell in love with Julia Boggs Dent of St. Louis and began with her attending Methodist worship services. During his final struggle with cancer, the Rev. John Phillip Newman of Metropolitan Methodist Church in Washington called on Grant regularly, urging him to confirm his faith in God and the church. And after one such visit, Reverend Newman announced to the press that he had baptized the president at his request. The family members later disputed that, saying that Grant had tolerated Newman's visits and bedside prayers because they comforted Mrs. Grant, and he did not want to be rude to the minister, whom he greatly admired.

Grant had little use for organized religion but was always expressing belief in God, in the Bible, and in an afterlife. He said in a speech in Des Moines, "Leave the matter of religion to the family altar, the church, and the private school. Keep the church and state forever separate." And he wrote, "Hold fast to the Bible as the anchor of your liberties. Write its precepts in your hearts and practice them in your lives. To the influence of this book we are indebted for the progress made in true civilization. And to this we must look as our guide in the future."

William McKinley, the fifth Methodist president, was brought up in a devout Christian home. At ten years of age, he professed his faith in a revival meeting and joined the church at age sixteen. Throughout his life he was a devout, active Methodist, a regular church-goer in Canton, Ohio. He was a Sunday School superintendent at the First Methodist Church. In Washington he attended Metropolitan Methodist Church. And at his inauguration he kissed the Bible which was open to Second Chronicles 1:10: "Give me now, O God, wisdom and knowledge that I may go out and come in before the people. For who can judge this thy people, that is so great?"

As president, he invited people to come and sing hymns in the Blue Room on Sunday evenings. And among his favorites were, "Nearer My God To Thee" and "Lead Kindly Light." In 1899, he summarized his credo in these words: "My belief embraces the divinity of Christ and a recognition of Christianity as the mightiest factor in world civilization." He maintained his faith to the end. But he was overheard softly reciting the Lord's Prayer as he was being prepared for surgery after being shot. Teddy Roosevelt, who succeeded him on September 14, 1901, remarked to the Methodist Chaplain of the United States Senate as he went to address congress, "Your church is the church of America."

Calvin Coolidge spoke at the unveiling of the only equestrian statue on public land in Washington which does not honor a military hero. On the occasion of the unveiling of the statue of Bishop Francis Asbury, that prophet of the long road, Coolidge said, "Asbury ranks as one of the builders of this nation. He printed the map of this country with the hoofbeats of his horses." And he closed that moment with one of the greatest lines, "We build monuments to men who do not need them."

Some of us were present in Baltimore in 1966 when President Lyndon Johnson spoke to the bicentennial of Methodist beginnings in America. And many here know that the links of historic Methodism to the White House includes the action of delegates in 1980 in sending a delegation headed by Bishop William R. Cannon to the White House for a meeting with President Jimmy Carter regarding the Americans held hostage by the Iranians. We note that President Carter married a Methodist, Rosalyn Smith of Plains, Georgia.

And so the action we took here, requesting a delegation headed by Bishop Woodie White to call on President Clinton, has many historic precedents. In a few moments we will be eyewitnesses to a current page of Methodist and White House history as we welcome the most forthright United Methodist witness to be in the White House in 95 years. And the national publicity she has brought to United Methodism is, perhaps, without historical precedent.

Reviewing Methodism in the White House, I would close by quoting briefly John Wesley and Martin Marty. John Wesley had only one fear: "I'm not afraid that the people called Methodists should ever cease to exist either in America or England. But I am afraid that they should only exist as a dead sect, having the form of religion without the power."

Martin Marty, our contemporary historian from the University of Chicago, said in my hearing, "Methodism was the hottest lava flowing in America in the 19th century. Beware if it heats up again in the 21st."

May our prayer be: "Lord, do it again." Thank you. *(applause)*

# General Council on Finance and Administration

## REVISED Report No. 15
## Response to Referrals from the 1996 General Conference

This report replaces Report No. 15 (pages 539-541 of the Thursday, April 25, edition of the *DCA*). GCFA has revised that report because of additional General Conference referrals made after the original report was published.

The 1996 General Conference has adopted several legislative committee reports which call for the allocation of funds from general apportioned fund budgets. The General Council on Finance and Administration makes the following recommendations in response to those referrals for which funding will be taken from existing budgeted funds. GCFA will submit a separate Report No. 16, which will cover all referrals to GCFA for which funding will require an increase in apportionments (Calendar Nos. 441, 751, 764, and 1694). That report will be distributed to delegates desks as soon as it is available on Friday, April 26.

1. ***Report and Recommendation of the Interagency Task Force on AIDS.*** (Calendar No. 439, p. 171; Petition # 21674-GM-NonDis-O$, Advance *DCA*, page 744). The petition recommends "continuation of a downsized Interagency Task Force on HIV/AIDS"; it also requests funding in the amount of $25,000 for the 1997-2000 quadrennium, "to ensure the participation (in the task force) of individuals, families, and care providers whose lives have been touched by HIV/AIDS." The legislative committee concurred with the petition, and the report was adopted by the General Conference and referred to GCFA on April 25, 1996.

**GCFA recommends that funding of no more than $25,000 for the expenses of the task force be provided from the existing budget of the General Board of Global Ministries. It is further recommended that the expenses of persons representing specific general agencies on the Interagency Task Force be paid by those agencies.**

The report further recommends that a training consultation on HIV/AIDS be held by the end of the 1997-2000 quadrennium, and that the cost of that event up to $100,000 be borne by the budget of the General Council on Ministries.

**GCFA recommends that the General Board of Global Ministries, in consultation with the Interagency Task Force, determine whether such an event will be held; if the event is held, funding will be from the budget of the Board.**

2. ***National Committee on Deaf Ministries.*** (Calendar No. 440, page 171; Petition # 21346-GM-NonDis-O$, Advance *DCA*, page 779). The report of the legislative committee requests funding in the amount of $104,500 for the 1997-2000 quadrennium.

During the 1993-1996 quadrennium, funding in the amount of $51,000 has been provided from within the existing budget of the General Board of Global Ministries. GCFA, in its Report No. 1 on the World Service Fund, has recommended that funding be continued from that source for the 1997-2000 quadrennium (Advance *DCA*, page 287, under the heading "The Mission Initiatives Fund").

**GCFA recommends that the recommendation in its Report No. 1 be approved.**

3. ***National Plan for Hispanic Ministries.*** (Calendar No. 442, page 174; Petition #21343-GM-NonDis-O$, Advance *DCA*, page 771). The petition requests funding in the amount of $3,100,000 for the 1997-2000 quadrennium. The legislative committee report recommended concurrence with the petition, which was adopted by the General Conference and referred to GCFA on April 22, 1996.

GCFA, in its Report No. 1 on the World Service Fund, has recommended budgeted support for the National Plan for Hispanic Ministries within the regular budget allocations to the four general program boards, in a total amount of $2,800,000 (Advance *DCA*, page 287, under the heading "The Mission Initiatives Fund"). The amount allocated for this program from general apportioned funds during the 1993-1996 quadrennium was $2,716,000.

**GCFA recommends that the $2,800,000 included in its existing World Service Fund recommendation be approved without change.**

4. ***Native American Comprehensive Plan.*** (Calendar No. 444, page 174; Petition #21345-GM-NonDis-O$, Advance *DCA*, page 778). The petition requests funding in the amount of $1,200,000 for the 1997-2000 quadrennium. The legislative committee recommended concurrence with the petition, and the report was adopted by the General Conference and referred to GCFA on April 22, 1996.

GCFA, in its Report No. 1 on the World Service Fund, has recommended budgeted support for the Native American Comprehensive Plan in a total amount of $1,075,000, within the regular budget allocation of the General Board of Global Ministries (Advance *DCA*, page 287, under the heading "The Mission Initiatives Fund"). The amount allocated for this program from general apportioned funds during the 1993-1996 quadrennium was $1,020,000.

**GCFA recommends that the $1,075,000 included in its existing World Service Fund recommendation be approved without change.**

5. ***Historically Black Colleges and Universities Related to The United Methodist Church and the Black College Fund.*** (Calendar No. 452, page 175; Petition# 21280-HE-NonDis-O$, Advance *DCA*, page 826). The petition requested that, for the 1997-2000 quadrennium, $46,708,480 be apportioned for support of the Black College Fund. On April 22, 1996, the General Conference referred that funding request to GCFA.

GCFA, in its Report No. 3 (Advance *DCA*, page 293), has recommended that the 1997-2000 apportionment for the Black College Fund be in a total amount of $43,309,000.

**GCFA recommends that the 1997-2000 apportionment for the Black College Fund be in the amount of $43,309,000, as recommended in its Report No. 3.**

6. ***Communities of Shalom.*** (Calendar No. 576, pages 215-216; Petition # 21363-GM-NonDis-O). The legislative committee report requests the establishment of a Shalom Committee with twelve members and two ex-officio members, six to be selected by the Council of Bishops, three to be selected by the General Board of Global Ministries, and three to be selected by the Shalom Committee itself. The ex-officio members are the general secretary of the General Board of Global Ministries and a staff person from the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits.

The report was adopted by the General Conference and referred to GCFA on April 25, 1996. It does not include an estimate of the cost of funding the work of the Shalom Committee.

**GCFA recommends that funding be from the existing budget of the General Board of Global Ministries, except that the expenses related to the participation of the staff person from the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits be paid by that agency.**

7. ***Strengthening the Black Church.*** (Calendar No. 762, page 235; Petition # 21677-GJ-NonDis-C$, Advance *DCA*, page 579). The petition requested funding in a quadrennial amount of $1,779,400. The legislative committee recommended concurrence, and the report was adopted by the General Conference and referred to GCFA on April 22, 1996.

GCFA's Report No. 1 on the World Service Fund includes funding in the amount of $1,316,000 in that fund's recommended budget (Advance *DCA*, pages 287, 290).

**GCFA recommends that funding for Strengthening the Black Church be in the amount of $1,316,000, as recommended in its Report No. 1 on the World Service Fund.**

8. ***Special Program on Substance Abuse and Related Violence.*** (Calendar No. 769, page 255; Petition # 21342-GM-NonDis-O$, Advance *DCA*, page 771). The petition requests funding in a quadrennial amount of $1,440,000; the legislative committee recommended concurrence with the petition, When the report was considered by the General Conference, an amendment was adopted asking that $127,500 per year ($510,000 for the quadrennium) be allocated for a similar program in the Northern Europe Central Conference and Russia. The report, as amended, was adopted with the added provision that the additional $510,000 be from the World Service contingency funds administered by the General Council on Ministries. The report, as amended, was adopted by the General Conference and referred to GCFA on April 25, 1996.

GCFA observes that the contingency funds administered by GCOM are unlikely to be adequate for this purpose. It also notes that, during the 1996-2000 quadrennium, funding in the amount of $1,836,000 has been provided from funds allocated to the General Board of Global Ministries. Funding for the continuation of this special program is a part of the recommended allocation to that Board from the World Service Fund (Advance *DCA*, page 287, under the heading "The Mission Initiatives Fund").

**GCFA therefore recommends that funding for both the original program and the program in the Northern**

**Europe Central Conference and Russia be from within the recommended World Service Fund allocation for the General Board of Global Ministries.**

9. *National United Methodist Native American Center.* (Calendar No. 777, page 257; Petition # 22037-HE-NonDis-O$, Advance *DCA*, page 1356). The petition requests additional funding in the amount of $316,000, beyond current funding from the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry and the General Board of Global Ministries. The legislative committee recommended concurrence with the petition, and the report was adopted by the General Conference on April 23, 1996.

GCFA understands that, for the 1997-2000 quadrennium: 1) the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry will provide funding in the amount of $164,000; 2) the General Board of Global Ministries will provide funding in the amount of $160,000 (designated for a staff person for congregational development).

**GCFA recommends that an amount of not more than $75,000 per year, for a total of not more than $300,000, be provided from the Contingency Reserve line item of the World Service Fund.**

10. *Commission on Union (Pan-Methodist).* (Calendar No. 781, page 258; Petition # 21726-IC-NonDis-O$, Advance *DCA*, page 931). The petition includes a quadrennial budget estimate for the work of the Commission in the amount of $100,000, to be divided among the four denominations. The legislative committee recommended concurrence with the petition, and the report was adopted by the General Conference on April 23, 1996.

Based on the formula by which expenses of the Commission on Pan-Methodist Cooperation have been allocated among the four participating denominations, it is estimated that the United Methodist share of the expenses of this Commission on Union will be approximately $49,000.

**GCFA recommends that funds to meet the United Methodist share of these expenses be from the Contingency Reserve line item of the Interdenominational Cooperation Fund budget, on recommendation of the General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns (Advance *DCA*, page 306).**

11. *General Commission on United Methodist Men.* (Calendar No. 1681, p. 386; Petition # 20712-DI-NonDis-O$, Advance *DCA*, page 1285). The report of the legislative committee provides for the establishment of a General Commission on United Methodist Men. It states that GCFA "shall make provision for the necessary support of the work of the Commission by transferring from the budget of the General Board of Discipleship those World Service funds and direct United Methodist Men contributions (charter fees and EMS memberships) allocated for United Methodist Men..." The report was adopted by the General Conference on April 24, 1996.

**GCFA recommends that a new line item be established in the "Program Agencies" section of the World Service Fund budget for the General Commission on United Methodist Men. Annual amounts of $296,000 (1997), $296,000 (1998), $297,000 (1999), and $297,000 (2000), for a quadrennial total of $1,186,000, will be included in the new line item, and the proposed allocation for the General Board of Discipleship will be reduced by the same amounts. Allocations to the Commission will be on-ratio, and will be contingent on compliance with the same budget and audit requirements placed on other general program agencies by *The Book of Discipline* and other relevant policies of the General Council on Finance and Administration and the General Council on Ministries.**

**The cost of organization in the fall of 1996, including an organizational meeting of the General Commission and the selection of a general secretary, up to $20,000, will be advanced by GCFA and coordinated by the General Board of Discipleship. The advance is to be repaid from the General Commission's World Service Fund allocation during 1997-1998.**

These recommendations assume General Conference action reducing the voting membership of the General Commission to 23 members.

12. *Other Reports Referred to GCFA.* GCFA is aware of certain other calendar item reports which were identified in the *DCA* as having financial implications and which were adopted by the General Conference. However, as it has examined these reports in the form in which they were finally adopted, the Council has concluded that their provisions can be fulfilled by existing agencies without incurring significant additional costs. These reports are:

Calendar No. 775, Funding the Evangelical Seminary of Puerto Rico.

Calendar No. 1695, Standing Commission on Alcohol and Drugs.

Calendar No. 1992, Continue Funding the Area of Abuse and/or Misuse of Drugs and Alcohol.

13. *Other General Conference Actions Which May Affect General Agency Budgets.* A significant number of resolutions or other actions embodied in legislative

committee reports adopted by the 1996 General Conference call for one or more of the following:

1. Educational or promotional resources to be provided by general agencies.
2. Task forces or consultations (interagency or otherwise) to be organized.
3. Research or study to be done.
4. Other actions to be taken which imply the commitment of funds by one or more general agencies.

In some cases specific agencies are given responsibility, while in others the request or instruction is more general.

Unless the report names a specific source of funding and has been referred to GCFA for a funding recommendation, as required by the Plan of Organization, it is GCFA's assumption, and, by adoption of this report, the sense of this General Conference, that any costs associated with carrying out the provisions of the report will be borne by the agencies from their regularly budgeted funds. Established procedures exist for agencies to request supplemental funding from contingency funds administered by GCOM or GCFA.

## Summary of Financial Recommendations Related to General Conference Referrals

| Item Referred | Request | Legislative Committee | GCFA |
|---|---|---|---|
| Interagency Task Force on AIDS | $125,000 | $125,000 | $125,000 |
| National Committee on Deaf Ministries | 104,500 | 104,500 | 51,000 |
| National Plan for Hispanic Ministries | 3,100,000 | 3,100,000 | 2,800,000 |
| Native American Comprehensive Plan | 1,200,000 | 1,200,000 | 1,075,000 |
| Black College Fund (see note below) | 46,708,480 | 43,682,000 | 43,309,000 |
| Communities of Shalom | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Strengthening the Black Church | 1,316,000 | 1,310,000 | 1,316,000 |
| Special Program on Substance Abuse and Related Violence | 1,950,000 | 1,440,000 | 1,836,000 |
| National UM Native American Center | 316,000 | 316,000 | 300,000 |
| Commission on Union (Pan-Methodist) | 49,000 | 49,000 | 49,000 |
| General Commission on United Methodist Men | 1,186,000 | 1,186,000 | 1,186,000 |
| **Totals** | $56,054,980 | $52,512,500 | $52,047,000 |

Note: For the Black College Fund, the "Request" represents the action of the Higher Education Legislative Committee; the "Legislative Committee" column shows the recommendation of the Financial Administration Committee.

## Wounded for Redemptive Reasons

Delegates arriving for worship Thursday morning were met with reverence as those already assembled watched and listened to the Deaf and Sign Choir of Christ United Methodist Church, Baltimore. With flowing and expressive motions, the choir signed familiar words of the Lord's Prayer and "Standing in the Need of Prayer."

Ohio East Area Bishop Edwin C. Boulton said: "God often insists on a person having a legitimate handicapping condition if he or she is to be fully employed in the God movement." Bishop Boulton spoke from experience, explaining that because of his limp, he has a blue plastic disability logo on his car for special parking privileges.

In his sermon, the bishop observed that our church has a legitimate handicapping condition which God may use: our acute memory of other days and an uncertain future. "Thanks be to God that we are wounded for redemptive purposes!"

But our church is also beset, Bishop Boulton said, with an unnecessary and profoundly crippling ailment: a climate of fear which "can hover over us like underemployed morticians" who capitalize on fear, and "religion-political surgeons whose strategy for abetting God's reform of the church is to spray the surgical suite with the virus of suspicion."

Illustrating the power of fear, the bishop how Moses sent spies into the Promised Land. The spies reported discovery of a fine neighborhood. But the land was filled with giants, before whom Moses' people appeared as grasshoppers. Filing the ultimate minority report against fear was the lone dissenter's, "Let's go! We can do it!"

In a personal witness, Bishop Boulton prayed that delegates would welcome the long-expected Jesus who alone can save us from the giants of fear and imagined disabilities.

Leading the liturgy were Bishop Joel L. Martinez, Nebraska Area, and Veronica C. Teano, Philippines Conference.

*— Dick Thornburg*




Inspiring delegates Thursday was the Deaf and Sign Choir of Christ United Methodist Church, Baltimore.

*photo John Goodwin*

### Consent Calendar Explanation

There are three consent calendars: A) concurrence with proposed changes to the *Discipline*. B) concurrence with petitions on non-Disciplinary matters. C) non-concurrence on Disciplinary and non-Disciplinary items. The first day items will be listed as 01. The second day will be listed 02, and so forth. Items can be placed on the consent calendar if: 1) no more than five votes were cast against the prevailing position; 2) it has no financial implications; 3) the proposal does not require a constitutional amendment. Any five delegates may have a consent calendar item removed by signing the appropriate form found in Room 204. This form must be returned to the secretary by 3 p.m. on the day it appears in the *DCA*.

# Consent Calendar A07

## Correction

**1806**-222
DI54-222-A

This calendar item was incorrectly recorded as non-disciplinary. It is disciplinary and has been added to consent calendar A07 by the Coordinator of the Calendar.

**1900**-1412.3
GJ196-1412-A

This calendar item was added to consent calendar A06 by the Coordinator of the Calendar and announced to the plenary session Thursday morning, April 25.

**1957**-442
MN389-442-A

This calendar item was added to consent calendar A06 by the Coordinator of the Calendar and announced to the plenary session Thursday morning, April 25.

**2409**-1113.2
**Subject: All other staff**
Committee Item: CS66-1113.2-C
Petition:
20949-CS-1113.2-D, Pg. 129
Membership: 102; Present: 93;
For: 93; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**2410**-315
**Subject: Relation to the Ministry of All Christians**
Committee Item: MN27-315-A
Petition:
21831-MN-315-D, Pg. 996
Membership: 113; Present: 100;
For: 99; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/24

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

1. Title: insert **Orders in**

2. Line 5: remove parentheses from *diakonia* (put in italics)

3. Line 12: remove parentheses from *diakonia*

4. Line 13: place servant in quotation marks; *diakonia* in italics, service in quotation marks

5. Line 15: place deacons in quotation marks

6. Line 17: delete last sentence and insert **The deacon embodies the interrelationship between worship in the gathered community and service to God in the world.**

**Within the people of God, other persons are called to the ministry of elder. The elders carry on the historic work of the *presbyteros* in the life of the Church. Beginning in some of the very early Christian communities, the *presbyteros* assisted the bishop in leading the gathered community in the celebration of sacraments and the guidance and care of its communal life. The ministry of elder exemplifies and leads the Church in service to God in the world, in remembering and celebrating the gifts of God and living faithfully in response to Gods grace.**

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**2411**-449.1
**Subject: Family Leave**
Committee Item: MN109-449.1-A
Petition:
20742-MN-449.1-D, Pg. 1066
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

In the amended sentence, substitute the phrase, shall be limited to with in.

In the same sentence, after the word held, delete the word and and substitute shall be.

At the beginning of the next sentence, insert Outside their charge conference, before the word Under and change to a lower case.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**2412**-453.1
**Subject: Location Certified by Presiding Bishop**
Committee Item: MN124-453.1-C
Petition:
21226-MN-453.1-D, Pg. 1069
Membership: 113; Present: 101;
For: 101; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**2413**-322
**Subject: Requirements for Ordination as Deacon and Admission to Full Connection**
Committee Item: MN132-322-A
Petition:
21840-MN-322-D, Pg. 1000
Membership: 113; Present: 102;
For: 100; Against: 2; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Add a new ¶ 322:

**Requirements for ~~Admission of~~ Ordination as Deacon and Admission to ~~in~~ Full Connection.~~Deacons~~ Probationary Members who are applying for admission into full connection and who have been probationary members for at least three years may be admitted into membership in full connection in an annual conference by 2/3 vote of the clergy members in full connection of the annual conference upon recommendation by 2/3 vote of**

the Board of Ordained Ministry after they have qualified as follows:

1. Served under episcopal appointment in a ministry of service the entire probationary period (¶ 313). Upon recommendation of the Board of Ordained Ministry, the annual conference may equate non-salaried service as meeting this qualification. Such equivalence is to be determined in light of the years of service involved, the quality of that service, the maturity of the applicant, and other relevant factors determined by the board. Supervision is to be (a) personally assumed or delegated by the district superintendent, and (b) also provided by a mentor assigned by the Board of Ordained Ministry. The applicants service must be evaluated by the Board of Ordained Ministry as effective according to written guidelines developed by the board and adopted by the clergy members in full connection. Lay persons directly involved in the applicants servant ministry shall be involved by the board in the annual evaluation.

2. Been previously elected as a probationary member ~~and ordained deacon~~.

~~3. Met the educational requirements as defined in ¶ 311.~~

~~4.~~ 3. Responded to a written or oral doctrinal examination administered by the Board of Ordained Ministry. The candidate shall demonstrate the ability to communicate clearly in both oral and written form. The candidates reflections and the boards response shall be informed by the insights and guidelines of Part II of *The Book of Discipline*. The examination shall also focus upon the covenantal relationship of the applicant to God, to the church, and to the Order of Deacon, as well as the understanding of diaconia, servant leadership, and the interrelatedness of the church and the world. The applicant shall be able to articulate the call of God to the order of deacon as contained in ¶ 310 and to relate that call to leadership within the ministry of all Christians, through the setting of their service, the local church, and the annual conference.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2414-523.5
**Subject: Administration**
Committee Item: MN218-523.5-A
Petition:
21603-MN-523.5-D, Pg. 1080
Membership: 113; Present: 88; For: 87; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1; Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

After missional needs of the, insert United Methodist Church or the.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2415-317
**Subject: Qualifications for Consecration**
Committee Item: MN261-317-A
Petition:
22930-MN-317-D, Pg. 1504
Membership: 113; Present: 81; For: 80; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1; Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Amended text should read:

Qualifications for Election **and Consecration** to Probationary Membership....

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2416-312
**Subject: Organization of an Order**
Committee Item: MN263-312-A
Petition:
21828-MN-312-D, Pg. 995
Membership: 113; Present: 100; For: 99; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1; Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Following The Board shall nominate insert **from within the Orders membership**

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2417-733
**Subject: Conference Board of Ordained Ministry**
Committee Item: MN339-733-A
Petition:
21991-MN-733-D, Pg. 1022
Membership: 113; Present: 93; For: 92; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0; Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Paragraph 733.1. Line 6: following in full . . . Insert **During the 1997-2000 quadrennium one-fifth of the members of the board insofar as possible shall be diaconal ministers or persons who have previously served on the Board of Diaconal Ministry. Each annual conference shall elect at least one-fifth and up to one-third of the . . .**

733.l(c) Line 4: following which shall include the insert **chairpersons of the Divisions of Elders and Deacons**

Line 7: following including the needs of delete ~~deacons and elders~~ and insert **certified persons, diaconal ministers, local pastors, deacons, and elders. The board shall continue to fulfill the governance responsibilities for diaconal ministers, and those in process of becoming diaconal ministers, including their certification, care, and continuing formation; and shall further ensure professional certification in the areas of Christian education, evangelism, music, and youth ministry as stipulated in Par. 301-317 and Par. 734 of the 1992 Book of Discipline; and under the guidelines of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (see Par. 1524).**

733.2(i): Line 1 following report recommendation concerning: substitute **1.) student local pastors, 2.) Certified candidates for ordination as deacons, and 3.) certified candidates for ordination as elders.**

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2418-437
**Subject: The Itinerant System**
Committee Item: MN341-437-A
Petition:
21848-MN-437-D, Pg. 1004
Membership: 113; Present: 93; For: 93; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0; Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Add 328.3 to read, Interim appointments may be made to charges that have special transitional needs.

a. Ordained ministers and local pastors may be appointed as interim pastors. They will be available for interim assignments of varying lengths. Interim pastors may serve outside the annual conference where membership is held under the provision of 331.d, with approval and consent of the bishops involved.

b. Interim appointments will be for a specified length of time, established in advance following consultation with the district superintendent, the pastor-parish relations committee and the interim pastor.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2419-421
**Subject: Progression into Full Membership**
Committee Item: MN385-421-C
Petition:
21869-MN-421-D, Pg. 1010
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2420-533.3
**Subject: Changes to the Appointment Process**
Committee Item: MN438-533.3-A
Petition:
20118-MN-533.3-D, Pg. 1084
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 85; Against: 3; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Delete proposed new text at the end of paragraph 515.4.

In paragraph 515.3, delete proceedings after the word judicial in line 2.

Substitute the word processes for procedures.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2421-316
**Subject: The Ministry of Deacons**
Committee Item: MN544-316-A
Petition:
21832-MN-316-D, Pg. 996
Membership: 113; Present: 102;
For: 100; Against: 2; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Change Paragraph number from 316 to 320 - and amend by 22933-MN-316-D

Change the title from The Ministry of Deacons to Ministry of a Deacon.

Change the first line to read the same as the title, Ministry of a Deacon.

Amend lines 3-4 to read: Deacons fulfill servant ministries in the world and lead the church in relating the gathered life of Christians to their ministries in the world, interrelating worship in the gathered community with service to God in the world.

In the first paragraph, after the phrase, ...administration of the Sacraments, add of Baptism and the Lords Supper.

In the last sentence of the first paragraph, amend the end of the sentence to read: . . . in the congregations mission to the world and in leading the congregation in interpreting the needs, concerns, and hopes of the world.

Delete the second sentence in the third paragraph.

Continue the second paragraph with The distinct ministry of the deacon. . . .

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2422-317
**Subject: Qualifications for Ordination as Deacon**
Committee Item: MN549-317-A
Petition:
21833-MN-317-D, Pg. 997
Membership: 113; Present: 102;
For: 97; Against: 2; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Change numbering of paragraph 317 to paragraph 315.

In title, delete Ordination as a Deacon and amend to read, Qualifications for Election to Probationary Membership and Commissioning.

In lines 1 and 2, delete ordination as deacon and amend to read, Qualifications for Election to Probationary Membership and Commissioning. A person shall be eligible for election to probationary membership and commissioning in the Annual Conference...

P.315.1, in lines 2 and 3, delete ordained ministry and amend to read, probationary membership and commissioning at least two...

P.315.2, in lines 4 and 5, delete ordination and amend to read, condition for probationary membership and commissioning. This required...

P.315.3, in line 2, delete ordination as deacon and amend to read, A candidate for probationary membership and commissioning shall have...

P.315.3, in line 7, delete rare and amend to read, ...in some instances, for missional purposes, for persons...

P.315.4c, in line 3, begin a new subparagraph to read, ...and, (d) completed...

P.315.6, in line 2, delete ordination as a deacon and amend to read, ...requirements for probationary membership and commissioning when they have...

P.315.8, in line 3, delete Handicapping conditions and amend to read, Disabilities are not...

P.315.8, last line, delete ordained deacon and amend to read, ...effective service as a probationary member and commissioned minister.

P.315.9f, in lines 1 and 2, delete an ordained deacon and amend to read, ...theological tasks of a probationary member and commissioned minister with special...

P.315.9j, in last line, delete deacon and amend to read, ...as a probationary member and commissioned minister in the United...

P.315.9k, in last line, delete deacon and amend to read, ...of the church, and the servant ministry of the probationary member and commissioned minister

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2423-306
**Subject: Candidacy for Licensed and Ordained Ministry**
Committee Item: MN728-306-A
Petition:
21821-MN-306-D, Pg. 993
Membership: 113; Present: 97;
For: 97; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

306.2.c, line 3: following by the district committee on ordained ministry insert **in consultation with the district superintendent**

306.3.b, line 6: following such recommendation to the candidate for deacon delete ~~as deacon~~

306.4, line 2: following as candidates for ordination delete as ~~deacons~~

306.4.e, line 2: following for the ministry of deacon insert **or elder**

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2424-305
**Subject: Entrance Procedures into Licensed and Ordained Ministry**
Committee Item: MN731-305-A
Petition:
21820-MN-305-D, Pg. 993
Membership: 113; Present: 98;
For: 97; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/24

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Line 4, following as candidates for delete ~~the order of deacon~~ and insert **ordained ministry**

Line 4, following of their call by God Delete ~~to this order~~ insert to **ordered ministry**

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

# Consent Calendar C07

## 2425-729
**Subject: Eliminate Annual Conference Board of Discipleship**
Committee Item: DI130-729-N
Petition:
20580-DI-729-D, Pg. 241
Membership: 112; Present: 98;
For: 97; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2426-745.1
**Subject: Conference Council on Youth Ministry**
Committee Item: DI188-745.1-N
Petition:
20448-DI-745.1-D, Pg. 244
Membership: 112; Present: 98;
For: 97; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2427-906.1
**Subject: Regarding General Church Funding**
Committee Item: FA119-906.1-N
Petition:
22237-FA-906.1-D, Pg. 1312
Membership: 113; Present: 110;
For: 110; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2428-322
**Subject: Requirements for Admission of Ordination to Deacon**
Committee Item: MN131-322-N
Petition:
22916-MN-322-D, Pg. 1506
Membership: 113; Present: 98;
For: 97; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/24

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2429-NonDis
**Subject: Study of The Itineracy**
Committee Item: MN155-NonDis-N
Petition:
20805-MN-NonDis-O, Pg. 1496
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 87; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2430-NonDis
**Subject: Pastoral Changes**
Committee Item: MN156-NonDis-N
Petition:
20804-MN-NonDis-O, Pg. 1495
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 87; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2431-NonDis
**Subject: Compensation of Local Pastors**
Committee Item: MN157-NonDis-N
Petition:
20789-MN-NonDis-O, Pg. 1495
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 87; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2432-NonDis
**Subject: Mandatory Retirement Age for Clergy, Bishops and other Church Employees**
Committee Item: MN158-NonDis-N
Petition:
20733-MN-NonDis-O, Pg. 1495
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 87; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2433-NonDis
**Subject: Pastoral duties in cross cultural appointments**
Committee Item: MN160-NonDis-N
Petition:
20034-MN-NonDis-O, Pg. 1495
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 87; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2434-NonDis
**Subject: Continuance as a Local Pastor**
Committee Item: MN161-NonDis-N
Petition:
20041-MN-NonDis-O, Pg. 1495
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 87; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2435-NonDis
**Subject: Support the ordination of persons called into ministry**
Committee Item: MN162-NonDis-N
Petition:
20035-MN-NonDis-O, Pg. 1100
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 87; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2436-NonDis
**Subject: Regarding Language for Adoption of the "New Circuit Rider" Concept**
Committee Item: MN196-NonDis-N
Petition:
22401-MN-NonDis-O, Pg. 1497
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 87; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2437-NonDis-$
**Subject: Formation of an Impartial Panel**
Committee Item: MN197-NonDis-N$
Petition:
22402-MN-NonDis-O$, Pg. 1497
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 87; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2438-NonDis
**Subject: A Resolution for General Conference to Elect an Archbishop**
Committee Item: MN198-NonDis-N
Petition:
22610-MN-NonDis-O, Pg. 1497
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 87; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2439-NonDis
**Subject: A Resolution for the General Conference: Academic Orthodoxy**
Committee Item: MN199-NonDis-N
Petition:
22701-MN-NonDis-O, Pg. 1498
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 87; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2440-NonDis
**Subject: Resolution on the Re-Imaging Conference**
Committee Item: MN200-NonDis-N
Petition:
22858-MN-NonDis-O, Pg. 1498
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 87; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2441-NonDis
**Subject: Develop a Plan for Filling Senior Ministerial Positions**
Committee Item: MN201-NonDis-N
Petition:
22703-MN-NonDis-O, Pg. 1498
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 87; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2442-NonDis
**Subject: Adhere to the Book of Discipline**
Committee Item: MN202-NonDis-N
Petition:
22860-MN-NonDis-O, Pg. 1500
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 87; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2443-408.5
**Subject: Rights of Local Pastors**
Committee Item: MN248-408.5-N
Petition:
20735-MN-408.5-D, Pg. 1050
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2444-418
**Subject: Discontinuance of Probationary Members**
Committee Item: MN524-418-N
Petition:
22372-MN-418-D, Pg. 1452
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/24

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2445-416.2
**Subject: Special Conditions for Admission to Probationary Membership**
Committee Item: MN526-416.2-N
Petitions:
20387-MN-416.2-D, Pg. 1052;
22057-MN-416.2-D, Pg. 1452
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2446-414.8
**Subject: Deacon Candidates**
Committee Item: MN528-414.8-N
Petition:
20533-MN-414.8-D, Pg. 1052
Membership: 113; Present: 81;
For: 80; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2447-414.8
**Subject: Qualification for Election to Probationary Membership**
Committee Item: MN529-414.8-N
Petition:
22056-MN-414.8-D, Pg. 1452
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/24

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2448-414.8
**Subject: Qualification for Election to Probationary Membership**
Committee Item: MN532-414.8-N
Petition:
20256-MN-414.8-D, Pg. 1052
Membership: 113; Present: 81;
For: 80; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2449-404
**Subject: Candidacy for Ordained Ministry**
Committee Item: MN533-404-N
Petitions:
22046-MN-404-D, Pg. 1446;
22048-MN-404.4-D, Pg. 1447
Membership: 113; Present: 81;
For: 80; Against: 1; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2450-NonDis
**Subject: Requirements for Admission**
Committee Item: MN534-NonDis-N
Petition:
20904-MN-NonDis-O, Pg. 1104
Membership: 113; Present: 81;
For: 80; Against: 0; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2451-413.4
**Subject: Eligibility and Rights of Probationary Members**
Committee Item: MN535-413.4-N
Petition:
21170-MN-413.4-D, Pg. 1052
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2452-401
**Subject: Relation of Ordained Ministers to Ministry of All Christians**
Committee Item: MN541-401-N
Petitions:
21793-MN-401-D, Pg. 989;
21903-MN-209-D, Pg. 1014;
21905-MN-211-D, Pg. 1015;
21906-MN-212-D, Pg. 1015;
21907-MN-213-D, Pg. 1015;
21909-MN-215-D, Pg. 1015;
21910-MN-216-D, Pg. 1015;
21911-MN-217-D, Pg. 1015;
21912-MN-218-D, Pg. 1015;
21913-MN-219-D, Pg. 1015;
21914-MN-220-D, Pg. 1015;
21915-MN-221-D, Pg. 1015;
21916-MN-222-D, Pg. 1015;
21917-MN-223-D, Pg. 1015;
21918-MN-224-D, Pg. 1015;
21919-MN-225-D, Pg. 1015;
21920-MN-226-D, Pg. 1016;
21921-MN-227-D, Pg. 1016;
21922-MN-228-D, Pg. 1016;
21923-MN-229-D, Pg. 1016;
21924-MN-230-D, Pg. 1016;
21925-MN-231-D, Pg. 1016;
21926-MN-232-D, Pg. 1016;
21927-MN-233-D, Pg. 1016;
21928-MN-234-D, Pg. 1016;
21929-MN-235-D, Pg. 1016;
21930-MN-236-D, Pg. 1016;
21931-MN-237-D, Pg. 1016;
21932-MN-238-D, Pg. 1016;
21933-MN-239-D, Pg. 1016;
21934-MN-240-D, Pg. 1016;
21935-MN-241-D, Pg. 1016;
21936-MN-242-D, Pg. 1017;
21937-MN-243-D, Pg. 1017;
21938-MN-244-D, Pg. 1017;
21939-MN-245-D, Pg. 1017;
21940-MN-246-D, Pg. 1017;
21941-MN-247-D, Pg. 1017;
21942-MN-248-D, Pg. 1017;
21944-MN-248-D, Pg. 1017;
21945-MN-248-D, Pg. 1017;
21946-MN-249-D, Pg. 1017;
21947-MN-250-D, Pg. 1017;
21948-MN-251-D, Pg. 1018;
21950-MN-252-D, Pg. 1018;
21951-MN-253-D, Pg. 1018;
21952-MN-254-D, Pg. 1018;
21954-MN-256-D, Pg. 1018;
21955-MN-257-D, Pg. 1018;
21956-MN-258-D, Pg. 1018;
21957-MN-259-D, Pg. 1018;
21958-MN-260-D, Pg. 1018;
21959-MN-261-D, Pg. 1018;
21960-MN-262-D, Pg. 1018;
21961-MN-263-D, Pg. 1019;
21962-MN-264-D, Pg. 1019;
21963-MN-265-D, Pg. 1019;
21964-MN-266-D, Pg. 1019;
21965-MN-267-D, Pg. 1019;
21966-MN-268-D, Pg. 1019;
21967-MN-269-D, Pg. 1019;
21969-MN-271-D, Pg. 1019;
21970-MN-272-D, Pg. 1019;
21971-MN-273-D, Pg. 1019;
21972-MN-274-D, Pg. 1019;
21973-MN-275-D, Pg. 1019;
21974-MN-276-D, Pg. 1019;
21975-MN-277-D, Pg. 1019;
21976-MN-278-D, Pg. 1020;
21977-MN-279-D, Pg. 1020;
21978-MN-280-D, Pg. 1020;
21979-MN-281-D, Pg. 1020
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2453-443.4
**Subject: Special Ecumenical Affiliation**
Committee Item: MN581-443.4-N
Petition:
21106-MN-443.4-D, Pg. 1063
Membership: 113; Present: 86;
For: 79; Against: 6; Not Voting: 1;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2454-443
**Subject: Elders in Administrative/Program Positions**
Committee Item: MN584-443-N
Petition:
22060-MN-443-D, Pg. 1464
Membership: 113; Present: 86;
For: 86; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/24

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2455-437.2
**Subject: The Itinerant System**
Committee Item: MN592-437.2-N
Petition:
20812-MN-437.2-D, Pg. 1462
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2456-438
**Subject: Local Church Appointments**
Committee Item: MN595-438-N
Petition:
21099-MN-438-D, Pg. 1057
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2457-436
**Subject: General Provisions**
Committee Item: MN599-436-N
Petition:
20280-MN-436-D, Pg. 1056
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2458-436
**Subject: General Provisions**
Committee Item: MN601-436-N
Petition:
20741-MN-436-D, Pg. 1056
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2459-435

**Subject: Admission and Continuance of Full Membership in the Annual Conference and the Order of Elder**
Committee Item: MN621-435-N
Petitions:
22068-MN-435-D, Pg. 1460;
22069-MN-435-D, Pg. 1460
Membership: 113; Present: 86;
For: 86; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2460-306

**Subject: General Provisions**
Committee Item: MN709-306-N
Petitions:
22957-MN-306-D, Pg. 1433;
22958-MN-307-D, Pg. 1434;
22959-MN-308-D, Pg. 1434;
22960-MN-309-D, Pg. 1435;
22961-MN-310-D, Pg. 1435;
22962-MN-311-D, Pg. 1436;
22963-MN-312-D, Pg. 1436;
22964-MN-313-D, Pg. 1437;
22965-MN-314-D, Pg. 1437;
22966-MN-315-D, Pg. 1438;
22967-MN-316-D, Pg. 1439;
22968-MN-317-D, Pg. 1439;
22973-MN-404-D, Pg. 1446;
22974-MN-405-D, Pg. 1447;
22975-MN-306-D, Pg. 1433;
22976-MN-307-D, Pg. 1434;
22977-MN-308-D, Pg. 1434;
22978-MN-309-D, Pg. 1435;
22979-MN-310-D, Pg. 1435;
22980-MN-311-D, Pg. 1436;
22981-MN-312-D, Pg. 1436;
22982-MN-313-D, Pg. 1437;
22983-MN-314-D, Pg. 1437;
22984-MN-315-D, Pg. 1438;
22985-MN-316-D, Pg. 1439;
22986-MN-317-D, Pg. 1439;
22987-MN-413-D, Pg. 1450;
22988-MN-414-D, Pg. 1451;
22989-MN-320-D, Pg. 1440;
22990-MN-418-D, Pg. 1453;
23045-MN-412-D, Pg. 1450;
23046-MN-413-D, Pg. 1451;
23047-MN-414-D, Pg. 1451;
23048-MN-415-D, Pg. 1452;
23049-MN-416-D, Pg. 1452;
23050-MN-417-D, Pg. 1452;
23051-MN-418-D, Pg. 1453;
23054-MN-421-D, Pg. 1454
Membership: 113; Present: 96;
For: 96; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2461-313.2

**Subject: Mandatory Retirement**
Committee Item: MN732-313.2-N
Petitions:
20038-MN-314-D, Pg. 1043;
20394-MN-404.4-D, Pg. 1048;
20679-MN-315.4-D, Pg. 1045;
20736-MN-413.4-D, Pg. 1051;
20909-MN-314.4-D, Pg. 1045;
20910-MN-315-D, Pg. 1045;
20911-MN-318-D, Pg. 1045;
20912-MN-319-D, Pg. 1440;
21023-MN-313.2-D, Pg. 1437;
21155-MN-315-D, Pg. 1045;
21156-MN-318-D, Pg. 1045;
21157-MN-319-D, Pg. 1046;
21171-MN-414-D, Pg. 1052;
21172-MN-417-D, Pg. 1052;
22040-MN-313.2-D, Pg. 1437;
22058-MN-419.3-D, Pg. 1454;
22366-MN-317-D, Pg. 1439
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/24

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2462-313.1

**Subject: Change in Conference Relationship**
Committee Item: MN733-313.1-N
Petitions:
20908-MN-313.2-D, Pg. 1042;
21149-MN-313.1-D, Pg. 1042;
21151-MN-313.2-D, Pg. 1042;
21152-MN-313.3-D, Pg. 1042;
21153-MN-313.3-D, Pg. 1042;
21154-MN-313.4-D, Pg. 1043
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/24

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2463-306

**Subject: Completion of Candidacy**
Committee Item: MN738-306-N
Petitions:
20335-MN-306.4-D, Pg. 1041;
20820-MN-306.1-D, Pg. 1434;
20821-MN-306.2-D, Pg. 1040;
20906-MN-306.1-D, Pg. 1040;
21138-MN-306-D, Pg. 1040;
21139-MN-306.2-D, Pg. 1040;
21140-MN-306.3-D, Pg. 1040;
21141-MN-306.3-D, Pg. 1040;
21142-MN-306.3-D, Pg. 1041
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/24

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

# Removed from the Consent Calendar

## 2001-726

CO137-726-A

Removed from consent calendar A06 by the following delegates:

Hatcher, William 'Bill' S.;
Phillips, J. Taylor;
Black, Charlene R.;
Hopkins, Carolyn J.;
Deriso, Jr. Walter M..

## 2201-453.2

MN142-453.2-N

Removed from consent calendar C06 by the following delegates:

Topolewski, John L.;
Miller, Sarah S.;
Earl, Dorothy M.;
Scott, Gail F.;
Duncan, Jean-Pierre.

# Proceedings of the 1996 General Conference of The United Methodist Church

## The Committee On Journal

The Committee On Journal hereby certifies as accurate, with the following corrections, the proceedings as printed in the *Daily Christian Advocate* for Thursday, April 25, 1996.

*Daily Edition*, page 602, column 2, line 16 from the bottom, delete the word "to".

*Daily Edition*, page 604, column 1, line 19, insert the word "you" at beginning of line.

*Daily Edition*, page 612, colum 2, line 11; the first word should be "your".

**Reported by William Reasner**
**Chair, Committee On Journal**
(C13, seat 2)

## Wednesday Morning April 24, 1996

*(Continued from page 631)*

THELMA JOHNSON (West Ohio): I would like to move that the top six vote getters be the alternates.

BISHOP BASHORE: I wish that we could do that, but the Discipline indicates that we need to have a majority vote for each one. Thank you very much. The order in which persons are elected is also the order in which they would serve, and we'll need to go through this process. I wish we could honor that. All right, yes microphone 7.

SARAH MILLER (Wyoming): Bishop because the agenda was changed in order to facilitate the consideration of the Korean-American missionary conference, can we postpone these additional elections until another time?

BISHOP BASHORE: Well, yeah, we can. Yes. Is that a motion Sarah?

MILLER: Yes.

BISHOP BASHORE: All right, there is the motion and support that we postpone these elections to another time that will be brought before us so that we can move to some of the items scheduled this morning. If you favor that postponement, please vote when the light is on. [772 yes] Yes, you want to move along. All right, I think we'll turn now to George Hunter.

GEORGE G. HUNTER, III (Florida): The first day I began chairing the Committee on Conferences, it occurred to me that chairing such a committee is analogous to trying to herd rabbits. And nowhere was this feeling more pronounced than on the remarkable day when we discussed the Korean-American missionary conference petition from the Korean-American coalition. And our vice chair Judith Siaba from the northern Illinois will present this for us.

*Korean Proposal Introduced*

JUDITH SIABA (Northern Illinois): Bishop, we are referring to item 751 found in the blue *DCA*, page 234. This item is reference to Petition 21731 which is found at the very beginning of your blue *DCA*. Beginning on page 31. That's the very beginning, because I understand we have two page 31's so this would be Tuesday, April 16th. The committee, after many many hours of deliberation, recommend concurrence as amended, and the amendment is found there on page 234.

BISHOP BASHORE: All right, thank you. Now this matter is before us. Yes, microphone 7, please.

YOUNG OK PARK (Northern Illinois): I would like to move an abandonment to this substitution that is in front of us. We'd like to add a paragraph before the first paragraph of the substitution, and that first paragraph reads "whereas Korean-American churches have a spiritual contribution within the United Methodist church we the United Methodist Church affirm and celebrate their ministry." And then we go over to the second paragraph in the current substitution, and we would like to add "representing the five jurisdictions" after and inclusive task force. So the first sentence should read "therefore be it resolved that an inclusive task force representing the five jurisdictions," and then the third line from the bottom of the second current paragraph we'd like to add "and three Korean-American lay women." And after "three transgeneration" we'd like to add "or representative from both General Commission on Status of Role of Women and General Commission on Religion and Race," and then the last one is to delete "up to." So it will now be "and three Bishops" without "at least." If there is a second, I will speak to it.

BISHOP BASHORE: Yes, there is.

YOUNG OK PARK: Transition, wherever that happens, and wherever that needs happen, always is very painful. And we, all Korean clergy women and men and also so many of you in this house, have been very concerned about and sensitive to, the pains that many, many of us are going through at this moment. So even though we all are very, very hopeful for the future of the Korean United Methodist Church's ministry, as we are beginning a new task force, which is very inclusive in terms of the inclusiveness of male and female, clergy and laity, and young and old.

Still we would like to acknowledge, appreciate, affirm, respect, and recognize and celebrate the 40 years of ministry that was begun and continued through the first generation, clergy and laity, of the Korean United Methodist Church. And also including the five jurisdictions represented, by that we would like to make our task

force as inclusive as possible for the present and future of the ministry of the Korean United Methodist Church's laity and clergy.

BISHOP BASHORE: All right. And now there are several matters related to that. Do you have that in written form? Can that be brought, please, to the secretary's desk? If we could have that, that would be most helpful. Thank you.

Now that was a speech for these additions. Does anyone wish to speak against these additions? I don't see anyone wishing the floor, so I think we need to turn to the committee and see whether you want to give a response.

JUDITH E. SIABA (Northern Illinois): We accept that amendment and I don't think there's anything further that needs to be said.

BISHOP BASHORE: Is there any objection in the body, that these additions would be accepted? I don't see any at all, so that will be incorporated into the whole matter. Thank you. Now the whole matter is before us. Yes, right here in the middle, microphone 9, I believe, or 8, whichever one, 9.

*Appreciation for Committee Work*

LUCILLE V. VANZANT (Oklahoma): As chairman of the subcommittee who worked on this, I would like to give a special thanks to the Korean clergymen and the Korean clergywomen who worked untiringly with us on this matter. No matter what you might have heard, this matter was thought through very carefully for over six hours. People were tired, but they were not willing to give up, and at this time I would like for the conference to stand in appreciation of the hard work that these Korean brothers and sisters went through for this. Thank you.

BISHOP BASHORE: Will you give your name and conference, please. Thank you, All right. [*applause*] Thank you, I think that was a speech for, is there anyone who wishes to speak against? Yes, a question. All right, microphone 3.

BECKY HAASE (California-Pacific): I have a question for clarification. In terms of the second paragraph, there is a question of the, there is a term "inclusive" task force, and we have a designation now for lay men and lay women, but they will be Korean American. I would just like to clarify that that is the only place that there is specific designation that they will be Korean American? Is that correct? Yes.

BISHOP BASHORE: All right, thank you. Over here? Is there a speech against, or, microphone 1.

ERNEST S. LYGHT (Northern New Jersey): Bishop I'd like to make an amendment.

BISHOP BASHORE: Go ahead, Ernie.

*Proposal for Consultative Process*

LYGHT: I'd like to move an amendment to the resolution that is before us. If we would look at the resolution where it is on the second column, top of the column. It ends by saying "within The United Methodist Church structure." I would insert a period there. And then, by addition, add these words, "During the quadrennium, as appropriate, the task force should be in consultation with all the general church agencies, especially the General Board of Global Ministries and the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. The United Methodist theological schools and the annual conferences, where there is a Korean American presence and/or participation regarding the implementation and coordination of recommendations, initiatives, and programs, that these entities can undertake within their existing budgets without General Conference approval." And then it would continue.

BISHOP ?: All right is there support? Yes there is.

ERNEST LYGHT: My concern is that I would affirm the resolution as it is before us that we would be able to profit from recommendations resulting from study during the quadrennium. However, there are learnings which will occur in that process, and the possibilities which arise from those learnings should not be held until General Conference meets again.

In addition, that which we learn ought to be applied to the resources that we have to undergird our commitment to the development and enhancement of Korean-American ministries within this great United Methodist Church. Thank you

*GBGM or GCOM Oversight?*

BISHOP BASHORE: All right, thank you. That amendment is before us. Does anyone want to speak against that amendment? Yes, right here. Microphone 4.

MAREYJOYCE GREEN (East Ohio): I support the amendment, but it seems as though, assuming that the amendment would be acceptable, that this work should be more appropriately coordinated by GCOM as opposed to the Board of Global Ministries. Is it appropriate to make such a motion?

BISHOP BASHORE: Well, you want to amend the amendment?

GREEN: Yes. Is that appropriate?

BISHOP BASHORE: I'm trying to see...

GREEN: It's simply, it's an add-on to the amendment. There was nothing in the amendment that spoke to its coordination.

BISHOP BASHORE: All right. That's appropriate, if you want to make that as an amendment to the amendment.

GREEN: Yes. That it be coordinated by GCOM.

BISHOP BASHORE: All right. Is there support for this amendment? I don't hear a second. Yes, there is. All right. Does anyone wish to speak in opposition to this amendment to the amendment? Yes, microphone 8.

DOROTHY A. RAVENHORST (Virginia): The reason it was given to the Board of Global Ministries to administer is because the Board of

Global Ministries has been for many years working with the Koreans. And they have developed 11 points from the Korean community, which they will be working with, and it seems appropriate to leave it where there is already structure and staff who have been working with them.

BISHOP BASHORE: All right. Thank you. Anyone wish to speak for the amendment to the amendment? Yes, microphone 9.

*Korean Ministry Study Funding*

MONA MAE WAYMIRE (Oklahoma): Are the $150,000 referred to there in the Board of Global Ministries budget as now, or are those funds which will need to be arranged for later by GCFA?

GREEN: It is my understanding that this money is not included in the budget that has been considered.

BISHOP BASHORE: Yes. This matter will have to be referred depending on your action. Now we're back to the amendment to the amendment, and that is the place of coordination. Anyone wish to speak in favor of this amendment to the amendment? I don't see anyone, so I believe we're ready then to vote. Is there a question? All right, microphone 7.

DEAN S. H. YAMAMOTO (Oregon-Idaho): I wanted a clarification. I heard that GBGM was not listed and the substitute to GCOM, but GBGM does arise after four sentences after "therefore" in the document.

BISHOP BASHORE: Yes, I believe that is for the administering of the funds. This was an addition to the amendment to the amendment—I mean, to the amendment, I'm sorry. Yes, right here. Microphone 8.

DAVID SEVERE (Oklahoma): It would seem that this properly belongs with the Board of Global Ministries not with the General Council on Ministries. This is strictly in the area of our work with global ministries, and I think that it would be best to keep it with the General Board of Global Ministries.

BISHOP BASHORE: All right. That's another speech against. Anyone wish to speak for the amendment? I think we are ready to vote. All right, microphone 3. This is the amendment to the amendment.

SEOG WHAN CHO (California-Pacific): I just have a question. The amount proposed to do this task is $150,000. I wonder whether that amount of money will be enough to do the things which is being asked to do by this task force?

BISHOP BASHORE: All right. Can we hold on that so we can finish the process here, and then we'll turn to the committee and have them respond to your question? We're on the amendment to the amendment right now, which is before us. Do you want to speak? You've already spoken to this matter? OK, microphone 4. Nobody else wants the floor.

GREEN: Bishop, there is clearly no interest at all in this amendment, and I will therefore withdraw it.

BISHOP BASHORE: Anybody object to this being withdrawn? All right, I don't see anyone. So we're back to the amendment. Over here. All right, now. Does anyone want to speak against the amendment? Yes, microphone 9. We need a copy of this amendment over here, please. All right, he's working on it? Thank you.

S. STEPHEN FOSTER (Wisconsin): Bishop, I have a question. Does this amendment we are dealing with enable the work to begin or is this more study? Please tell me.

BISHOP BASHORE: We'll turn to the maker of the amendment. Ernie? Does this enable the work to begin or is this calling for more study? Microphone 1, please.

ERNEST S. LYGHT (Northern New Jersey): The intent of the amendment is to allow the general boards and the theological schools and other appropriate agencies to do work that they're able to do before waiting until the next General Conference.

BISHOP BASHORE: All right, thank you. Now this is the amendment before us. I don't see anyone wishing the floor. I think we are ready to vote on this amendment. The Lyght amendment. Do you want to say anything about this? All right. We are ready to vote. When the light is on cast your vote, please. [Results: yes, 582; no, 314] All right, thank you. It's approved. Now we're back to the original presentation as amended. Yes, all right, microphone 13 in the back. Yes, OK, come to eight. Microphone 8.

MYUNG J. KIM (Virginia): I'd like to commend the legislative committee for such a fine work they have done, and I believe a colleague from California raised a question concerning the funding. If I may be permitted to express my feelings and my understanding, I'll appreciate it.

BISHOP BASHORE: All right. You're going to respond to that question?

KIM: Yes. Our commission from Jesus Christ is to go into all the world and proclaim the gospel of Christ and lead people to accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. And our challenge as United Methodists is to encourage people, the children of God, to be a part of The United Methodist Church to help our great denomination fulfill its mission in the world. There are hundreds of thousands of Korean and Korean-Americans living here in America who are yet to be won to Christ. Truly the fields are white unto harvest. Of the ones who are followers of Christ and involved in churches, The United Methodist Church is far from having its proportionate share of these Korean and Korean-Americans. Other denominations have run circles around us in this area. Today there are many Korean and Korean-American pastors who are hurting because of inadequate itinerant system as a result of cultural as well as language difficulties. I believe this resolution, the recommendation coming from committee, will help the Korean United Methodist pastors and Korean Methodist pastors, as well as those churches that are hurting, and it will also help all of us, the United Methodists, to strengthen our ties during this transitional period.

Now, in order to accomplish our mission, I believe, $150,000 for the next quadrennium would be inadequate. And I would like to suggest that this amount be raised to $400,000; in other words, $100,000 per year for these people to really come and put their hearts and minds together and work together. Thank you.

BISHOP BASHORE: All right, thank you for that speech. Now we'll turn—can we turn to the committee to respond to the question that was raised about the amount being adequate?

JUDITH SIABA (Northern Illinois): This amount that was recommended was just an estimate that we are sharing with you. It was very difficult, Oh, if our brother could speak to it, he was on the subcommittee and also the maker of the amendment.

BISHOP BASHORE: All right. Can you speak to this matter? Microphone 4, please.

DAVE RICHARDSON (California-Pacific): I did make the substitute; and it was in conversation with a person from GCFA dealing with what would be, we thought, adequate. It has been added to substantially since I made the substitute with regard to responsibility. So I do agree that it's not adequate any more. I couldn't come up with a magical figure now, but I know that we will need more than $150,000. I don't know if that was a motion already made.

BISHOP BASHORE: No.

RICHARDSON: If it was not a motion, I would like to make an amendment to that number at this point and amend it upward to $200,000.

BISHOP BASHORE: All right. Is there support? Yes, there is. Now the amendment here is to move this $150,000 figure to $200,000. That is what is before the body. Anyone wish to speak against this? Do you want to speak against this? All right, microphone 3, please.

SEOG WHAN CHO (California-Pacific): The original amount asked by the transgeneration group was $500. As you know, many Korean pastors and lay people went out and started a new church by praise. And we have seen some tension and conflict between one camp against another camp; one camp was supporting for the proposal for creating a Korean mission conference and another camp against it. And the TG Group tried to work on something for reconciliation, and that was the proposal made by this group. So, well, I don't know how much would be adequate, but maybe double this amount to $300,000, maybe better than $150,000.

BISHOP BASHORE: All right. That's a speech against the amendment which is to move it to $200,000. Thank you. Does anyone wish to speak for the amendment? Microphone 1 over here.

*Funding for Study or Ministries?*

BETTY J. YOUNG (North New Jersey): I have a question for clarification. Is this amount, that is being presented to us, an amount to cover the costs of the committee for the study or is it a cost for ministries?

SIABA: It is the cost for the study for the committee's use.

BISHOP BASHORE: All right. Does anyone wish to respond to that? Someone needs to respond. All right. It's left hanging, then. Yes, could you respond to that? Thank you.

SIABA: Yes, I could. It's for the committee's use.

BISHOP BASHORE: Oh, I'm sorry. It's for the committee's use. All right, thank you. Microphone 3, please.

SONG JA PARK (California-Pacific): If we amended the amendment from that side—I don't know the gentleman's name—I think he said that this would include study as well as the ministry that's starting as soon as possible. So it is not just a study. I think it is for the amount that we are going to amend, would mean the study plus the ministry.

BISHOP BASHORE: All right, thank you. Now we have the amendment before us which is to increase the amount of money from $150,000 to $200,000. Does anyone wish to speak to that? Yes, microphone over here, 9. We need to move along because we're coming close to our adjournment time. I hope that we can complete this item very shortly.

JEROME DEL PINO (New England): As a member of the subcommittee which considered and received this substitution, it is my understanding that all of the discussion resulted in the fundamental conviction that what is needed is a study. There are many, many perceptions about what would be appropriate ministries that could be initiated or supported. But rather than entering into them, without clarity regarding what ought to be a priority, that there needs to be, therefore, a coming around the table in order to develop something that is coordinated and, hence, all funds that are requested in the original motion of the committee are funds that are reserved strictly for study. That's the priority now, that's the reason and the direction that this General Conference is being asked to go in this motion.

BISHOP BASHORE: All right. Yes, microphone 3.

PAT STROMAN (Central Texas): Bishop, I move to suspend the rules so that we may move on all that is before us.

BISHOP BASHORE: OK, the motion is to move on, close debate on everything that is before us. If you, will, when the light is on, please vote on whether you wish to close debate on everything before us. [862 approved] Yes, you obviously want to move on. That means that we will move immediately to the amendment which was to increase the amount from $150,000 to $200,000. Do you want to say anything about that? [*directed to Siaba*] No? Thank you.

Well, we're ready to move, I think as a body. I think we need to move along. We have the amendment before us. If we're ready to vote, when the light is on, please vote. [Results: yes, 536; no, 361] All right, that amendment is approved, so the amount has been increased to $200,000, and now, the whole thing is

before us as has been amended, and we're ready to vote on this matter. When the light is on, will you please vote? [839 approved] Thank you. This is approved.

*Funding Referred to GCFA*

Now, I want a point of clarification. That money that is part of this, you understand, this is referred to GCFA. So this is a matter of a request to GCFA. And GCFA will make some determination, all right? Thank you very much, this matter has been approved. All right? [*applause*]

I think we need to turn to the secretary. Now I know I have seven different sheets of paper here of people who want the floor and flags are waving all over. We must be adjourned in five minutes, and so I'm going to turn to Carolyn Marshall and you'll have to talk with succeeding presiding officers about your concerns. So let's turn to Carolyn Marshall.

CAROLYN MARSHALL: First announcement is that the jazz band, which we heard already this morning will be in concert at 1:15 in the perfunctory room downstairs by the ballrooms. A notice to Church and Society Legislative Committee, I'm sure you will rejoice in having another meeting. It will be in room A109 to 111. However, you will also be very pleased to know that it will be short. Perhaps about five minutes.

I've been asked to announce that there is an error in the *DCA* today regarding the lunchtime fellowship for African and African-American clergywomen. The lunch is to be on Thursday, tomorrow at 12:30 p.m. in room A207.

Now, for the announcement that many of you have been waiting for as far as plans and what is allowed for this afternoon. I apologize to many of you who have sent notes up here asking about specifics on cameras and purses and so forth. The normal procedure is to try to answer every note that comes up here. I apologize to you, it has not been possible this morning to do so. Hopefully, this announcement will take care of all the requests that have come. Immediately upon adjournment, everyone is asked to move immediately to the nearest exit, because we do need to clear the room. Please take with you, all bags, purses, boxes, brief cases, whatever. You may leave books. Anything that's a container that holds things must go with you. Any bags or boxes or any of those things which are left will be searched and are subject to removal by security. The note that was given to me was, if in doubt, take it with you.

We hope to be able to have the hall open again for seating this afternoon by 1:20. Now, for what you can do as you come back in, which seems to be the majority of the questions. You may bring back your purses and your bags when you come back in. It's just a case that the bags must be removed in order that when the sweep is done, they will not be here at that time. So anything you take with you, you can bring back in. You're just going to have to shepherd it during lunch.

Question has also come as far as cameras and video recorders, video cameras. Those may be used this afternoon. However, the request is that they be used without flash. Hopefully that answers your questions and you'll know what to do as you come back in. Please do leave after adjournment just as quickly as possible in order that we may be prepared for the afternoon.

BISHOP BASHORE: All right, now we're going to conclude with Bishop Hermann L. Sticher who is out of the former Evangelische Gemeneschaft Kirche in Germany, and he will conclude our time together with prayer. Let us pray.

*(prayer)*

## Wednesday Afternoon April 24, 1996

*Bishop S. Clifton Ives, presiding*

BISHOP S. CLIFTON IVES: If you would find your way to your seats. Would you be in your seats so we could come to order, please. Our time is very precious. Our time line is very tight this afternoon. I appreciate you all being back here on time so that we could begin this session right on the moment. At the request of a Korean woman delegate just at the conclusion of the last session, I'm going to call on Bishop Hae-Jong Kim to open us in prayer as we begin our session this afternoon. Hae-Jong.

BISHOP HAE-JONG KIM: [*prayer*]

BISHOP IVES: As all of you are aware, we have a very high privilege this afternoon, that we need to be prepared for, and the time is rapidly approaching when that will occur. As a way of preparing ourselves for that moment, I want to call on John Thomas, who is chair of the Commission on General Conference, who will lead us through our time of preparation. John.

JOHN J. THOMAS (South Indiana): Bishop Ives, members of the Council of Bishops, delegates, visitors, and guests. This is a high moment for us during this conference. And, as chair of the Commission on General Conference, it has been the commission's privilege to invite this special guest for us this afternoon.

The first thing that we will be doing this afternoon is to have songs that will be led by our co-directors of music for this conference. And I now turn the program over to them for that and then I'll be back again.

*(songs)*

THOMAS: Thank you for that leadership, Cynthia Wilson-Felder and S.T. Kimbrough Jr. What great co-directors of music we have at this time. [*applause*]

And now we'll have some remarks from a member of our commission, the Vice Chair in charge of program for this conference. I'm speaking of the Rev. Dr. William K. Quick, who is senior pastor, and has been for the last 22 years, of Metropolitan United Methodist Church in Detroit, Mich. He's been an ardent studier of the presidency and especially as it relates to our denomination. His church is one of a interracial mix, and it is with a very great privilege that I introduce the Rev. William Quick at this time to give us some historical perspective on this pending visit. [*applause*]

*American Methodism in the White House*

*(For the text of Dr. Quick's presentation turn to page 658)*

JOHN THOMAS (South Indiana): You may be seated. Well friends. A high moment has now arrived. In the commission considering who would have the privilege of making the introduction, several persons were suggested and several person requested that privilege. *(laughter)* I think it's been the wise decision of the commission to pick her bishop to make that introduction. So from the State of Arkansas, the Arkansas area, Bishop Richard Wilke for the purpose of making the introduction. *(applause)*

BISHOP RICHARD B. WILKE: The joy of this introduction is to present a warm and gracious friend. And I must say, Mrs. Clinton, you have warm and gracious friends here to receive you. *(applause)*

*First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton Introduced*

The honor is to present to you the First Lady of the United States of America, and in many respects, the First Lady of the world. *(applause)* Twelve years ago, when Julie and I moved to Little Rock, Ark., Julie had joined the First United Methodist Church of Little Rock, and I entered my offices in that very same building. We quickly discovered that Hillary Clinton was a vibrant and vital part of the life of that congregation, serving as a Sunday school teacher, a worker with youth, a faithful worshiper in the church. We were privileged to worship with Mrs. Clinton and Chelsea. In fact we were present the morning that Chelsea was confirmed in the church there and both Governor Clinton and Mrs. Clinton were present. One of the fun evenings was an evening that Mrs. Clinton invited an adult Sunday school class for a picnic on the back lawn of the governor's mansion. Now, that's the way to have a Sunday school picnic!

So it was no surprise to me to see in the newspaper a few Sundays after the inauguration the Clintons faithfully trudging through the snow, making their way to the Foundry United Methodist Church in Washington, D.C.

We had no attorney, no chancellor of the United Methodist Church in Arkansas, but we hadn't needed one up until that time. So one day I invited top professional United Methodists, top business leaders of our church, to lunch. I told them we needed a highly dedicated lay person who loved the Lord, knew and loved the United Methodist Church, and we needed an attorney with such sterling stature that any attorney or legal representative in the state of Arkansas would have instant respect. They ate the free lunch. Then they said with one voice, "you are looking for Hillary Rodham Clinton, the finest attorney that you can find." And I was thrilled to have her serve as my church attorney, the chancellor, until the President was elected.

Her great concerns are life-long. Her concern for children reaches back to immunization of children in Arkansas, to presidency of the Children's Defense Fund. Each year she and the governor honored volunteers of Camp Aldersgate, our United Methodist work with children having illnesses or handicapping conditions. I was not surprised when she spoke so forcefully in China, pleading for chil-

dren, women, human rights. Mrs. Clinton also is in the practice of bringing people together, people of all races and of all social structures.

Those of us who know her have seen her move easily and work carefully with people of all backgrounds. Her recent book, *It Takes a Village*, continues her plea for the children of the world. Mrs. Clinton, I wore a "Save the Children's" tie in your honor today. She is in the forefront for education for children, always. She is in the forefront of health and safety for children, always. She is in the forefront for the spiritual formation and nurture of children, always.

So, it is my great honor and privilege to introduce a brilliant attorney, an advocate of concerns dear to The United Methodist Church, a loving mother and spouse, a gracious and warm person who walks as easily among the great of the world as she does in a children's ward in the hospital or in a kindergarten room in the school; to present to you my friend, Hillary Rodham Clinton. *(applause)*

*(For the text of Mrs. Clinton's speech turn to page 655)*

BISHOP IVES: Mrs. Clinton, on behalf of all of us today, we thank you for walking among us; but more importantly, we thank you for your witness in the world into which you go. Go in peace, and may God bless you. [*applause*]

JOHN THOMAS: You may be seated. And now, on behalf of the commission, we have asked a commission member, Mollie Stewart of the North Alabama Conference, to make a presentation on our behalf to our distinguished visitor and speaker. Mollie Stewart.

*Gifts Presented to Mrs. Clinton*

MOLLIE STEWART (North Alabama): Mrs. Clinton, you have graced us with your presence, inspired us with your reflections on The United Methodist Church, and lifted our spirits with your vitality. This has been a historical moment in the life of our denomination. For those of us in the room, it has been an afternoon we will not soon forget. [*applause*]

We trust that for you too it has been a memorable day. In thanks and appreciation, we, the Commission on the General Conference, want to present you with these two items: First, a copy of the commemorative hymnal from this General Conference. [*applause*] I hope you sing it well. We also want to present to you this wooden trinket box which bears the logo of the General Conference. [*applause*]

MRS. CLINTON: Thank you, Mollie. That's so very nice of you. Thank you very much. Thank you. [*applause, audience standing*]

*[song: "Jesus Loves the Little Children"]*

*[song: "My Hope is Built on Nothing Less"]*

BISHOP IVES: What a high privilege, a wonderful moment this has been for us. As Mrs. Clinton continues to greet some of the people on her way as she exits the hall, I would ask that we just remain standing in silent respect for a moment.

*(song: "There's A Sweet, Sweet Spirit in This Place")*

BISHOP IVES: God bless you on your way. God bless you. [*applause*] [*music*] Let us be seated. Let's be seated. Can we be in order please?

As we move in transition from this moment into the work of the afternoon, I would like for us, as we have been singing softly, to remain in our seats, and ask Cynthia to come and sing, "Let It Breathe On Me," just to center ourselves around the work that we have in front of us this afternoon. Can we just sing that together?

CYNTHIA WILSON-FELDER: Just to remind you of the text. The words are, "Let it breathe on me. Let it breathe on me. Let the breath of God now breathe on me."

BISHOP IVES: Could we sing that, "Breathe on us?"

*(song)*

BISHOP IVES: Let us pray. [*prayer*] Call on Felton May, Bishop May, to bring us the Shalom Zone Report. Bishop May. You may note that we are just slightly behind on our business, so we want to move as expeditiously as we can this afternoon. Welcome Bishop May.

BISHOP FELTON MAY: Bishop Ives, colleagues, sisters and brothers, all, we will wait a few seconds for the clue of the video, and then we shall have the report of the National Shalom Committee.

*(video)*

BISHOP MAY: It has been God's amazing grace that has given life to the Communities of Shalom movement. I am here this afternoon to proclaim that Shaloms on the loose. Shalom is on the loose in 103 urban and rural communities where laity, clergy, community residents, business people are working toward the biblical vision of Shalom.

*Numbers Involved in Shalom Zones*

That represents 24 annual conferences with another 16 conferences organizing new sites. It also represents 250 congregations, more than 50 community organizations, 71 ecumenical ventures and a lot of prayer.

Four years ago in response to the Los Angeles crisis the General Conference of 1992 proclaimed that, in solidarity with community residents and churches in a selected neighborhood: "The United Methodist Church commits itself to the creation in Los Angeles, a Shalom Zone in the hope that the Shalom Zone concept becomes a prototype for proactive ministry in other places." Four years later, thousands of people in and around the country and in Zimbabwe declare Shalom is on the loose. The Communities of Shalom Initiative

empower congregations to work in a defined geographic area in collaboration with residents and business people on four goals:

'empower spiritual renewal and congregational development in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord; develop communities economically in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord; strengthen race and class relationships; and improve community health in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Now you will hear the report of the Shalom Committee, a creation of the 1992 General Conference. The committee developed the strategies for Communities of Shalom while working in collaboration with the General Board of Global Ministries with whom we are indebted, especially to Bishop Herbert Skeete, Dr. Randolph Nugent, and the members of the General Board of Global Ministries. The agency has carried out, without hesitation, the mandate of Shalom.

The report will be given by Gaunnie Dixon, staff person for the Los Angeles District and district Shalom coordinator; Linda Bales, a General Board of Global Ministries director, National Shalom Committee member, and a volunteer who took a six-month leave of absence from her employment to coordinate new site development; and Dr. John Schol, urban ministries staff person for the General Board of Global Ministries and the director of Shalom communities. Gaunnie Dixon. *(applause)*

*Los Angeles Shalom Zone Success Described*

GAUNNIE DIXON: Good afternoon. For the people of Los Angeles, I want to say thank you. Thank you for helping to set the gospel of Jesus Christ loose. Four years ago when you responded to the Los Angeles crisis, you set into motion one of the most powerful strategies for church and community transformation. As I meet others from around the country working on Shalom, it's rewarding to see and experience first hand how the love of Jesus Christ is transforming lives and communities. Shalom is on the loose.

This success has not come without pain and struggle, though. The acquittal of police officers in the beating of Rodney King left the community divided and reactive because of years of poverty, of neglect, of racism, classism and social injustices. We found that in Los Angeles, and throughout the world, people are in a spiritual desert.

The 1992 General Conference developed a vision. We found that the development of strategies, resources, and mechanisms took time. No money was allocated by the 1992 General Conference. And the appeal for Communities of Shalom realized $267,000 of a $5 million goal. We found that this demoralized and slowed our progress. For 21 months following the 1992 General Conference Los Angeles suffered several major disasters: fires, floods, mud slides and a major earthquake. During the earthquake, one of our Shalom pastors lost his home. Another pastor's home was seriously damaged and four Shalom churches had structural damage.

Because the Shalom strategy is new, revolutionary and comprehensive, we found that Shalom sites around the country experienced tension as people shift from the old paradigm to a mission evangelism strategy that focuses on church and community development. In the California-Pacific Conference, and across the country, pastoral changes in Shalom churches often interrupted the movement toward Shalom. But we found that laity continued toward the vision of Shalom. Through Shalom, these obstacles became opportunities for growth and development. Often, in spite of the obstacles, people persevered because of God's amazing grace to build communities of hope and daring, Communities of Shalom.

Hear now some powerful stories from Los Angeles and from around the country where Shalom strategies are being used.

*(video presentation)*

*(applause)*

BISHOP IVES: As we complete this report, would our guests please be quiet as you're around the edges? It's a little bit annoying to some of the delegates. Go ahead. Linda.

*How Shalom Works*

BALES (West Ohio): As Bishop May mentioned, I had the opportunity to serve as a staff volunteer for six months with Shalom. And I am here to tell you that it changed my life, and it changed my thinking. It reinforced the power of God's grace in me and in the church. The general church, primarily through the General Board of Global Ministries, assists Shalom sites through three resources.

First; we provide training. A five-part, 35-hour training program assists local sites with mission-evangelism, congregational development, community and economic development, community organizing, public relations, and fund raising. By the end of the training program a Shalom site has a trained team and a written Shalom plan for church and community development.

Secondly; we provide a year's worth of technical assistance following the training.

And thirdly; we assist local Shalom sites with developing and leveraging the necessary funds to carry out Shalom plans. By July of this year, more than 800 people will have graduated from the Shalom Training Program. Reverend David Hutchinson, a Shalom Zone pastor in Houston, Texas, wrote the following to his bishop, Bishop Hearn: "The Communities of Shalom ministry have made me look at life and ministry differently. It has renewed the power of Jesus Christ within me and transformed my ministry forever." Shalom is on the loose.

JOHN SCHOL: We are certainly grateful to Linda Bales who gave six months of volunteer time to the Community of Shalom effort and I'm also

pleased to say within the last three weeks, two additional people have come forward and said, "I would like to take a leave of absence from my work and volunteer time with the Community of Shalom Initiative." As Patricia Kersey said: "to come home, really home." Many people have been coming home through the Communities of Shalom Initiative. In the South, a business man said to me, "I've been away from the church a long time, but Shalom is bringing me home." Shalom is on the loose, not by chance, but because of dedication and constant effort; but most of all because of God's amazing grace and the Spirit of God at work through people.

*Shalom Uses Mission Evangelism Strategy*

Shalom is also happening because the 1992 General Conference was bold with a new vision. It's happening because dedicated laity and pastors in Los Angeles and across the church in rural and urban communities have been willing to envision a new future and dared new possibilities. It's happening because the General Board of Global Ministries freed staffing and funding. It's happening because new ministry principles are being applied in communities and churches across the country. We're using a mission-evangelism strategy. No longer are we saying "It's OK to only do community outreach without working on spiritual renewal." And no longer is it appropriate to talk about evangelism without working on changing the conditions that individuals and communities find themselves in. We're also using asset-based principles which say it's more important to use our resourses than to try and fix our needs. We're looking at systemic change and changing the systems that are operating in communities that prevent people from moving forward. And we're working in collaboration; no longer as single churches but reaching out and working with other churches, community organizations, businesses and community residents. The spirit of God's amazing grace is changing lives.

To continue this transforming ministry we will need to continue to emphasize several things. First of all, we need to emphasize pragmatic idealism. We need to put an emphasis not on being right, but getting the right thing done. We need to emphasize that we can learn together. Yes, there will be successes and failures. But through them we can be strengthened. And finally, we need to emphasize a sustained effort. This strategy takes time, patience, and commitment for the long haul. Dramatic results will be realized, but it will take four to seven years to see that realization in communities. That sustained effort needs to be at the local church level, at the annual conference level, and at the general church level. Shalom is on the loose. *(applause)*

*Shalom Hopes for the Future*

BISHOP MAY: During this past quadrennium, we have made outstanding progress, a grace-filled beginning, and yet there is still much to be done. Those working on Shalom are prepared to take the next steps to develop 300 sites in the United States and abroad by the year 2000. Utilize the General Advance for Shalom, and a Shalom Foundation to raise $2 million for the development of Shalom sites. We want to celebrate 2000 new Shalom graduates by the year 2000. By God's grace we will do it. We invite you to join, to join us in this dynamic journey of Shalom by: supporting the Shalom Advance in your annual conference; sharing the Shalom ministry with others and inviting churches in your neighborhood to participate in the strategy. And last, but not least, praying for the ministry of Shalom around the world. Shalom is on the loose. Would it not also be possible for Shalom to be on the loose here in this great General Conference?

Perhaps the story of the three kings might be a fitting ending. Oh, I know it's Eastertide and not Epiphany, but the story of the three kings goes something like this. One King, beaten and bludgeoned on the streets of Los Angeles: That King said, unlettered and unlearned, "Can't we all get together down here?" That was Rodney. The other King, lettered Nobel Peace prize winner: He said, "We will either learn to live together as sisters and brothers or die together as fools." Martin Luther King. But then there is the King of kings, who said: "Let us learn to love the Lord our God with all our heart, and soul, and mind and strength, and our neighbors as ourselves." Let Shalom be here in this place. For shalom is on the loose around the world. And if that is true, then there is nothing, but nothing, that can hold United Methodism back. For in the words of Paul, "I am convinced, that neither death nor life nor angels nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor anything in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus." And that is Shalom on the loose. Thanks be to God. *[applause]*

BISHOP IVES: Thank you very much. Thank you very much. Now let me help you to understand where we are at this very moment. We are at 25 minutes past three o'clock. Ten minutes past our break time. I'm going to give you the opportunity for the next 15 minutes to practice Shalom. I know some of you have been a little bit annoyed with the noise that's been around you as the guests have been among us and at their moving I want to remind you also that those guests have eaten most of your cookies. *(laughter)* This will give you an added opportunity to practice Shalom. Let us greet one another during this break. We will return...when we return, we will return to the order of the day at 3:30. But be back at 20 minutes before the hour...twenty minutes before the hour.

*(break)*

BISHOP IVES: Cynthia, let's sing. Let's sing as we come back together.

CYNTHIA WILSON-FELDER: And as you arrive, at your hymnals, it will be page 127, "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah, Pilgrim Through this Barren Land."

*(song)*

WILSON-FELDER: As I was growing up as a very young child, we would hear deacons, way in the amen corner, singing this a little bit differently. And it was something like this.

*(song)*

BISHOP IVES: Hallelujah! And all God's people said, "Amen." Will you be seated and in order as we begin our afternoon session following the break? Here, as I indicated at the time of the break, we were going to return to the Order of the Day which was printed for 3:30. If you will take your seats, we will begin that business momentarily. You note in the Order for the Day we're going to deal with some matters related to the issue of homosexuality. We have petitions from Church and Society, from Financial Administration, and from Discipleship. And we are going to deal with as many of those as we possibly can this afternoon. I know that you feel like you're entering the third lap; you are just turning the third corner on the third heat—the second corner of the third heat of a 1500 meter. And it's important for us to continue to conserve our energy. But it's important for us to begin to pick up the pace. So let us be attentive to one another. I will try to be attentive to the house. I see cards but I would like for us to move to the Order of the Day. Unless you have a matter of extremely high urgency, of extreme high urgency, I would like for us to move to the Order of the Day. Is this a matter of extreme urgency? I will rule whether it is or not. You can come to the microphone 9.

ALFRED RHONEMUS (West Ohio): I would like to know, and I think many of the delegates, how the minority reports will be handled before we start this. Is that possible?

BISHOP IVES: We will be into that in just a moment, and we'll see. Thank you. I would also encourage—are some of you having problems hearing? Can you hear me all right? Do I need to be back? It's very—I'm having difficulty hearing some people when we speak into the microphones. It may be that we just need to settle our spirits down so that when we come to the microphone we can speak as clearly as we can so that everybody in the house can hear us. I'm going to turn to Don Pike, Church and Society, to bring us the first item.

*Church and Society Report Introduced*

DON PIKE (Central Texas): Thank you. If you would, please, turn in your blue edition of your *DCA* to page 385. Calendar Item 1677, right-hand column, 1677.

Also turn to page, in your white *DCA*, page 1217, left hand column, top of the page, Petition 22612. You will notice from your blue *DCA* that the vote within the committee to support the petition you find on 1217 was: 46 for, 45 against, and 1 abstaining. As a result of that vote we have both a majority and a minority report.

Merlin Ackerson will be presenting the majority report. David Seamands will be presenting the minority report. But I'd like to call on Dale Weatherspoon, who was chairperson of the subcommittee which dealt with this issue, to describe for you the process which they used.

DALE WEATHERSPOON (California-Nevada): Praise God from whom all blessings flow. First of all, I'd like to say that I'm very, very proud of the subcommittee that worked on the legislation on this particular issue. I think in our subcommittee, we were a group of about 33, and when we began on those first days, I think folks came in with their minds made up on which way they were going to vote on the issue. But as the days progressed, our hearts were softened and ears were opened. And the dialogue was good. We were respectful of each other, showing Christian love. And it seems that people finally felt each others' pain. And you can see that in the close vote that we had.

I'd also like to thank Don Pike and our officers of the legislative committee for how they facilitated the discussion. They allowed the discussion to go on so that everyone got a chance to speak. And I think they were very, very fair in how they handled the discussion. There was a lot of pain. There was a lot of tension. But we didn't look at this as a win-lose type situation. We looked at it as a way to allow the Lord to work within us; trying to listen to the Holy Spirit, and moving us in the direction the Spirit would have us to move. So at this time I would turn it over to our next presenter.

*Majority Report on Issue of Homosexuality*

MERLIN ACKERSON (Iowa): Bishop Ives, members and friends of the General Conference of 1996. I'd like to add to your words, Dale. There was also a lot of love in our subgroup as well as in our Committee on Church and Society.

The issue of homosexuality has divided and polarized people called United Methodists for too many years, much too long. This statement that you find in the *DCA*. It comes as a majority report from the Church and Society Committee, acknowledges who and where we are—a people who are unable to arrive at a common mind on homosexuality and people who are gay and lesbian. Some of us think that the practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching. Others of us believe that it is acceptable in covenantal relationships. That's who and what we are.

This statement moves all of us, moves all of us as people of God, called in Christ, to a common and a higher ground where we can come together and go into the future, asking God to continue to love us, to inform us, and to lead us in this very important mat-

ter. That unity, if we could achieve it, would really feel good.

This statement that is before us, as a majority report from Church and Society, will help to lessen and eliminate unfair judgment and condemnation of our sisters and brothers. It will end contentious and adversarial relationships and feelings that today so sharply divide us as an important part of the body of Christ called United Methodists. This change that we are calling for in paragraph 71F, will also prevent people from, in any way, using what we as a church say on this subject as a reason for discrimination and even violence against people who are gay and lesbian.

I also believe that this statement is a model for other denominations who also struggle with this issue. We can help to lead the church of Jesus Christ to an experience of reconciliation in passing this report. And that, my friends, would feel real good as we go into the future believing that God has a future for people called United Methodists, people who are of Jesus Christ.

BISHOP IVES: Thank you. The majority report is before you. You note also that there is attached to this a minority report. Mr. Seamands, were you going to bring that minority report?

*Minority Report*
*on Issue of Homosexuality*

DAVID SEAMANDS (Kentucky): Bishop and fellow delegates. I think it is very fitting that we are voting on this issue at this place, in Colorado, because not far from here, about an hour's drive up in the mountains, there is a line that is called the Great Continental Divide. And I think there is an ethical continental divide that separates these two reports. Later on in my closing remarks I will give the reasons why I am against the majority report, and why I think we should support the minority report. But for now, I just want to clarify the issue.

I believe that to delete the two final sentences of paragraph 71.F, and substitute the words of the majority report, is not merely a subjective rephrasing of words in order to express what appears on the surface to be a more open and compassionate attitude towards homosexual persons. It is the deletion of our basic, bottom line, biblical and theological stance on homosexual practices. Namely: same sex genital intercourse. For it is this very paragraph, 71F, that is the rationale behind all the other paragraphs in the *Discipline*, like 402.2 regarding ministry, and 906.12 regarding finances.

Paragraph 402 begins by referring to this paragraph. And, 906 implies relationship to it. But deeper than this, to accept the language of the majority report would also change the biblical standard for heterosexual, one-fleshness intercourse. The biblical standard is objective, unambiguous and confines full one-flesh sexual intercourse only within the context of heterosexual, monogamous, marriage.

And to substitute this statement from the majority report, which is an ambiguous, subjective standard which defines the limits (to quote) "the context of human convenantal faithfulness." Now these are poles apart. I will later summarize and give the reasons behind all of this. But for now I simply want us to understand that these two reports represent, literally, an ethical continental divide, and in a very important moral issue. And as my eighth grade teacher used to dramatize about the two drops of water falling on the continental divide, our votes ultimately determine into which ocean they will ultimately flow. Thank you.

*Process for Perfecting Reports*
*on Issue of Homosexuality*

BISHOP IVES: It is my opinion, as I read the minority report, I see it as is stated that it is indeed not a minority report. It is simply a negation of the majority report. If the majority report will be defeated, we will have the minority report. I'm not going to rule it out of order at this point because I know how important this matter is to everyone here. The process for dealing with a majority and a minority report is to first perfect the majority report and then perfect the minority report. My opinion is that there is nothing to perfect in the minority report. It's a simple statement that we keep language which is already there. Therefore, I would like for us to move to the majority report, to deal with it, but thereby still offering to Mr. Seamands the opportunity to speak to the minority position prior to our taking formal action on these reports. Does the house agree with that kind of movement? Then let us proceed with the majority report. The majority report is before you. I...here in the middle of the, on the left, go to microphone number...in the middle, right here, yes. Microphone 9. Point of order has been called for. Hold it, number nine. Yes? Come to microphone 4. Number five, excuse me.

EKE A. HALLOWAY (Sierra Leone): My point of order is that—is in respect of, with the greatest respect—interpretation given by the chair to the minority report. I would think, considering the voting status of the so-called majority report and the minority report, that the minority report should constitute, as it were, that's looking it *pari passu*, a counter motion to the majority report, which is the motion before this house. And therefore, as a point of order, that the minority report or the so-called minority report, which I will term as the counter report, be treated first before the so-called majority report. That is the order of—with the greatest respect—my Lord Bishop.

BISHOP IVES: The house heard my statement that I am reluctant to call the minority report out of order, which I think I could do. I've suggested to you the way I would like for us to proceed. My decision has been called into question. Does the house sustain the chair's suggestion or do you want me to take other action? If you would sustain the chair, signify with the uplifted hand. If you would

not, like sign. Thank you. Then we will proceed. Microphone 9.

*Scripture and History Support Majority Report*

LINDA CAMPBELL-MARSHALL (New England): The word that is before us today is "homosexuality." But I would like to refocus us a little more clearly on the first line of the majority report where another word beginning with the letter "H" is used—humility. It seems to me that the church has been where we now are, many, many times in our history. In the book of Acts we watched the church wrestle with the issue of circumcision. We listened as they decided whether or not they could be a unified body in the light of their conflict about that issue. During the Middle Ages we watched the church wrestle again with the issue of whether or not the earth was flat. For a long time the church stood in the wing of the opportunity of persons to take clearly the word of God into their own hearts. A hundred years ago this General Conference was wrestling about whether or not the church would disintegrate if women were seated on the floor of this body. Forty years ago we wrestled about whether or not the ordination of women would destroy the integrity of the gospel. In the middle of the last century we did divide the church over the place of slavery, each of us witnessing to the power of scripture for our own position. I would invite us today in this historic, divine moment to move toward humility.

BISHOP IVES: That's a speech in favor of the majority report. I move to the gentleman. Yes.

*Scripture and History Support Minority Report*

PHILIP R. GRANGER (North Indiana): I rise to support you the minority report, and/or the current provision of 71.F. This section of the Social Principles is a prophetic statement. It is a prophetic statement to the world that offers no boundaries to sexual expression. One gift that The United Methodist Church offers to our contemporary society in paragraph 71.F is a message of redemption, grace, and transformation. To young people, our statement offers the necessary guard rails to protect them from sexual brokenness. The church has always opened its doors to the world. That's not the question before us. It has always offered an opportunity for the life-changing power of God to overcome whatever form of brokenness, sin, that separates us from intimacy with God and the pursuit of a holy life.

The biblically prophetic message has always been more interested in truth and transformation than in consensus and conformity to the world's standard of morality. What the church often finds excusable and acceptable—excuse me, what the world often finds excusable and acceptable, the church does not, and cannot. Racism, sexism, exploitation of the poor, promiscuous sexuality in any expression, heterosexual or homosexual; these actions and thoughts are all unacceptable in the light of the redemptive and transforming nature of the gospel of Jesus Christ. The prophetic, life-giving message of the gospel is that people can be transformed; transformed from bigotry, sexism, and freed from whatever that is that separates them from God. Let us continue to offer an open hand of transformation to the homosexual. Let us not clench our fist to the possibility of grace and mercy poured out from the mercy seat of a loving Lord and Savior.

Let's continue to be a prophetic church and continue to retain the current language in paragraph 71.F.

BISHOP IVES: Your time is up. Thank you. In this section in the very back. Yes. Go to microphone 14. That was a speech...are you speaking for the motion? Microphone 14, are you speaking in favor of the motion?

Yes, I am. *(unidentified speaker)*

BISHOP IVES: OK. Excuse me. I think I recognized the person who was just coming to you.

JEANNE BARNETT (California-Nevada): Thank you. I first addressed this body four years ago as a member of the committee to study homosexuality. And I return to this General Conference as a member of the California-Nevada delegation. One day I turned a page in my life's book at age 50 and discovered I am a homosexual, a lesbian. It did not cancel my baptism in the Methodist Church in Oklahoma where my father ushered and sang and my grandmother played the piano for years. Nor did it cancel my youth as an active member of The United Methodist Church in Central Methodist in Phoenix, Ariz.; nor my current work in the California-Nevada Annual Conference.

I urge you to vote for this, and to recognize that all of us are members of the church, members of faith, and delegates here. I call on you to support this. Thank you.

BISHOP IVES: Thank you very much. To the far right. Yes. Is this a speech against the majority? OK.

MARTIN CASE (Mississippi): The majority report contends that there is no clear cut word about God's will concerning homosexual practice. The scriptures, which are our foundation of faith and conduct, have spoken with enough clarity for us to conclude that the practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching. Two thousand years of collective wisdom have confirmed God's witness through scripture. Strong statements could be given from the Old Testament. The affirmation of Jesus of God's plan in creation for marriage, a man and a woman, could be stated as the only option Jesus gave.

But I want to say just a quick word about the Apostle Paul, who wrote more of the New Testament than any other writer, who said more about the all inclusive, abundant grace of God than anyone else, and who literally laid down his life to share this amazing grace made available for every person. Paul gave us I Corinthians 13—that awesome proclamation of love from which Bishop Dew took his text in today's worship service. No

one has ever offered Jesus Christ as a savior for all more than Paul.

But Paul spoke with some of the strongest words against homosexual practice. To have placed the present language, in paragraph 71.F about homosexuality with the majority report, we send a confused witness to a confused world about our commitment to God's word, to say nothing about the confusion of tens of thousands of our own members. Thank you.

BISHOP IVES: Thank you. Right down here in the front. Yes. Are you speaking for?

*Teen Speaks on Issues of Homosexual Debate*

TIMOTHY YOOST (East Ohio): Yes. As a teen-ager growing up with my brother who was also a teen-ager, there are many issues that the two of us argued diligently over and feel very strongly about how we stand. Many times my mother will interject into the argument and ask, "Why are you arguing about something that neither of you know the answer to?" This, my friends, is what I feel is happening here.

While there are two sides who feel they are right, and will argue diligently, neither side knows the definite answer of how we can come to a common mind. This statement recognizes these two sides; it allows both sides to be heard. Thank you.

BISHOP IVES: Thank you very much. [*applause*] Yes. Are you speaking against the majority report? Yes, OK. Go to number 8.

DUANE SARAZIN (Minnesota): If it's in order, bishop, I would like to offer an amendment.

BISHOP IVES: State your amendment, please.

SARAZIN: I would like to amend the majority report by adding this statement at the beginning of the paragraph, "Although the majority of us do not condone the practice of homosexuality, we acknowledge with humility," and then the paragraph would continue. If there's a second I would like to speak to it.

BISHOP IVES: The motion is seconded. You may speak.

SARAZIN: I am a conservative Christian. My colleagues and friends know this about me. I have had many relationships, dialogues over my years of ministry with gays and lesbians. I believe that we are at a point in our church life when we need to state exactly who we are and where we are so that we can move out of the arena of debate; where we continue in large forum to state the arguments that we are all so used to; and move into the arena having acknowledged where we really are—not of one mind—into that arena of one-on-one dialogue.

We need to continue the study; but more than study the conversation and relationship, trusting that God's spirit will give us wisdom to know how to interpret the scriptures; to know how to interpret the moving of the spirit for this day. Thank you very much.

BISHOP IVES: This was a speech in favor of the motion. We are in order to have a speech again the motion. And at this point I want to remind all of you to please refrain from applause. Will you please re-read the motion, the amendment?

I should remind you to, let's refrain from applause during our time together. Yes? Here, listen carefully to the amendment.

*Language of Report Restated*

SARAZIN: At the beginning of the majority report, this statement: "Although the majority of us, does not condone the practice of homosexuality, we acknowledge, with humility, that the church has been able to arrive at a common mind on the compatibility of homosexual practice with Christian faith," and then that paragraph would continue.

BISHOP IVES: Thank you very much. Are you speaking against the amendment? Come to microphone 9...Excuse me. I recognized the gentleman behind you who is coming to the microphone. Excuse me.

JACK PLOWMAN (Western Pennsylvania): I would like to offer an amendment to the amendment by restoring the last two sentences of paragraph 71.F, and then with the text as authored in the amendment.

BISHOP IVES: You would like to amend the amendment by adding? Say what you want to add.

PLOWMAN: I want to restore the last two sentences of paragraph 71.F.

BISHOP IVES: Would you read them please?

PLOWMAN: Well, I'm sorry, I didn't bring the *Book of Discipline* here with me.

BISHOP IVES: So we can be very clear what it is that you want to add.

PLOWMAN: The last two sentences of paragraph 71.F states as follows: "Although we do not condone the practice of homosexuality, and consider this practice incompatible with Christian teaching, we affirm that God's grace is available to all. We commit ourselves to be in ministry for and with all persons." Thereafter, to be followed by the paragraph as proposed in the amendment. As proposed in the majority report. As it has been in the process of being amended. As it is...

BISHOP IVES: Sir, you do not wish to change the amendment, you only want to add to it?

PLOWMAN: That's correct. To the amendment.

BISHOP IVES: OK, the motion is before you. Do you understand? Does the house understand the amendment to the amendment? The house is not clear on the amendment to the amendment yet. It is my understanding that it is to add to the majority report the words that he read at the very conclusion of the majority report. Is that clear? At number 9. You want that at the beginning of the report? At what point are those words placed?

PLOWMAN: Well sir: The majority report recommends the deletion of paragraph 71.F, the last two sentences. My amendment proposes the restoration of those last two sentences. Thereafter, to be followed by the amendment proposed by this gentleman.

BISHOP IVES: In other words, you want it at the very beginning?

PLOWMAN: That's correct, sir.

BISHOP IVES: OK, is the house clear? The will is to have those words at the very beginning. Now I need a speech against the amendment to the amendment. Over here. Yes? Come to microphone 7?

*Pastor Speaks of Local Church Experience*

J. PHILIP WOGAMAN (Baltimore-Washington): Bishop, I rise to oppose this further amendment. Its effect is simply to negate the majority report. The majority report is honest and truthful. There are people of good faith who disagree with one another on these matters. We do not yet have enough information to bring closure to this issue.

In particular, it seems clear that there are some homosexual persons who are not capable of changing their sexual orientation. It is also clear that there are some who are capable. We do not have closure upon that issue. The church must be careful not to condemn, not to stigmatize, when it does not have a really clear basis.

We know enough to warn people clearly about sexual promiscuity. The Social Principles are already and properly clear about that. But those of us who minister to homosexual persons, know that there are those who lead exemplary Christian lives. The statement is honest and truthful. It is also the kind of statement that can bring healing to our church.

My own local church has struggled with this issue. Through several years of study and honest dialogue among mutually caring Christians, we have learned in our church to be respectful of one another's positions. We do not have to have the final word on everything. Are the reports poles apart? Possibly so. When that is so, it does not have to be one pole winning, the other losing.

Yes, we are near the Continental Divide. The waters of the great Rockies flow to the great Pacific Ocean and to the great Atlantic Ocean. Both deep recesses of God's beloved earth. Let us not hastily close off one side or the other. My friends, we need one another. We need healing on this issue. Thank you.

BISHOP IVES: Thank you. Now, we're on the amendment to the amendment. I need someone who is willing to speak in favor of the amendment. Come to microphone 8, and state your point of order, please.

AMY SPACHMAN (West Michigan): I think the amendment to the amendment, to the amendment to the amendment, can get really confusing sometimes. And I'm sure it's really hard for the interpreters to get that all back to our delegates who don't speak English. So I would ask you, the chair, respectfully to read the statement how it is, with both the amendments, and continue to do that when something else is added. Thanks.

BISHOP IVES: OK, you're asking for a reading of the amendment to the amendment as we have it here. Ask the secretary to read that for us please, as you have it. This is the amendment to the amendment.

CAROLYN MARSHALL: The amendment to the amendment was to restore the last two sentences as they now are in 71.F to be followed as a proposed resolution which read...do you want me to start with the *Discipline*, those two sentences, and read it as it would be?.

BISHOP IVES: Yes, read it as it would read please.

MARSHALL: "Although we do not condone the practice of homosexuality and consider this practice incompatible with Christian teaching, we affirm that God's grace is available to all. We commit ourselves to be in ministry for and with all persons. Although the majority of us do not condone the practice of homosexuality, we acknowledge..." and then go on with what is printed there on page 1217.

BISHOP IVES: In the majority. Thank you for asking for that clarification, and we'll try to move slowly enough so that we can continue to do that. You have a point of order. Yes. Microphone 4.

DAVID RICHARDSON (California-Pacific): If the motion was to delete; and the minority report is to keep it in; and now we have a new motion to put it back in; it seems like it's just the opposite. I mean, I don't understand how that can be in order; to put back in what the motion's already said to get rid of.

BISHOP IVES: Well the motion is in order to...the way we have received it. I hear your statement to be one that seems to indicate that the house would like to move along on some of this. But it was in order. Well let's see. Where was I last? Let's go down front here. We haven't been down front; haven't been back there either. Let's go down here. Are you speaking in favor or against?

DAVID WILSON (Little Rock): Opposed.

BISHOP IVES: You're opposed to the amendment? OK.

WILSON: In response to the last speech concerning this issue—regarding the church not knowing where it is, and its importance for us to be honest—I think it's more than an issue of honesty. I think it's also an issue of authority. I serve in a resort area—Hot Springs, Ark—Paramutual gambling at the race track. I have folks in the community and in my church who say it's OK to gamble; and others say they should not gamble.

We take a stand as The United Methodist Church regarding gambling. And it's a firm stand. And I believe that if we are to speak with authority on gambling, we have to be willing to speak with authority on other moral issues. And I think for us to go home just saying that we really don't have a position on this is to fail the church as leaders of the church.

BISHOP IVES: I would say that was a speech in favor of the amendment rather than in opposition to it. So I would seek a speaker in opposition to the amendment, yes. Come to microphone 6.

*African Delegate Speaks on Financial Assistance to Homosexual Issues*

NDJUNGU NKEMBA (Southern Zaire): (*translation from French*) We cannot be divided when we look through in the Bible. Leviticus 18:22, we hear that God says strongly that you cannot sleep with somebody with the same sex. When we go to Romans 1:18-27, the same thing is there. And when we gather here trying to divide the church because of sin, I don't think that that is right. We want to help those who are in drugs and alcohol. Why can't we provide money to help those who are homosexuals in order to get them out of where they are, out of sin, and help them.

In Ezekiel 23:7-9, tells us that you, who belong to God—when you see your brother going astray from God's will—if you don't help the person to go from that way—if he dies or she dies from there, you will be responsible. I will ask you for his blood or her blood.

BISHOP IVES: Thank you. I think if the interpreter would indicate to the delegate please that his time is expiring. Thank you very much. I interpret that to be a speech in favor of the amendment. Therefore we really need to have the speech in opposition to the amendment. Yes, standing right in the middle waving the card. Yes I see you. No, the woman in front of you, please. Go to number 8.

ELLEN BRUBAKER (West Michigan): I am speaking in favor of, or against the amendment. I believe that I learned the most that I could learn recently about this issue from a colleague with whom I disagree on a great many things. He is the pastor in a small community where it was discovered that one of the teachers in one of the public school systems was in a covenant relationship with a person of the same sex.

ELLEN A. BRUBAKER (West Michigan): Knowing how that must have torn at the fabric of that community and of our United Methodist Church there, and knowing that this particular colleague, despite our differences, is my friend. I called him to say simply, "How are you doing in the midst of what must be diversity and grief for you in your local church, for surely you have persons on both sides of the issue?" The issue was to drive the teacher from his position in the school.

My friend said, (and before he finished saying it, I was in tears,) "I went in to my ministerial association and I asked of us one question." And the question he asked is the one that I see amazingly absent so often in this discussion. We cite the Levitical laws; we cite Paul. The question my friend asked was, "What would Jesus, our Lord, do in this situation?"

I believe that for my colleague and for myself, as I dissolved into tears, that that's the one question needful, that we ask in this situation. Jesus said nothing. The majority report, without the amendments, admits that we are still struggling in the spirit of Jesus Christ, with where God's grace and love would take us, and we are not yet finished; that we might receive and love all persons in the life of the church.

*No Vote on Amendment to Amendment*

BISHOP IVES: Thank you. Now we've had three speeches in favor of the amendment to the amendment and two in opposition. Are you ready to vote on this matter? I feel the house is ready to move to vote on the amendment to the amendment. Do you need to have it stated? You know the amendment to the amendment which you are voting on? Please vote when the light appears. [Results: yes, 348; no, 569] The amendment to the amendment is defeated, and we return to the amendment.

Can the secretary please read the amendment now so that the house will be clear upon that which we are now speaking?

CAROLYN MARSHALL: "Although the majority of us do not condone the practice of homosexuality, we acknowledge..." and finish it as it is printed.

BISHOP IVES: We have had one speech in favor. I am prepared to receive a speech in opposition to the amendment, if it is your will to do that. Yes, in this section. Go to number 8.

*"In All Things, Charity" Offered as Amendment*

NANCY DUEL (Northern Illinois): I would like to remind us of the theme that is before us to the right of the screen. The last line says: "In all things, charity." I believe that the essence of the majority report is for us to be in charity with each other on this issue. By adding these lines at the beginning, about who is in the majority, defeats the purpose of this statement to heal us, and to give us...to have more time to discern God's will.

BISHOP IVES: Thank you. Now, if there is a speech in favor of the amendment? Over here, yes. Go to number 9.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE FROM MEXICO: (*in Spanish*)

BISHOP IVES: Interpretation please. Interpreter?

INTERPRETER: This is not in favor of the majority.

BISHOP IVES: Would you be patient a minute; we'll get some interpretation.

Interpretation at microphone 9, please. Speak, and see if the interpreter will come.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE FROM MEXICO: (*in Spanish*)

BISHOP IVES: We're not hearing the interpretation.

INTERPRETER: I would like to speak in favor of the majority report.

BISHOP IVES: You may speak in favor of the majority report. It is the amendment that is before us. Are you speaking in favor of the majority report or the amendment? It is the amendment that is before us now. You would like to speak later. OK.

INTERPRETER: I hope I could have the floor at a later time.

BISHOP IVES: We will try to recognize you. Is there someone else

back in this section who wanted to speak in favor of the...Yes, I see you way in the back. Way in the back. Yes. I saw a card. There you go. I just...I only saw a card sticking up there, but let's see what we can...15.

SUL A. NAWEJ (Southern Zaire): (*in French*)

BISHOP IVES: Do we need interpretation again?

NAWEJ (*through French interpreter*): Bishop, president. I believe the question of homosexuality takes us away from the natural base. We have male and female trees. We also have male and female animals. I believe that the opinion of Jesus Christ would be the following: When the rich man approached Jesus, he told him that he had practiced all the laws correctly. Jesus told him that he was missing one thing. The young man who had said that Jesus was a good master, left with much sorrow.

The second time it was the adulterous woman. She had been condemned by the Jews, but afterwards, everyone went away. And Jesus said, go away and do not sin anymore. Of course, we want our brothers to enter into the church, but that they benefit from the grace of the church, and reconcile themselves with the church. We love them, but we want to say to them, "Go and do not sin anymore."

BISHOP IVES: Thank you very much. That's a speech in favor of the amendment. Yes, down here.

BISHOP IVES: Yes? Down here. Are you speaking against the amendment? Yes, come to microphone 2.

*Speaker Calls for Leadership by Delegates*

JARED E. NEWMAN (Rocky Mountain): The first thing I'd like to say when it comes to homosexuality is I don't know what the answer is. I don't know if it's a sin, or I don't know if it's not a sin. I haven't, in my relationship with God, I haven't been able to determine that yet.

However, when it comes to this issue, it is crystal clear for me. The language that this amendment proposes to add condemns our gay and lesbian brothers and sisters. It tells them that we do not condone you and we do not want you. The argument is made that back at the local church 80 percent of the people are in favor of retaining the language.

Well, we are the leaders. We need to turn this around. When Christ met at the table with the tax collector—I think his name was Matthew—he sat down and had dinner with him before Matthew, the tax collector, reconciled his sins. Christ welcomed him to the table, welcomed him to his kingdom before the sinning was done.

I think that there's more that the homosexual and gay and lesbians—whether it is right or wrong—there is more issues to that to our faith. There's more that they need to be experienced to. We need to open our doors. We need to let them in. Invite them in. Welcome them in. Because we don't want to miss the forest of our faith for the trees of issues like homosexuality. We don't need to deny people what they need for petty sins, because we do all sin. [*applause*]

BISHOP IVES: Let's refrain from applause. Let me see if I can have the sense of the house at this point. We've had two speeches in favor of the amendment and two in opposition to the amendment. We've had three speeches in favor of the majority report and two speeches against the majority report. It seems to me that we're at a point where you may be ready to vote on the amendment. Having voted on the amendment we could turn to the person who made the minority report and then to the person who brings the majority report, and then be ready to clear this item. It seems to me that the house is ready, but maybe there are those who think otherwise. Yes. Back here. Microphone 9.

*Homosexual Practice (Not People) Unacceptable*

AKASA UMEMBUDI (Central Zaire): (*through French translation*)

Bishop president, I believe this is a question of . . .

BISHOP IVES: A question?

TRANSLATOR: No, this is an issue of understanding.

BISHOP IVES: Is this another speech for the amendment?

UMEMBUDI: I'm completely in agreement. I think we should vote, but I would like you to allow me to speak.

BISHOP IVES: Can you make a one-sentence statement?

UMEMBUDI (*through French translation*): One sentence, only. We are not against our brothers and sisters who are homosexual. We love them, but what we cannot accept is the practice. The doors of our church are open to everyone.

BISHOP IVES: Thank you. I would take that to be a speech in favor of the amendment. Are we ready to vote on the amendment? Do you need to have it read? If you are ready to vote on the amendment to the majority report, please vote when the light appears. [Results: yes, 454; no, 499]

The amendment fails and we are now on the main motion. Excuse me, did I read it wrong? Put it up again. OK, we've got lots of points of order. Let's see who has got the first point of order. Right here. The amendment failed, the way I read it.

CHARLIE DUNDAS (Minnesota): Bishop, with all due respect, I believe some of us believed we were voting on whether we were going to vote.

BISHOP IVES: OK.

DUNDAS: And so I would ask that the vote be put again and that it be clarified.

BISHOP IVES: OK, if the house is not clear. I was assuming that we were ready to move on the amendment. I didn't hear a motion from the floor calling for the question. I was just moving us along. If you would like to vote at this point, if this is a call for the question as to whether we will vote or not on the amendment, please vote when the light appears. [Results: yes, 868; no,72]

I think you're ready to vote on the amendment. We're voting on the

amendment to the majority report. Do you have a question? It's only a question. Because we're under a previous question at this point, so it's only a matter of high privilege or question.

PATRICIA L. MILLER (South Indiana): I would just appreciate if the secretary would read where we are and exactly what we're voting on.

BISHOP IVES: OK, the secretary will read the amendment upon which we are to vote now without further debate.

CAROLYN MARSHALL: The amendment is to preface that which is printed on 1217, Petition 3612, with, "Although the majority of us do not condone the practice of homosexuality we acknowledge," and then finish out that which is there printed.

BISHOP IVES: The amendment is the addition of those words. Question? Microphone 4.

MICHAEL WATSON (Alabama-West Florida): This is indeed a very, very important matter.

BISHOP IVES: All right. If you have a question, ask your question.

WATSON: My question is, did everybody in this house understand—those from other countries and those of us even here. If we understand.

BISHOP IVES: I think that, do you have a problem of understanding that you are raising a question?

WATSON: Yes, I do.

BISHOP IVES: Well, what is your question?

WATSON: My question is if we vote this amendment, if we vote positively, does that then become the majority report?

BISHOP IVES: It becomes an addition to the majority report upon which we will then vote.

WATSON: That's my clear understanding.

BISHOP IVES: OK, thank you. I think we are ready. When you are ready, which I think is right now. On the amendment to the main motion, please vote when the light appears. [Results: yes, 369; no, 592]

The amendment fails. And that takes us to the main motion and it's important for us now to hear, if you're ready, it's important for us to hear statements from the minority and from the chair. Is this a point of order? Microphone 3.

DONALD MESSER (Rocky Mountain): I believe you've already ruled this, but in case you haven't, I'd like to move the question on all that's before us.

BISHOP IVES: The motion before us is to move the question on all that is before us. That is the motion which I will put without debate, unless somebody has a point of order. Point of order. Let's hear it. Number 9. Point of order.

BETTY WHITEHURST (Virginia): Bishop, it is extremely difficult for the delegates from other countries with translation to be a part of the process. The delegate from Mexico has been trying to speak and did ask you if he could be heard later, so I would urge you to allow him to speak.

BISHOP IVES: He did indeed ask that question. But now we're under the motion for the previous question and I think we need to vote on that. Point of order. Yes? Microphone 5.

JUNE GOLDMAN (Iowa): Thank you Bishop. I just needed a point of clarification. I thought that you had indicated that we had only had...You gave a certain number of speeches that had been made for the majority report. This was prior to any amendments and it was my understanding that if the amendments failed, that we would have an opportunity to speak again if we had not had sufficient speeches on the majority report as it originally was presented.

BISHOP IVES: You will indeed have that opportunity if the motion that is before us fails.

GOLDMAN: Thank you.

BISHOP IVES: The motion before us is a motion. The previous question has been moved and we must vote on that. At this point, the question is, are you ready to vote or would you rather have additional discussion? State your challenge to the decision.

THOMAS BOLLER (Yellowstone): I have absolutely no idea of what my brother from Mexico wants to say, but it seems to me that you did tell him that he would have the opportunity to speak. and I believe that that should be honored as opening up the conversation to those who have more...

BISHOP IVES: If the house should defeat the motion for the previous question, he will be the first one I will call upon to speak. The motion before us, which is undebatable, is a motion to move the previous question. Please vote when the light appears. [Results: yes, 477; no, 449]

The motion fails. I would like to call...and it takes two-thirds...I would like to call on the delegate from Mexico. Come to microphone 9, please. Would you tell me whether you are speaking in favor of or against the majority report?

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE FROM MEXICO: [*translated from Spanish*] Could somebody help me?

BISHOP IVES: Could you tell me if you are speaking in favor of or in opposition to the majority report?

*Delegate from Mexico Speaks for Current Disciplinary Language*

DELEGATE FROM MEXICO [*translated from Spanish*]: I want to thank you for letting me speak at this assembly. I'm a pastor from North Mexico. He had major problems because a pastor from the United States came recently and had a ceremony approving homosexual relationships. This happened through television. We had so many headaches, we did not know what to do. In Mexico, we evangelicals are a minority. And our church has been in problems due to what took place.

Here we speak about human rights. We speak about grace. But that is not the issue here. The deal is to accept the authority of the Word of God. I am in support of the minority report. Because that paragraph number 71.F helped me defend United Methodism. When that program was on television, people came to make fun of us. I am in support of the *Discipline* of The United Methodist Church, and as part

of my discussion with them, I showed them paragraph number 71.F to exhibit that homosexuality is no part of the United Methodist beliefs.

If you take that away, I don't know how to discuss these issues against them.

The deal is to find out what the Bible means to us. What is grace, according to Wesley mean to us? In the letter that he wrote in 1639, and he said the following words: "I will show you where before was a lion, and now is a little lamb. One who before was a drunkard, and is now is an exemplary person. One who was before very promiscuous, and now he recognizes that he is a sinner."

If Wesley were to write a letter today, he would tell us that before you were homosexuals, and now you are a transformed person. That's God's grace. That which allows us to live in a position of fairness and equality and piety. I ask you to remember about Mexico ,and Latin American countries, in which we cannot accept that homosexuality is compatible with Christian education. Methodism is not only yours. Don't make us ashamed to be United Methodists.

BISHOP IVES: *Muchos gracios*. We have now had three speeches in favor and three speeches in opposition. By our rules, we go immediately to the vote. Having received those. After having those speeches from the persons, the maker of the motion. I want to ask the person who made the minority report first to make a closing statement, and then ask the chair of the committee to make a closing statements.

BISHOP IVES: What is your point of order? Microphone 6.

BERNARD (SKIP) KEELS (Baltimore-Washington) It is with great sadness that I rise to make this point of order. For I truly am as neutral as one can be on this issue. But, my sense of the legality of what just happened with the translation given the fact that we have translators who are official seems that we could put ourselves in serious legal difficulty should any words have been mistranslated, misheard or misinterpreted.

BISHOP IVES: I hear your point, but the delegation welcomed Mr. Goldschmidt's interpretation and he was the one who motioned to have him come and do it. Let's move to the brief statement of the minority report.

DAVID SEAMANDS (Kentucky): I'll keep this as brief as possible.

BISHOP IVES: Yes, Go to microphone 5.

CHRISTIAN ALSTED (Denmark): I'd like to ask, do the delegates who don't speak English have an extended time for their speeches? If they don't, I would like to ask if the time for those people could be extended, because time goes with the translation, especially with a translation like the one we just had.

BISHOP IVES: I appreciate that, but my understanding is that they were given additional time.

*Speech Against Extention to All Types of Sexual Orientation*

SEAMANDS: I want to refer back to my first point about substituting for a very clear, unambiguous, objective statement regarding the bounds of sexual intercourse confined to monogamous, heterosexual marriage, and substituting the words of a covenantal human relationship. This literally does pave the way for all kinds of sexual intercourse. Let me point out to you that in 1988 the masthead of *Affirm* was "United Methodists for Lesbian and Gay Concerns." In 1992, it became "For Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Concerns." Now, in 1996, if you'll read the fine print on the right, this is issue number one; it is for "Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transsexual People; come home to a church that isn't afraid to include lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people in its ministry, membership, deliberations, clergy and life." I am very concerned about the extension to all types of sexual orientation. There only remains one left, and I'm not exaggerating and can give a score of references, that there is beginning a movement to OK "transgenerational" sex, which is sex between older and very young people, including those who are aged 9, 10, and 11. I can give a lot of references for that, and this is not the time to do it. But, the way we are moving, when you remove the biblical context and the negative parameters, then there are no parameters, except mutual, covenantal loving relationships.

Now the second reason why I oppose the majority report and think we should maintain the language is that it articulates the biblical balance of the true tension which is at the heart of love; acceptance of all persons without approving their practices. We see this illustrated in Jesus, his amazing combination of tenderness and toughness, of incredible compassion and immovable confrontation of sinful practices. John 8:11, "Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, from now on don't sin again." With the woman at the well, Jesus threw away, literally, every religious, racist and sexist tradition. But, he did not throw away the necessity to confront her with the truth of her life. The pool at Bethesda, the same thing. He heals the man, then later finds him in the temple and says, "See you have been made well, do not sin any more lest nothing worse happens to you."

Our Lord combines this tender toughness. Paragraph 71.F combines gracious hospitality, it combines a strong stand for civil and humane rights, but does not in any way lower moral standing. And that is true compassion and love at its best.

BISHOP IVES: Thank you, now we'll hear the closing statement of the majority report.

MERLIN ACKERSON (Iowa): Thank you Bishop Ives. Friends in the General Conference, I want to give to you my witness, or my testimony, of belief. I believe that God's word to us, above all other words, even above the Bible, is Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is God's extraordinary and eternal word, and it is the most important thing in my life, even more important than the scriptures. I share with you one of the

ways that this spells it out in my life. When I'm confused about what the Bible might say, on matters such as homosexuality, where on the one hand Jesus says nothing, neither do any of the prophets, we find it not in the wisdom literature, it's not in the 10 commandments.

On the other hand, we're referred to Leviticus, and where we find where "a man should not lie with another man as with a woman," we find that there should be the death penalty.

Now in that confusion, I seek for the mind and the spirit of Christ for insight and for action. In this issue of homosexuality, Christ has taught me, motivated me to love, and to accept everyone, heterosexual and homosexual, without any exception, as persons God has created as we are. And, for whom also Christ has died. That's where I begin and that's where I end. In Christ above all. So I say to you my friends, let's not be afraid, there is nothing to be afraid of, to moving ahead to higher ground where we together are in unity in the name of Christ. Amen.

BISHOP IVES: Thank you. Now what is before us is the material on page 1216, that is the majority report as I understand it.

BISHOP IVES: You have a question? A matter of personal privilege? We're on page 12! 17th. Yes.

AMY L. SPACHMAN (West Michigan): I would respectfully ask the chair to have—pardon me, I'm losing my voice—to have two or three minutes of silent prayer to discern God's will.

*Majority Report on Homosexuality Defeated*

BISHOP IVES: Thank you, Amy. As soon as we finish making sure that we're clear and we're ready to vote, I will ask for us to be in reflective silence before we, before I call for that. I think we are ready for that now. The issue is before us. Let us be in silence as you prepare to vote.

*[silence]*

Will you now please vote when the light appears? You are voting on the majority report. I said we were voting on the majority report, which is the material on page 1217. That which is clearly before us, which we have been debating. Please vote when the light appears. The majority report is defeated by a vote of 577 to 378.

Pardon me? The order of the day is for us to break and go to dinner. After we have had announcements, and I would call upon the secretary to bring those announcements to us now. Somebody over here was—I can't recognize you without recognizing somebody else who was here. We have—the order of the day is for us to be in recess so there is no room to take any more action. No more motions can come at this point. We can receive no more motions. We are past the time of adjournment already.

OK, can we remain steady for just a moment? The question is being raised is, will this issue be before us again? There will be other—we had about six other issues that we hoped we would deal with today. We've dealt with only one of them. And surely there will be other time on the agenda for us to deal with matters which we have not completed today. After announcements, we will be in recess until 7:00, I believe. Carolyn, announcements. Announcements. Give your attention to the secretary.

CAROLYN MARSHALL: The Committee on Presiding Officers will meet immediately following adjournment this afternoon near the platform and on the side where the translation booths are located. During the dinner hour, we want you to know that there will be information and papers distributed on your desks from the Legislative Committee on Ordained and Diaconal Ministry. This will be information which you will need to have in order to participate in the session this evening. Want you also to know that the reason for distributing it this way other than something, other than the *DCA* as the rules read, is because that information was not available in order to be printed in the *DCA* today, and it is necessary for you to have it prior to the discussion.

BISHOP IVES: Without objection, that material will be distributed while we are on break. Just so that the house is clear where we are on this issue at this point, there was a motion to change the language of the *Discipline*. That motion did not prevail. The *Discipline* stands as it currently is written. I mean, just in case there's anybody who's going away from here with any question. I want to express my gratitude to you for your gracious way in which you have dealt with this issue today, and thank you for the opportunity to be here on this great historic occasion that we've shared today. Go in peace. May God bless you.

# Wednesday Evening April 24, 1996

*Bishop Melvin Talbert, presiding*

*(song)*

BISHOP MELVIN TALBERT (San Francisco): Thank you very much. Thank you. The conference will be in order. We are prepared for this evening's agenda. And if you would take your places and be quiet, I can announce where we're going. Quickly, delegates take your places and I'll announce where we're going. If the delegates that are standing, will you please take your seats? Delegates, please take your seats. This crew right in the middle, here, you hear me. Please take your seats. The first item on the agenda this evening is covenanting relationships with Spain and West Africa. And I call on Bishop Elias Galvan who will lead us. Bishop Galvan.

BISHOP ELIAS G. GALVAN: Bishop Talbert, members of the General Conference, for our presentation we need to have before you the Service of Recognition, Act of Covenant. And we're not sure that has been distributed.

BISHOP TALBERT: Has it been distributed? All right. I'd like to have a copy, here. Thank you. All right, I think it's out.

*Covenant with Churches in Spain and Sierra Leone*

BISHOP GALVAN (Phoenix): Thank you. Sisters and brothers in Christ, we have come to another high moment in the life of this General Conference where we have the opportunity to recognize and affirm an act of covenanting with two sister churches: the Evangelical Church of Spain and the West African Methodist Church of Sierra Leone. The Act of Covenanting provides for the recognition of each other's churches as an attempted expression of one, holy, catholic church of Jesus Christ. It means the recognition of our respective baptism as different facets of the one baptism.

In the Act of Covenanting we receive each other's full eucharistic fellowship, and look forward to mutual sharing of the ministry and mission of Christ's Church. It means that we shall care for and pray for each other. The Council of Bishops through its Committee on Affiliated Autonomous Churches over the last three years has engaged in dialogue with these sister churches. We are pleased to report that each of these churches has already approved the Act of Covenanting of the respective legislative bodies. The Council of Bishops submitted to this General Conference petition 21723. This matter was acted upon this morning when you approved Calendar Item 1022 in the Consent Calendar B4.

The West African Methodist Church of Sierra Leone traces its beginning to the year 1821 as part of the British Methodist missionary outreach. This early beginning gave birth to a vital church serving the people in West Africa, primarily among the recaptive slaves who were discriminated upon because of their poor economic conditions. For many years The United Methodist Church through the central conference of Sierra Leone have worked together at the ecumenical levels. There have been pulpit exchanges and other contacts that have enriched both churches. Today, we celebrate our common roots and pilgrimage. I call on Bishop Humper to introduce the representative of the West African Church.

BISHOP TALBERT: All right. Bishop Humper.

BISHOP JOSEPH CHRISTIAN HUMPER (Sierra Leone): Bishop Talbert and members of Conference. It is my delight and pleasure to introduce to you one of the representatives of one of the bodies with whom we will be in covenant relationship as from tonight; the Rev. Jeremiah Moshoper Pratt who is the General Superintendent of the West African Methodist Church in Sierra Leone. He's been a distinguished servant of God. The history of how that church came into being, and I've always been aware of the many faces of Methodists around the world, I might try to share with you. But I'm delighted to introduce to you one who has had some academic background to equip him for leadership in that part of the continent. The Rev. General Superintendent Pratt attended college in the University of Sierra Leone, the University of Birmingham, and the University of Edinburgh.

He holds a fellowship of the Victoria College of Music in London. He is ecumenically minded, a servant who defies all odds to maintain and uphold the discipline of the Church. He is a resourceful, industrious, dedicated, and committed servant of the Lord. In spite of the many difficulties he's had to encounter, he has been able to hold on the parts with honor and dignity.

Delegates, I now present to you the General Superintendent of the West Africa Methodist Church in Sierra Leone, the Reverend Jeremiah Moshoper Pratt. *(applause)*

*Bishop Pratt Brings Greetings from West Africa Methodist Church*

GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT JEREMIAH PRATT: My Lord Bishop, Bishops, members of conference, I bring you greetings from the West African Methodist Church of Sierra Leone. I am now the present head of that church. Unfortunately, we do not refer to our head as "bishop." We say "general superintendent." We know it's one and the same thing because it carries the same functions. We have been striving together, The United Methodist Church and the West Africa Methodist Church in Sierra Leone, to walk together for the common good of our people, through the grace of God. The act of covenant which we now enter into today, is to cement that relationship. I hope and pray that we shall continue to foster good relationship for the good of our people and to the

praise and glory of God. Once again, I bring you greetings from our church with God's richest blessings. *(applause)*

BISHOP GALVAN: Our church traces its contacts with the Evangelical Church of Spain to the early 1900s when missionaries were sent out from our church. Schools were established, churches organized in several Spanish cities. However, when General Franco came into power the Protestant churches were persecuted and suppressed. Methodist lay persons and pastors were imprisoned, exiled and some were executed. Properties were confiscated and the church was forced underground. Missionaries were pulled out of Spain and we lost contact with this Church for many years. During these long years of repression, these Methodist congregations joined the Lutherans, the Presbyterians, and the Congregationalists to organize the Evangelical Church of Spain.

It is a joy to claim our historical roots and renew with this courageous church a relationship. I call on Bishop Lloyd Knox to present to you the representative of the Church of Spain.

BISHOP LLOYD KNOX (Atlanta): It's a privilege for me to introduce the Reverend Enríque Kapo, the president of the Evangelical Church of Spain, or the United Protestant Church of Spain. As you heard, the Spanish Protestants suffered a great deal during the time of Francisco Franco when he took power in 1937. He held power for 40 years. During that time, there was great persecution of Protestants and Evangelicals. Nevertheless, the church has been courageous and now we have a united church. The Rev. Mr. Kapo has been the pastor in Barcelona. I had the privilege of preaching there three years ago, in Barcelona, and I had known him previously. He and his very wonderful wife hosted us while we were there, and we were impressed with his deep dedication to Jesus Christ. It's my privilege to present to you the Rev. Enríque Kapo. *(applause)*

*President of Evangelical Church of Spain Brings Greetings*

ENRIQUE KAPO: Just a word of greetings from my church, the Spanish Evangelical Church. We are a very small church. Altogether it would be less than we are here, in all of Spain. We have about 50 congregations, most of them small congregations. I come from a small church in parish in Roman Catholic country, and in very different circumstances, but we are sure that we are one with you in love; one with you in faith; and we have the same Lord. That is what really counts. God bless you. *(applause )*

BISHOP GALVAN: Will you please turn to our liturgy? And I'm going to ask our song leader to assist us as we begin our liturgical moment.

WILSON-FELDER: Let me invite you to look with me at the sung response you will find in your order of worship. We will play for you the melody all the way through, and then at each time that we sing the response, let me invite you to select the language of your choice. Listen first to the melody.

*(music)*

WILSON-FELDER: Would you sing it with me?

*(song)*

WILSON-FELDER: Each time that you see "sung response" in your order we will sing it. Once again, you may select the language. Now if you will please stand as you are able and join me in singing our hymn of the evening, "Filled with the Spirit's Power."

*(music)*

BISHOP JOE WILSON (Ft. Worth): You may be seated. Our reading from the Scripture is taken from Acts, the second chapter, reading the first through the fourth verses. And the reading will be in English as well as in Spanish. "And when the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues as of fire appeared among them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as the Spirit gave them ability."

*Reading from Spanish Scriptures*

BISHOP LLOYD KNOX: Let me remind you that the Bible in Spanish was translated before the Bible in English. There were two Roman Catholic priests, or monks, who did it, *Reyna y Valera.* They did it about 50 years before the King James Bible was used. And Lancelot Andrews, the chief translator for the King James Bible, used the *Reyna y Valera* version very heavily because, you see, at least the first five books of the Bible were in Spanish when the Jewish people had gotten to Spain much earlier, probably in the fifth or sixth centuries. And so, they had a Bible in Spanish long before we had a Bible in English. And so, I read to you from the Heavenly Version.

*(Acts 2:1-4 repeated in Spanish)*

BISHOP WILSON: Let us continue following the order of liturgy in your service of worship. Come, Holy Spirit, renew the whole creation. Send the wind and flame of your transforming life to lift up the church in this day. Give wisdom and faith that we may know the great hope to which we are called.

WILSON-FELDER: *(singing)* Come, Holy Spirit, renew the whole creation. Come, Holy Spirit, and renew us.

BISHOP WILSON: Giver of life, sustain your creation. Confront us with our greedy consuming of your gifts. Stand before us as we pillage and destroy. Call us forth into new harmonies of care, for all that lives and breathes has its being.

*(music)*

BISHOP WOODIE WHITE (Indiana): On behalf of the United Methodist Church, we now present the certificates and documents of covenanting. (Applause)

BISHOP WILSON: As you remain standing, will you join me as a people of God. *(prayer of covenanting)* "We celebrate the oneness of the church in these moments and give thanks that we are covenant partners with the Evangelical Church of Spain and the West African Methodist Church of Sierra Leone. We recognize that your baptisms, members and ministries are of the church of Jesus Christ. We know that the Holy Spirit is present in the life of your churches. We believe that God calls us together for the sake of God's mission in our world. We ask that you pray for us as we will do for you. So may God bless us all that across continents, but together with Jesus, we will meet again, and again at his banquet." Let us pray.

*(prayer)*

*(music)*

BISHOP WILSON: And now let us offer in our own language the prayer our Christ taught us to pray.

*(Lord's Prayer)*

BISHOP GALVAN: Will you receive the benediction?

*(prayer)*

BISHOP TALBERT: What a tremendous moment. We last time took in, made covenant relationships with others, and two more tonight. What a day. Now my sisters and brothers, I believe the moment has arrived that we have all been hoping and praying for, and I believe that moment is now. The moment has arrived for us to welcome our colleague and our dear friend from Liberia. Bishop Kulah is here!

*(singing)*

*Bishop Kulah Addresses Conference*

BISHOP ARTHUR F. KULAH (Liberia): Good evening to all. I need not tell you that I am extremely happy to be here this evening. And I bring you greetings from Liberia, from your sisters and brothers who have been devasted for the past six years by a civil war. A war that has left many mothers without children, many fathers without mothers, many husbands without wives, and many wives without husbands.

I bring you greetings from a little country that is so rich in human resources and yet so poor when it comes to human relationship, I bring you greetings from a country that is called a Christian country, that was built upon Christian principles, and yet has allowed itself to be destroyed by greed and selfishness. I bring you greetings this evening, and as I come, my people are asking, "Is there any hope for us?"

"Is there any hope for us?" Even as I raise this question they are very thankful to you, and I am to you, for the prayers you have offered on our behalf, for the support you have given to us for the past few months, the years. I want to thank you for everything you have done to keep us moving as a people. Without your prayers, without your support, without your cooperation, our annual conference wouldn't have been where it is today. My special thanks go to the Council of Bishops, the President of the Council of Bishops, Bishop Skeete, Bishop Mutti, Bishop May, the general secretary Dr. Nugent, and all of us who are here praying for the annual conference.

The situation in Liberia is beyond human description. It's beyond human understanding and human reasoning. For the past five years, Liberia has been torn apart by war. I describe this war as senseless war because there is no reason, no matter how big, for brothers and sisters to be killing each other, for homes and institutions to be destroyed as we have done to ourselves. Yet we have faith, and I have faith, and I have hope.

So I came to say to you, do not give up on Liberia, for we have hope. We have hope in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We believe that in as much as Christ was arrested, ridiculed, mocked, spit upon and dragged, crucified, hung on the cross, dead and resurrected, we too shall rise. *(applause)* The Liberia Annual Conference shall rise from gloom to glory, shall rise from darkness to light. And we shall have life in us because our life has been given to us by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. People of God, followers of Jesus Christ, continue to pray for us. For with your prayers and your support, the church in Liberia shall rise again. Thank you very much. *(applause)*

BISHOP TALBERT: My, what a marvelous, miraculous intervention. And what an appropriate time. On the agenda tonight, we're going to be considering next the Study of the Ministry, but we welcome our brother from the fields where he has, on behalf of all of us, been in ministry as a peacemaker. So welcome Bishop and Mrs. Kulah. We now call on the Ministry Study Committee. We will be led in that by Sandra W. Lutz.

*Ordained and Diaconal Ministry Report Introduced*

SANDRA LUTZ (East Ohio): Bishops. Fellow delegates. At a meeting of the Divisions of Ordained and Diaconal Ministry earlier this quadrennium, Judy Smith told of a meeting where a panel of distinguished persons presented reports that documented, in unrelenting fashion, the terrible condition of the world. After these reports there was silence. Then one woman in the audience raised her hand and said, "I understand how terrible things are. Would it help if I baked a cake?"

We in The United Methodist Church honor and acknowledge that kind of call to be as important in God's

sight as those more honored by the world. That is the ministry of all Christians. We speak with respect and kinship with the widow and her mite, with Amos' prophetic call, with the servant ministry of Martha. But all too often our structure does not reflect that commitment. We now have the opportunity to attend to that. It is an honor to present to you tonight the ministry proposal from the Ordained and Diaconal Ministry Legislative Committee.

Just one week ago, the Bishops' Study Committee presented their overview document to you. It looked like this. *(she points to the document)* They led us through it so that we might understand the totality of their proposal, and not be lost in the hundreds of individual petitions that we must deal with in order to bring a ministry proposal to reality in our church. We examined and reflected upon that document in small groups where we raised concerns, affirmations, and questions to be recorded and transmitted to the Ordained and Diaconal Ministry Legislative Committee. As our legislative committee began its work on the ministry study, we heard additional presentations from the bishops, and also received that summary report of those reflection groups. We found ourselves resonating with that summary report. Our hearts seemed to be one. Your concerns were ours, as were your affirmations.

After considerable discussion, we reached an understanding that we would accept the bishops' proposal as our baseline, but felt called to perfect it in ways to reflect those concerns. As you know, this ministry study could not be dealt with as a single, amendable document. Rather it entailed several hundred discreet changes in the *Discipline*. Having agreed to use the ministry study legislation as our base, we were then able to work with reasonable consistency across our ten sub-groups that were needed to handle the over 1000 pieces of legislation assigned to our committee.

To help you understand our proposal, we have prepared and distributed a brief summary document that uses the format in sequence that you became familiar with in the bishops' document. We will use that to show you where and how we have affirmed and where we have diverged from their proposal. You will note, that the areas we affirmed and the areas we changed reflect the fact that we were overwhelmingly convinced that, as a denomination, we must move forward in ministry, and that it is more important that our structure honor God's call on all our lives than that we hold to historic patterns which, although once effective, may now interfere with our ability to move ahead.

Would you turn with me to the two-page white document entitled "Ordained and Diaconal Ministry Legislative Committee Ministry Proposal." We created a brief document so that we can read it together. My teacher self tells me that some of us learn better by reading, others by listening, and others by visual images. This should help you understand the framework. Then as we consider the specific petitions later, you'll see how they relate one to the other.

### *Chapters of Bishops' Ministry Study Summarized*

Let's begin with chapter 1. As you can see, just as we sensed in the reflection group, there is affirmation of the understanding of ministry of all Christians as contained in the ministry study, with only minor amendments to clarify and expand the mutual ministry of laity and clergy.

As we looked at chapter 2, the office of lay ministry steward, we too felt we could not affirm that particular piece. We recommended nonconcurrence but with referral to the Board of Discipleship, in hopes that somehow the underlying concern might continue to germinate and perhaps bear different fruit. Our image was of a seed that is still beneath the soil. And somehow the lay ministry steward felt like an artificial flower placed upon a germinating seed. We wanted to keep the germinating seed but to recommend nonconcurrence with the lay ministry steward. This we sensed was the general feeling in the reflection groups.

Chapter 3. The ministry of the ordained. Here you will see four affirmations to affirm the meaning and qualifications for ordination. (You will see as the legislation comes out that we have added a footnote of definition of self-avowed, practicing homosexual), but affirm the ministry study's position—affirm the organization of the ordained ministry into two distinct orders: deacon, which is non-itinerating, and elder, which is itinerating. But both are members of the annual conference in full connection. This seemed to reflect what came out of the reflection groups, that we are at a point where we need to move to two permanent orders.

We affirm joint exploration and candidacy for ordained and licensed persons. Affirming the work that has been done by the two divisions, Ordained and Diaconal Ministry, during the past quadrennium; affirm formal academic, theological education for both orders.

### *Probationary Period*

As we looked at the probationary period, we felt it important to redefine that probationary period to provide parallel paths leading to single ordination to each of the two distinct orders. All candidates would be elected to probationary membership and commissioned to servant ministry specific to their call and gifts. And commissioned probationary members in the elders track would be licensed to administer the sacraments while assigned to a particular charge. And commissioned probationary members in the deacon's track and ordained deacons will assist elders in the administration of the sacrament of baptism. We felt it important to clarify the sacramental rites and how they are divided between the two orders.

*Two Orders of Ministry*

Now, if you'll look at the back of your sheet and look at this path to ordination...let's walk through that. Where does a person begin? The individual begins with one year of membership in The United Methodist Church before applying for candidacy; then moves to that call to servant leadership and service; which is played out in at least one year as a congregational leader. Then they move to candidacy and there is action by the charge conference, so that each local church begins that process. Whether the person is feeling called to become a deacon, or to become an elder. They become a certified candidate. There is completion of formal academic theological education. They come before the district committee which recommends to the Annual Conference Board of Ordained Ministry for election to probationary membership; and Commissioning to servant ministry.

Those who are called to service, word, sacrament and order will have a three-year probationary period and then be ordained as elders, which will be appointed and itinerating.

Those who feel the call to become deacons are elected to probationary membership, and commissioned, and move into a three-year probationary period toward becoming a deacon. They are then ordained as deacons and they are appointed and non-itinerating.

On the next page—the deacon in full connection: Here we affirm the understandings outlined in the Ministry Study of call, membership in the annual conference, and a nonitinerating appointive process.

For the elder in full connection, we affirm the understanding of call, membership, status, and itinerating process. The elder will be ordained to service, word, sacrament and order; claiming their service responsibility which was formerly acknowledged through ordination to deacon prior to ordination to elder.

For the local pastor: We affirm the current understandings and the new directions to provide for permanent local pastors as well as a path for those who plan to seek ordination as elder; We have affirmed the evaluation of continuing formation; have affirmed the understandings of changes in conference relationships; and as we looked at transitional provisions you will see that we affirmed the procedure for present diaconal ministers and associate members and those in candidacy to become ordained deacons or, if they choose, to continue as diaconal ministers.

We have amended, to enable a shorter transition time, by assimilating the Conference Board of Diaconal Ministry into a restructured Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, and placing responsibility for the transition and continuing certification of individuals under its purview. We believed it was important to move to a shared responsibility as soon as possible.

Chapter 3. The local church was assigned to the Local Church Legislative Committee. And chapter 4, the superintendency, and chapter 5, we affirmed the understandings as presented in the Ministry Study document, with only minor amendments for clarification.

We have been studying ministry for a very long time. Amazing as it seems to some of us, God's spirit right now seems to be moving among us, gently nudging and encouraging us to take heart, breathing life into the dry bones, and calling us to trust new models and new understandings of ministry. The Bishops' proposal comes out of careful listening, prayerful and thoughtful reflection, and sound crafting. We in the Legislative committee affirm that work, but believe that we have perfected significant parts.

*Lay Ministry Stewards*

We believe the lay ministry steward would not be a helpful affirmation of lay ministry, and we feel it is important to structure the probationary period to clearly respect and honor the call to two distinct orders.

You will note that the vast majority of our petitions on the Ministry Study appear on one of the consent calendars. In our committee, we have been able to reach rather remarkable consensus around very difficult issues. We have been guided by ten gifted sub-group leaders and by assistance on the executive committee of our secretary, Louise Schock, and the vice-chair, Earl Bledsoe. You will meet them as they present petitions to you as we move through the legislation.

Like a good parent, God knows when we are ready to move. We need to remember that when God calls us God also is there to hold our hand on the journey and to receive us in a new place. Let us move ahead to new understandings.

Now, Bishop, we would like to consider legislation. I suspect that you have noticed that the lay ministry steward paragraphs have appeared on the nonconcurrence consent calendar, and no one has removed them. Later in the week, we will bring reference of the concern, but not the form, to the Board of Discipleship for your attention. But we move ahead now with the understanding that there will be no lay ministry steward.

The first calendar item we would like to bring deals with understandings around the probationary period. It is here that the committee made its overwhelming affirmation of single ordination for both deacons and elders. This comes to you from the entire committee with a vote of 92-12 in favor of concurrence. Larry Goodpastor, the sub-group chair, will present that item for your action. Let me move you to the correct location. This is in your blue *DCA*, page 259. It is Calendar Item 792, and it deals with paragraph 324. That's blue *DCA*, page 259, Calendar Item 792 dealing with paragraph 324. Now if you'd like to also open your red *DCA* so you can refer to it, it is found on page 1002. Again, paragraph 324, Petition 21843.

And the subject is, "Ministry of an Elder." Larry.

LARRY M. GOODPASTOR (Mississippi): Let me refer you first to the blue document, page 259, Calendar Item 792. There are two editorial corrections that we need to make as we present this calendar item. In the fourth line of the first paragraph, the word "consecrated" needs to be changed to "commissioned." "Those who have been *commissioned* and served as probationary members." The other editorial change is at the last sentence of that first paragraph, the sentence that begins with the words, "Elders continue their service in responsibility..." Delete that sentence. The Legislative committee had deleted that, and it did not get picked up.

I first want to begin with a word of thanks to those persons who served and worked and shared on our subcommittee that dealt with this material. It was obvious from our first conversations, both in the Legislative committee and as a sub-committee, that we had all, for the most part, given this very careful and prayerful consideration before we arrived in Denver. Many of us had served on area response teams, reading, reflecting, and responding to various pieces of the Ministry Study as the Council of Bishops moved through their process during this last quadrennium. In addition, the input from all of us just one week ago was extremely valuable. Our sub-committee began its work with this petition, which led us into a time of thinking and praying and listening and having conversation about ordination. Our work on this particular petition and on the issue of ordination significantly impacted the rest of our action.

The effect of the amendments as you see them in Calendar Item 792, which our Legislative committee is recommending, is to eliminate the two step ordination sequence for elder's orders. It would create a permanent deacon, as was proposed in the Ministry Study by the Council of Bishops. Several issues emerged in our conversations. Ordination is, as stated in the Ministry Study report, an act of the church which acknowledges God's call according to the talents, gifts, and abilities the person has received.

*Question of Hierarchical Orders*

The act of ordination sets persons apart for various ministries. One of our questions: "Why is it necessary to set persons apart twice?" These amendments will move us from having persons who have willingly responded to God's call and prepared themselves, being ordained at one service, and then realizing that some would have been ordained deacon permanently, while others for only a brief three year period before being ordained again.

Are there two different kinds? Is one incomplete? Does this continue the hierarchical way of ordering our ministry? We arrived at the decision that it was time to move in a new direction in a time when we are seeking to build partnerships and share in a common ministry around a common vision. The legislative committee offers this way of ordering ministry which will maintain and enhance our commitment to service and which will continue to celebrate the ministry of all the baptized. We will continue to identify and authorize persons to a ministry service that is set apart for specific roles and functions, never separate from the ministry of the whole people of God, and never viewing one ordination as a stepping stone to yet another. The legislative committee voted 92 to 12 for this petition that is now listed as Calendar Item 792, which builds on the significant work of our Council of Bishops. We present it to you this evening.

BISHOP TALBERT: All right, I recognize the gentleman at microphone 6.

J. LAWRENCE McCLESKEY (Western North Carolina): Bishop Talbert and delegates, I would like to move to amend Calendar Item 792. The amendment I propose is to substitute for that item the wording originally proposed for paragraph 324 in the Council of Bishops' study. That wording, as has been indicated, is found in the yellow sheets for that study on page 20, or in the *Advance DCA* on page 1002, Petition 21843. If there's a second, I would like to speak to the proposal.

BISHOP TALBERT: It is seconded.

*Sequential Pattern of Ordination Discussed*

McCLESKEY: It's clear that when this General Conference comes to its conclusion we will have established a new deacon in The United Methodist Church, a new understanding of deacon. I support the new deacon as proposed in both the bishops' study and the report of the legislative committee. My concern is with the effect of the legislative committee's proposal on the elder. The committee proposes two ordination to either deacon or elders separately. The bishops' proposal places ordination as a deacon in a much more central place in the understanding of ordination. By providing that all ordained persons be first ordained deacons, the bishops' proposal affirms the deacon's ordination to service as the foundation of all ordination in our church. If we adopt the proposal of the committee, we will depart from almost 1700 years of tradition which has characterized most of Christendom, including the Anglo-Catholic tradition out of which Wesley came, as well as the mainstream of American Methodism since Francis Asbury. The sequential pattern of ordination, first as a deacon and then for those called, as an elder began to be required in the church in the early fourth century. It was a practice built on a pattern of deacons, elders and bishops as old as the first century. While it is true that not every branch of Christendom and not every branch of Methodism has followed this pattern, it is equally true that most of Christendom for 1700 years and most of Methodism for over 200 years has

followed this sequential pattern of ordination, thus grounding all ordination in a servant ministry. There are several hundred persons in this room tonight whose identity and self-understanding as clergy are rooted in this historic, theological tradition. They have been deacons longer than they have been elders. Their deacon was not a transitional order. They are permanent deacons. This pattern of sequential ordination has also been one of the reasons that Methodism has long been a bridge in the ecumenical world. Traced through Anglicanism and medieval Catholicism to the early church, this pattern has provided a point of relationship in Protestant/Roman Catholic dialogue, which has kept ecumenical lines of communication open and mutual respect and affirmation. The bishops' proposal affirms each of us, whoever we are, and however and wherever we are called to exercise our ministry. And it does so while also affirming historically, ecclesiastically, and theologically, who we have been and who we are as United Methodists.

BISHOP TALBERT: All right. Your time is up. I recognize Mary Elizabeth Moore at microphone 3.

MARY ELIZABETH MOORE (California-Pacific): I think the question before us tonight is the question of where are we going, and where is God calling us into this future? The theme of journey has been a theme that has been part of our days since the very opening of this General Conference. We've heard stories of trains roaring through town and boats sailing in uncharted waters. We've heard the challenge to march beyond the edge of the map. In ministry studies we have indeed been journeying for a very long time, 30 years or more, depending on how you count. These years have not been wasted. These have been years of learning and growing, challenging ourselves, asking ourselves, "where is God pulling us?" At times, these years have seemed like journeys in the wilderness, especially as we sought to understand what does ministry mean and where're we being called? After the merger in 1968, after the formation of diaconal ministry in 1976, and if you'd like to know how much value we've derived from these studies, just read the *Disciplines* between 1968 and now.

Quadrennium by quadrennium we have increased our passion for lay ministry. And the bishops have taken us one enormous giant step forward. What the bishops have done, with this document they've offered, is to challenge us to realize that in our baptism we are incorporated into the Body of Christ. We are incorporated into a servant ministry and that is the base of all ministry. The base of our ministry is in baptism not in the diaconate. Through all of these years of study, one of the most wonderful things that we've discovered is that, in fact, the Christian tradition is rich with examples. It's rich with examples of different forms of ministry, different directions and changes over time, as new occasions pull us into new futures.

During this quadrennium when the bishops have been studying they have been praying, they've been reading, they've been calling together listening groups and annual conferences. And alongside the bishops, others have also been praying and reading and listening. We have come to this General Conference with perhaps the best gift of ministry that we've ever had. We've had study team after study team. They have done magnificent work. Almost every time they have brought the recommendation of two distinct ordinations: one to deacon, one to elder. Last time, that particular recommendation came out of legislative committee and was defeated on the floor of this General Conference by two votes. Let me close with just one last word. And that is that if the ministry of the Christian church is grounded in baptism, then the servanthood of all Christians is the ground from which all ministry comes. We don't therefore need to be ordained first as deacons. And we might ask ourselves where is God calling us into the future? What vessels do we need as we journey beyond the edge of the map?

BISHOP TALBERT: Thank you very much. That's a speech against. All right, I recognize the person at microphone 14.

SUZI ROBERTSON (Texas): I want to affirm Dr. McCleskey's passionate account of the history of the deacon and the elder in the United Methodist Church. I want to affirm our Anglican roots and the bridge that United Methodists build between our Anglicanism and our Catholicism. I also want to remind us that the Anglican Church and the Roman Catholic Church did not ordain women. And the United Methodist Church led the way, and I submit to you that if the legislative committee's proposal is adopted at this conference, the United Methodist Church will lead the way once again.

BISHOP TALBERT: All right, that's a speech against. That's right, it's against. Anyone speaking for? You are. All right. Microphone 8.

*Appeal to Ordination Tradition*

HELMUT NAUSNER (Austria): I'm been involved in ministry studies since 1977. And I just want to share a few insights. I support the proposal of Lawrence McCleskey that asks the conference to follow the report of the bishops. If we depart from tradition, we run ourselves into difficulties. And I'm a little bit astonished that we at this conference have accepted and replaced tradition in the baptism study. We seem to throw tradition very lightly away with this proposal. Tradition keeps us in connection with the Catholic Church. And the United Methodist Church is the only Protestant denomination that holds the three-fold structure of ministry. All the other Protestant denominations who have one ordination have it because they have departed and cut themselves off the church catholic. The consequences I see are these: The proposal of the study of the legislative committee breaks the unity of

ministry. It sets up a base for division between the new deacon and the new elder because they are not united and held together in sequential order, and it invites new and unforeseeable problems. We have no experience at all with that new structure. We try, and we will have to rewrite the whole *Discipline* in many ways anew. And my last impression as an outsider, is that I have the impression that some U.S. annual conferences try to solve problems of salary, benefits, pensions and other more financial questions by changing the structure of ministry, and by doing so, burdening the whole connection. I plead to stay with the proposal of the bishops.

BISHOP TALBERT: All right. The gentleman here. Microphone 9.

ARMIN BESSERER (Germany South): Since my Austrian colleague spoke against the legislation committee, I want to speak for the proposal of the legislation committee.

BISHOP TALBERT: Are you speaking for the amendment?

*One Ordination in Germany*

BESSERER: No, I speak against the amendment. I'm from Germany and maybe you know that we have the one ordination in Germany for the last 50 years, and we worked good with this. We understand ordination as an elder including the ordination as a deacon. In our German environment, the Lutheran Church is very huge, and they have also one ordination. And as far as I know, the British Methodist Church has also the two orders, the presbyters and the deacons and so I think when we accept the new order, or the new form, we are just preparing. We are still in order or parallel with the British Methodists. I think this is OK. One problem which I had, but is now no longer the problem is the question of the itinerancy, because elders do itinerate and the deacons not. But since the appointment is just for one year, as I was told, and its an appointment although its not itinerating, I think its still very close that the bishop can say this deacon can have this appointment or not.

BISHOP TALBERT: All right. We have three against and two for. I must take one now for. Are you for the amendment? All right. Thirteen.

GEORGE ATKINSON (Texas): My colleagues sometimes ask me what difference theology makes in the practical life of the church. It probably doesn't make a whole lot. I don't know that it would make any difference to my congregation if we kept the present order of the *Discipline*, or adopted the Bishops' proposal, or took the legislative committee's proposal. Most congregations want caring pastors who are able to preach and people who will help them to grow in the Christian life.

But I can't help but think that changing the way we've done things for so long, that will take so much energy over the next several years to work out, is not the best way to perfect the order of deacon. Certainly we need to work on creating a permanent deacon, a deacon who has a particular work in the world, who is able to embody and witness to the Word, but I don't see that doing that requires that we alter the way we think about elders.

The grounding of ordination is not simply in baptism. There is only one ministry—that's the ministry of Jesus Christ. Baptism allows us to participate in that ministry. The ministry of Jesus Christ, as described in many theologians as being that of prophetic, and priestly and royal work, which is why we have reflected in our own ordination Word and Sacrament and Order. There is one ministry of Jesus Christ. There are not conflicting, separated orders of deacon and elder, not to mention whatever the bishops are. I'm convinced that we would be better off in our understanding if we simply accepted the bishops' proposal rather than the Legislative committee's proposal. Thank you.

BISHOP TALBERT: All right. According to your rules now, you've had three for and three against. And unless there's a motion to do otherwise, I must turn to the committee to see if there's a last word before we vote.

SANDRA LUTZ (East Ohio): Yes, we have asked Earl Bledsoe, our vice-chair, to give that final word.

BISHOP TALBERT: All right, it's before you, and as the, when the light appears—Well, excuse me. Oh, you're going to have the last word?

EARL BLEDSOE: Yes, I was going to give the last word, if it's OK.

BISHOP TALBERT: Oh, I thought that was it.

*Final Word from Legislative Committee*

W. EARL BLEDSOE (Texas): Earl Bledsoe, from the Texas Conference. And George, the bishops are elders, if you didn't know where they stood.

I would urge you to support the Legislative committee's decision on this part of the ministry report and to vote no on the substitute motion for basically two reasons: One is that for a time of reflection and prayer; laity, diaconals, and elders working together; there is common agreement that there is clarity, and that there is a particular focus on our ministry together. Within our petition and our recommendation, the dynamic togetherness of laity, deacons and elders is the basic formation for servant leadership within our church.

Now, if I took the argument of Lawrence and the others who have spoken for the substitution, if it were only elders within the church and we were talking about ministry as being only for the elders, I, too, would probably affirm and say, "Yes, I'm for two ordinations, and sequential, to make sure that the deacon and service is a part of that understanding." We're not the Catholic Church, you all! That's just not who we are. We are The United Methodist Church. And we affirm the ministry of all persons, both laity, deacons and elders working together in ministry. And so, when we look at the model by which we put forth in the amended version of the bishops' study, we find that it has clar-

ity. And it has focus on the ministry of servanthood.

The second thing and reason why I urge your support of our petition and recommendation is that it clears up the perception among those who are in ministry within the church that there is this hierarchy, or that some are more superior, or inferior, to others in our ministry. We should be about the ministry of Jesus Christ in service to all persons, and we ought to be able to utilize the gifts that everyone brings to the table to share the gospel of Jesus Christ to others.

BISHOP TALBERT: You need to finish.

BLEDSOE: So in summary, we listened to you. The committee was very clear on the issue and voted 92 for and 12 against. And I would ask you to vote no on the substitute motion.

BISHOP TALBERT: All right, what's before us now is the McCluskey amendment. That's what's before us. And if you are for the amendment, you would vote yes. If you're against the amendment and, thus, prepared to take the recommendation coming from the committee, you will vote no. Will you vote when the light appears? [Results: yes,224; no, 710]

BISHOP TALBERT: All right the motion, the amendment fails. What's before us now is the report from the committee, I recognize the gentleman here. Microphone 7.

MENNO E.GOOD (Eastern Pennsylvania): Bishop, I have a friendly amendment that will clear up a pastoral difficulty in counseling with young and older persons applying for the elder's order. And that is on the, and I'll make us a motion, and then speak to it, if I have a second. It's the 10th line down on 792 and it reads after the comma, "and whose call," I would add "by God" and then continue "to ordination has been confirmed by the church."

BISHOP TALBERT: All right, that's your motion. Is it seconded? It is seconded.

GOODPASTOR: Bishop we'll accept that.

BISHOP TALBERT: All right it's accepted; any objection to that? That is accepted. All right, this is before us. Back here. Microphone 9.

PETER D. WEAVER (Western Pennsylvania): I'd like to also offer an amendment on line 7. After the word "church" in line 7, for the rest of that sentence to read in this order: "found by the church to have the necessary gifts and evidences of God's grace, to be of sound learning and Christian character," and then in line 10 to continue "and whose call to ordination.. etc." If I have a second, I'd like to speak just quickly to it.

BISHOP TALBERT: All right. Is that seconded? It is.

WEAVER: This essentially, simply changes the order. I debated whether to do this but too many times I have sat in Boards of Ordained Ministry that talked about the matter of learning, the matters of the head, before they talked about the matters of the soul. Seems to me the first question, the entry question, always is the issue of the gifts and evidence of God's grace. I would like us always to be putting that first in the order, that we ask: How is it with your soul before we begin asking how is it with your head?

BISHOP TALBERT: All right is there someone to...

LARRY M. GOODPASTOR: Bishop, we would accept that.

BISHOP TALBERT: All right, you be sure to get that up here so we can get it in. All right, I recognize you, sir. Microphone 9.

ARNOLD A. RHODES (Western Pennsylvania): I have a question. If one is ordained as a deacon can that person serve a church as a pastor?

BISHOP TALBERT: You want to speak to that?

GOODPASTOR: According to the way the Bishops' document reads, which we have not changed, the answer to that would be no, unless that person makes that decision and goes through the proper steps.

BISHOP TALBERT: All right, over here. Microphone 1.

*Difference Between Consecration, Commissioning, and Ordination Asked*

TERRY L. CLARK (Central Illinois): I would like to ask if the committee could explain theologically and biblically the difference between consecration, commissioning and ordination. All three of those words are used, and I think it'd be helpful if we had some understanding here in terms of what those are. Again, that's both the biblical and theological understanding of this.

BISHOP TALBERT: All right now, we don't want to stay here all night with a treatise, but I think they could probably speak to that.

SHARON RHODES-WICKETT (California-Pacific): Thank you, Bishop, we don't either. I am bringing, on behalf of the legislative committee, a petition a little bit later where that word is used. One of the difficulties is that in the transmission of materials to your *DCA*, not all of the changes were picked up. The wording of the legislative committee was chosen to be "commissioning." The subcommittee and the legislative committee spent a significant amount of time debating the meaning of not only the words you've asked about, but about a dozen other words as well. And I don't think we have time, and I know what you've asked for; I don't think we have to time to get into a big treatise of all of those. Let me just mention some of the issues and concerns that were brought up.

Around the word "consecration," some were *uncomfortble* with the close connection with the concept of ordination. The relationship of consecrating bishops and consecrating persons as they begin their ministry seemed to be confusing. We looked at various biblical passages where commissioning was used, where licensing came in, where consecration came in. And the different words that-and on ordination—and each of the words that we considered had dimensions to them that made sense to us, and there were parts of them that troubled us.

And the subsection probably spent about a day to a day and a half wrestling with all of that kind of language; their meanings, the layers of meaning, the theology around it, what is our practice, what are we attempting to do? The word "commissioning" was the one that we finally proposed, as we thought about the biblical notion of sending out for a task, "go therefore." That at the beginning of one's ministry, in a probationary period, they are being commissioned, and it's a time to be in probation before coming back to be ordained, set aside, in a very final sense for that order. Now, is that sufficient to say that the nature of what we've been struggling with?

BISHOP TALBERT: Yes, well I'm going to test it with the gentleman. I think what you're saying is, is that even though the word shows up in various ways, your consistent use of that word is going to be "commissioning"? Is that all right? No?

CLARK: Just one or two sentences. What is consecration? What is commissioning? And what is ordination? One or two sentences for each.

BISHOP TALBERT: All right, do you want to say anymore?

RHODES-WICKETT: I'm wondering if we might call on Mary Elizabeth Moore to speak to that. Would that be appropriate? She was a part of the sub-group.

BISHOP TALBERT: Would you want to say something about that? All right, we want to clear this up. I think it's very important. All right, microphone 3.

*Short Definition Given*

MARY ELIZABETH MOORE (California-Pacific): The words "consecration" and "ordination" have been used interchangably throughout Christian history. They basically mean, "to be set apart for holy service." And they have been used in many varied ways, but that is the basic dictionary definition that you find in most places. The word "commissioning" has to do sending out together in mission. Com-missioning. And the word "commissioning" has been used in our tradition in terms of commisioning people for short term service, and also commissioning people to life time service, such as we commission missionaries and deaconesses; we commission class leaders; and we commission groups who are going out on a work team. The choice of the legislative committee was a choice for sending people out in mission together with the idea that we might envision the probationary period in a way that we've never been able to envision it before.

BISHOP TALBERT: All right, thank you very much. All right this document is before you. I recognize this gentleman right here.

BISHOP TALBERT: Microphone 2.

J.ERIC MCKINNEY (Central Texas): Bishop and members of the conference, I'm an ordained elder and happen to serve as a superintendent at this time, and Larry, I would like to go back to that question about a deacon being able to serve as the pastor of a congregation. To clarify, is it not right that this proposal would allow a process for them to seek license to do that function? In other words, there would not be prohibition universally from deacons being able to seek such license. And there would be provisions for that would be done? Is that not right?

GOODPASTOR: Correct.

MCKINNEY: Thank you.

BISHOP TALBERT: All right, the gentleman here. Microphone 3.

DAVID BANKS (North Carolina): I would like to address a question to follow up on that, with regard to a deacon who is licensed and serving a church and begins to discern that his or her call is to Word, Order, and Sacrament. What would be the process to become an elder, and would that amount to a double ordination, or an elder who begins to discern that the call goes beyond the bounds of Word, Order, and Sacrament in a service, what would be the process to become a deacon; and would that amount to a double ordination?

GOODPASTOR: One of the problemswe faced in presenting the petitions is that we cannot present them all at one time. Some of these questions will be cleared up as other petitions get presented. The answer to that would be in the sense of having to qualify and be licensed for one or the other. One of the questions that we have wrestled with, and in some conversations, we believe if a person had been ordained elder, sensing a call to another order of ministry, that one of the ways for exiting would be to surrender that, qualify for the other, and be ordained to that. Some of those materials will be presented later. There are exiting procedures for both orders. There are ways to be qualified for both orders. There are other educational requirements and qualifications for each one that will be spelled out in other pieces of the legislation as it comes.

BISHOP TALBERT: All right. What's before us now is 792, and I think what you're doing is asking questions that will get answered later. So what we need to do is to speak to Calendar Item 792. Person in the middle right here, yes. You put your card down? OK. I recognize you. Microphone 8.

JUNE D. MCCULLOUGH (Southern New Jersey): Bishop, I move to suspend Rule 36 and to vote upon this matter.

BISHOP TALBERT: All right, that's seconded. You moved to suspend the rules. If you would suspend the rules, you'll vote when the light appears. All right, you've suspended the rules. [779 approved] All right, I think this document is before us. Is there a word from the committee before we take the vote? Nothing from the committee. Thank you. It's before you. You will vote when the light appears. [769 approved] All right, Calendar Item 792 is adopted. All right, the next item.

LUTZ: I'm sorry to be running. We don't have enough pads up here, and I wanted to vote on that particular thing. Now we will move sequentially through the document.

BISHOP TALBERT: Let me just check this out. I think it's important for you committee members not to be disenfranchised. Maybe you need to think about the order in which you are coming, and those who are going to be a little later can go back to your seats, and then come up as you finish.

LUTZ: Thank you for that advise. We thought there would be enough pads up here.

BISHOP TALBERT: I think you ought to work that out. While you are presenting, the others can think about it.

LUTZ: All right. As you realize, not all items relevant to the Ministry Study are before us. There were twelve items that were available for us to present today. We have dealt with one.

The next item we now will go to, a 100 paragraph, that beginning section on the understanding of ministry, and this is an item that was lifted from the Consent Calendar, published on page 390 of your blue book, but the reference that you'll want to look at is the blue *DCA*, page 211, and it is Item 552, on page 211 in your *DCA*, and it references paragraph 110. Bishop, there seems to be a question.

BISHOP TALBERT: Yes, she hasn't put anything before us yet.

LUTZ: And that reference is the red *DCA*, page 983, paragraph 110, Petition 21743. The committee voted concurrence, 91-0. The subject is Ministry of all Christians, and Renae Extrum-Fernandez, who chaired that sub-committee, will present that to you.

*Ministry of All Christians*

RENAE D. EXTRUM-FERNANDEZ (California-Nevada): Thank you, Sandra. Bishop and members of the General Conference, it is my privilege to set before you this particular petition that provides the foundational understanding of our call, our general call, to Christian ministry, which undergirds the whole of the ministry study. Our legislative committee affirmed this foundational piece, without amendment and by unanimous concurrence. The vote count was 91 in concurrence, zero non concurring, and zero abstaining.

BISHOP TALBERT: All right. Is that it? I recognize the gentleman here. Microphone 3.

DAVID BANKS (North Carolina): I would move to amend the first paragraph of what would become paragraph 110 to read in this fashion: The ministry of all Christians is the continuation of the saving ministry of Jesus Christ who declared to his disciples, "as the Father has sent me, I also send you." This saving ministry is expressed, hopefully, in the prayer that Jesus first taught his disciples, "thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." All Christians, therefore, are to live in active expectancy of the fulfillment of Christ's saving work, faithful in witness to the world regarding the gospel of life in Christ Jesus; faithful in making disciples of all the world's peoples; faithful in service of God and neighbor; faithful in seeking the fulfillment of God's universal love, justice, and peace on earth, as in heaven.

BISHOP TALBERT: All right, is that seconded? It is seconded.

BANKS: It seems to me, while the document that's printed in the Advanced *DCA* is a good document, there is an omission with regard to how the ministry of all Christians is tied specifically to the ministry of Jesus Christ. In *The Book of Discipline* now there is a statement that says something to the effect that the heart of Christian ministry is the ministry of Christ's outreaching love. In the COCU Consensus, which is the theological foundation document to the covenanting proposal that we approved earlier today, the COCU Consensus says this: "The ministry of the one people of God, with all its diversity, is the continuation of the saving ministry of Jesus Christ." It seems to me that this says everything that currently you have before you, but it more clearly ties the ministry of all Christians into the saving ministry of Jesus.

BISHOP TALBERT: All right. That's a speech for. Is there one against this amendment? Is there someone to speak against the amendment? Anyone want to speak at all? All right, Chair. Renae, any word from you before we vote?

EXTRUM-FERNANDEZ: I would direct you perhaps to ..., there are other paragraphs which I do believe relate our orders of ministry, the way we're attempting to order ministry, to the ministry of Jesus Christ. I think, besides paragraph 110, there's also paragraphs 112, 113, and 114, as well as 115, which ground our ministry in Christ's ministry.

BISHOP TALBERT: All right, what's before you now is the amendment. If you vote for the amendment, it's a yes; against the amendment, no. Please vote when the light appears. [Results: yes, 297; no, 682]

All right, the amendment does not prevail. The matter before us is item 551. All right, any further discussion? 552, sorry, 552 is before us. Any further discussion? All right, if you would, if you're ready to go with this one, vote yes if you support the committee, no if you do not. Vote when the light appears. [867 approved] All right, you've supported the committee with concurrence

LUTZ: Thank you. The next item was also lifted from the Consent Calendar. It appears in your blue *DCA*, page 211, Item 554, which deals with paragraph 313. It's in your red *DCA*, page 996, paragraph 313, Petition 21829. That's page 996, paragraph 313, Petition 21829.

*Membership in Orders of Ministry*

And we concurred as amended, 101 to zero. The subject is membership in an order. And Sharon Rhodes-Wickett, who chaired that subcommittee, will come to speak to that.

*Probationary Period Differs from Transitional Period*

SHARON K. RHODES-WICKETT: Thank you. The only amend-

ment that was made to this petition happened to be renumbering, which resulted from the work of the legislative section. And so, in fact, what you have before you in this petition, is exactly as it appears in the Bishop's Ministry Study, and it is before you.

BISHOP TALBERT: All right, it is before us. Any discussion of it? If not, I think you're ready. If you support the committee you will vote yes. If you do not, vote no. Vote when the light appears. All right, you have supported the committee. The item is adopted. [875 approved]

RHODES-WICKETT: Thank you. The next matter before us is on your Consent Calendar as number 557 on page 212 in your blue *DCA*. And it refers, in your red book from the Bishops' Study, page 998, Petition 21835. The amendments that you find in this document simply put into motion the earlier action that you took and does then bring into light the language used, where ordination as deacon was eliminated, and the language of commissioning was put into place. And I believe that this particular document is all correct and there are no corrections needed. And so it is before you.

BISHOP TALBERT: All right, it is before you. Any discussion? If you are ready to vote, I think you know the process. You will vote when the light appears. All right, you have supported the committee, it is adopted. [885 approved]

RHODES-WICKETT: Thank you. The next petition I bring before you, you will find in your blue *DCA* from the Consent Calendar 556, the same page, 212; referring in your red advance book, number 999, page 999, referring to Petition 21836. And in this case there are some changes that need to be made. There is one place where it still says ordained deacons. It simply needs to say commissioned ministers.

BISHOP TALBERT: Can you show us where it is?

RHODES-WICKETT: No, I don't think I can.! *(laughter)* The second sentence.

BISHOP TALBERT: That's been changed, I believe.

RHODES-WICKETT: Well, that's the way it looks to me, too. Maybe, maybe it got caught. At any rate, I think at this point it is simply editorial.

BISHOP TALBERT: All right. Is it before us? All right, it is before us. Any discussion? Are you? All right. Microphone 4.

BRIAN E. BECK (Great Britain): Page 212 in the blue *DCA*, third column at the top, numbered one. "The commissioned ministers planning to give their lives as deacons." Is that the point they are looking for correction? Or is that word deacons there correct?

RHODES-WICKETT: In my copy that's corrected, and it shows that it would remain deacons. Yes, that is correct, uh huh. Thank you for asking about that.

BISHOP TALBERT: All right now, what is it? Does deacons . . .?

RHODES-WICKETT: It's correct as printed.

BISHOP TALBERT: So deacon comes out and you just say commissioned ministers.

RHODES-WICKETT: That is correct.

BISHOP TALBERT: All right. Yes. Microphone 4.

DAVID RICHARDSON (California-Pacific): This is a question, actually and I may not need to relate to it, but why is it that there is different treatment for deacons planning to give their lives in full service in number one, and then a different treatment in number two, in terms of half the time of probational period?

RHODES-WICKETT: My recollection is that is how it was presented in the original study, and that we did not change that.

RICHARDSON: It seems unfair. I am not prepared to work on the amendment yet. I have to think about it.

RHODES-WICKETT: I know the feeling.

RICHARDSON: I'm just questioning it first. But if someone else talks I may have time to think about it.

BISHOP TALBERT: All right, I see a card over here. Yes. Microphone 3.

J. ERIC MCKINNEY (Central Texas): I think if you work from the blue *DCA* there is a correction and there is a parallelism between paragraph two and three where the entire period of service is spent in the respective order for both deacon and elder.

BISHOP TALBERT: All right, any discussion? Are you ready? If you are ready you will vote when the light appears. All right, you have supported the committee. This item is adopted, number 556. [871 approved]

RHODES-WICKETT: Thank you. The final petition that I'm bringing to you this evening is found on page 211 in your blue book, Calendar Item 555, referring to your red book page 999, Petition 21837. And this is where I do need to just point out the editorial corrections so that it won't be confusing to you. At the beginning we're in the right column on page 211 where it begins "eligibility and rights," the third line down, "ordained deacons who are" is stricken so that it reads "probationary members are on trial." If you would go down to number one at the bottom of the page, the word "deacons or" needs to be inserted in two places, on the second line and on the third line prior to the word "elders."

*Probationary Membership*

RHODES-WICKETT:... so that it would read, "Probationary members who are preparing for deacons or elders orders may be ordained deacons or elders when..." and it continues on over on page 212 in section number four a little more than half way down, with the sentence that begins, "They shall also be assigned a deacon." Cross out the words, "in full connection," so that they shall also be assigned a deacon or elder as mentor." Number four, on the left column about half way down on page 212, crossing out "in full connection." And then, finally...

BISHOP TALBERT: All right, let me just test now, just make sure. You with her? Any questions? Bear with us. OK.

RHODES-WICKETT: Only one more. Toward the end of this section, which is the center column of the page, six sentences down. Six lines down, I should say. Where it talks about surrendering their credentials, the committee preferred the word, "return," so it would read: "permitted to exercise ministerial functions and shall return their credentials to the district superintendent." With these changes which were part of the original motion that the Legislative committee adopted, I put this before you.

BISHOP TALBERT: All right, this is before us. I recognize the card. Right, that's right, sir. You. Microphone 9.

STEPHEN FOSTER (Wisconsin): Bishop, I would propose an amendment.

BISHOP TALBERT: All right.

FOSTER: It would be in line nine of item four on the left-hand column. The insertion would be these words: "Where possible, probationary members preparing to become elders and deacons should be joined together in covenant groups for ministerial formation."

BISHOP TALBERT: All right. Is that seconded? It is seconded. You may speak to it.

FOSTER: The intention is to develop collegiality among those who are in the probationary status in order that they might be colleagues in ordained ministry later on. It's the intention of the study and the committee to maintain the collegiality of deacons and elders, and this would be the formative stage of that collegiality. Thank you.

BISHOP TALBERT: All right. This amendment is before us. That's a speech for it. Is there someone to speak against it? Yes? Microphone 13.

WILLIAM H. WILLIMON (South Carolina): I would speak against it. That's something that the conferences could take various approaches to. Our conference has a program. I think that shouldn't be mandated.

BISHOP TALBERT: All right. That's a speech against. Anyone speaking for or against it? I see no further ones. Committee?

RHODES-WICKETT: Well, Bishop, I've been looking. Somewhere in another paragraph in the bishops' document there is reference to covenant groups as part of the process, and I can't find the paragraph quickly where that is...

BISHOP TALBERT: So regarding this one, you are for it or against it? This amendment? What do you have to say about this amendment?

RHODES-WICKETT: Oh, I'm sorry. I would say we'd be against it because I do believe it is covered elsewhere in the document.

BISHOP TALBERT: All right. This matter is before us. Yes? You want to say more about this one? What's your Point of Order? Come on to microphone 8.

MICHAEL WEAVER (Virginia): Mike Weaver from Virginia. If you check Calendar Item 556, it talks about covenanting groups about ten lines down.

BISHOP TALBERT: So you were pointing out that that's where it's mentioned? All right?

WEAVER: That's correct.

BISHOP TALBERT: All right, thank you. All right, this item is before us. That what's before us now is the amendment. Are you clear on the amendment? Do you need it read again? All right. If you support the amendment, if you're for it, you will vote yes. If you're against it, vote no. Vote when the light appears. All right, the amendment is not supported. This document, item number 555, is before us. Any further discussion? Yes? Microphone 9.

ARNOLD A. RHODES (Western Pennsylvania): Arnie Rhodes, Western Pennsylvania Conference. I would like to have an amendment of deletion. On page 212 under paragraph two, would delete a and b. Delete "constitutional amendments" and "b. election of delegates to the General and Jurisdictional or Central Conferences."

BISHOP TALBERT: All right. Is that seconded? Do I hear a second? It is seconded. All right. You want to speak to it?

RHODES: Yes I would. My understanding of probationary membership is in regards to effectiveness of ministry of the individuals. And it seems important to me that if a person is appointed to a local charge or a person is already has the right to vote in annual conference that that right should also extend to constitutional amendments and the election of delegates.

BISHOP TALBERT: All right. Someone speak against this amendment? All right. Gentleman in the center. Microphone 8.

ROGER C. DOWDY (Virginia): Roger Dowdy, Virginia Conference. I would speak in opposition to this amendment. As a diaconal minister, according to this report I have until the year 2000 to determine whether I would choose to be ordained deacon or remain diaconal. If this amendment passed, it sounds as though I would, or let's say if I chose to move towards ordination as deacon and the conference Board or Ordained ministry determined that I was not yet qualified, that I could no longer vote during that probationary period for General Conference delegates, and I've already been voting as a member for a number of years in that way. I think that's very unfair for persons who might be in a transition period from diaconal to ordained deacon. I would vote against that amendment.

BISHOP TALBERT: All right. Any other discussion on this amendment? Yes? Microphone 14.

HELEN E. POTTER (West Ohio): I have a question. If they were probationary members and were allowed to vote, would they be voting as lay or clergy?

BISHOP TALBERT: All right. The maker of the motion, would you like to respond to that? Microphone 9.

RHODES: My understanding is that they would be voting as...

ARNOLD RHODES: The understanding is that they would be voting as clergy.

BISHOP TALBERT: All right. This matter's before us, this amendment. Any further discussion? I see none. I now recognize the chair of the committee.

RHODES-WICKETT: We would ask you to oppose the amendment. We understand this would, in fact, be a constitutional amendment to go in this direction, and secondly, we see this probationary period, which is distinct from a transition time for deacons, for current diaconal ministers to decide which way they're going to go—that's, that's a whole 'nother category. But the probationary time is a time of discernment and a time to try out and explore ministry before the ordination. And we don't think it's appropriate that this would be changed.

BISHOP TALBERT: All right, this matter's before you, the amendment. You are now voting on the amendment. Yes, if you support the amendment; no, if you do not. Vote when the light appears. All right, the motion does not prevail. [yes, 108; no, 797]. What's before us now is item number 555. Are you ready on that? OK, if you are ready, you will vote when the light appears. All right, you've sustained the committee. It's adopted, 555. [yes, 877; no 37]

RHODES-WICKETT: These complete my items for tonight. Thank you, Bishop.

BISHOP TALBERT: All right, thank you.

*Deacons in Full Connection*
*Disability Leave*

SANDRA W. LUTZ (East Ohio): The next was lifted from the Consent Calendar. It is in your blue *DCA* on page 211, and it is item 553, which deals with paragraph 321. It's found in the red *DCA* on page 1,000, paragraph 321, petition 21839. We had voted concurrence, 104 to four. It's titled "Ministry Authority and Responsibility of Deacons in Full Connection." And Larry Goodpastor will come back to bring that to you.

BISHOP TALBERT: Oh, he's over here. All right, you want to do it from there? I'm...Wherever you want to do it; it's up to you. All right, microphone 1.

LARRY M. GOODPASTOR (Mississippi): Thank you. I got thrown a curve on that one. I apologize, Bishop. Consent item 553. It was on the Consent Calendar, and we pulled it off so that we could present all of this material tonight. It is before you with the amendment "ordained by a bishop", in line five, "ordained by a bishop to a lifetime ministry of Word and Service".

BISHOP TALBERT: Is that it?

GOODPASTOR: It is before you.

BISHOP TALBERT: All right, end of discussion of this. All right, if you're ready to—yes? Over here. Microphone 9.

DOROTHY S. MCMAHAN (New England): I'm Dorothy McMahan, New England Conference. I am a diaconal minister, and I would like to add a word to the sentence that reads, "Deacons are persons called by God, authorized by the church, and ordained by a bishop to a lifetime of ministry, of justice, service, and word". The word I would add is "justice."

BISHOP TALBERT: All right, now tell us where you are.

MCMAHAN: I believe it's the second sentence.

BISHOP TALBERT: Second sentence. All right. Can we, can you help us? I'm...

MCMAHAN: Line six.

BISHOP TALBERT: Line six.

MCMAHAN: If I have a second, I'd like to speak to it.

BISHOP TALBERT: All right. Do it again so I can, so we can make sure we know where you are.

MCMAHAN: All right. The sentence would read "Deacons are persons called by God, authorized by the church and ordained by a bishop to a lifetime ministry of justice, service, and word."

BISHOP TALBERT: I get it. So you are simply adding the word "justice".

MCMAHAN: And reversing "Service" and "Word", I think.

BISHOP TALBERT: All right. All right, is that seconded? It is seconded. All right, number nine. She's still speaking to it.

MCMAHAN: OK. The deacon is to be ordained to a ministry which moves out of the congregation out into the community. And when you move out of a congregation and into a community, the issues of justice become uppermost. I envision deacons, as diaconal ministers do, working outside of the church setting in many venues of ministry where justice is the uppermost issue.

BISHOP TALBERT: All right, this amendment is before us. I recognize the—yes? Microphone 7.

DEBORAH G. PITNEY (Oregon-Idaho): Debbie Pitney, Oregon-Idaho. I think if you read a few sentences further, you will find the words, "in the world, the deacon seeks to express a ministry of compassion and justice".

BISHOP TALBERT: So you're speaking against this amendment? All right. Someone else to speak on this topic? The amendment? The committee?

GOODPASTOR: Yes, we would speak against it. We were picking up the words that were used throughout the document from the Council of Bishops that deacons were "ordained to ministry of word and service".

BISHOP TALBERT: All right. This amendment is before us. If you will support the amendment, you will vote "yes"; if you're against it, vote "no". Vote when the light appears. The amendment is defeated. [yes, 145; no, 760] This item 553 is before us. Any further discussion? If you are ready, you will vote when the light appears. All right, 553 is supported; it's adopted. [781 approved] Next?

LUTZ: Bless you. *[laughter]* Goodness.

BISHOP TALBERT: Bless you. *[laughter]*

LUTZ: The next item is in the blue *DCA*, page 259.

BISHOP TALBERT: 259.

*Categories of Local Pastor*

LUTZ: And it is item 791, and it references paragraph 408. It is in the red *DCA* on page 1,008, paragraph 408, and it's petition 21863. And we voted concurrence 89, 9. The subject is, "Categories of Local Pastor," and Deborah Pritz will present that.

DEBORAH L. PRITTS (North Central New York): Thank you. We bring this petition to you with the unanimous concurrence of our subcommittee and with the vote of our full Legislative committee as was just reported to you by our chairperson. We bring it with no amendments in the text of the petition as it was brought to us by the Council of Bishops. You will note that the document accords clergy status to both full and part-time local pastors. You will note that student local-pastors retain their current status within the annual conference. And point number five in the original petition delineates the voting rights for local pastors.

BISHOP TALBERT: All right, this is before us. Yes, gentleman, here. No. That's right. Yes. Microphone 4.

*Debate Local Postors on BOM*

EDWARD A. KAIL (Iowa): I rise to propose an amendment. It would be with reference to the red *DCA*, page 1008, in point five, to delete the words, "except the Board of Ordained Ministry and the District Committee on Ministry; and also deleting the words, "to vote on or." The sentence would then read, "Local pastors, except student local-pastors, may serve on any board, commission, or committee with voice and vote, except on matters of clergy character, qualifications, status, and ordination. They shall not be eligible to serve as delegates to the General, Jurisdictional, or Central Conference." I would like to speak to that.

BISHOP TALBERT: All right. Is it seconded? It is.

KAIL: The purpose of this change would be to allow local pastors to serve on both the Board of Ordained Ministry and District Committee on Ordained Ministry, but without vote on matters of clergy character qualifications, status and ordination. Over the last quadrennium, laypersons have been observers on these boards and committees and are being recommended at this General Conference to be full voting members of both the Board of Ordained Ministry and District Committee.

For too long, the local pastor has had no representation and no input into the workings of this board or these committees. This change also opens the door for local pastors to have a say in the affairs of the general church. Since local pastors serve over 23 percent of our charges and 35 percent of our churches, a change would need to be made to the Constitution in paragraph 38 in order for them to vote for clergy delegates.

BISHOP TALBERT: All right, that's for it. Is there someone to speak against? All right, here. Microphone 8.

HERCHEL S. SHEETS (North Georgia): I oppose this amendment. You would have local pastors serving as members of the very bodies, which examine them and make recommendations of them to continue as local pastors, or to become probationary members, and deacons, and elders.

BISHOP TALBERT: All right, is there someone to speak for the amendment? Yes, over here. Microphone 10.

GLENN B. KOHLHEPP (Western Pennsylvania): Bishop, I'd like to make another amendment, please.

BISHOP TALBERT: All right.

GLENN B. KOHLHEPP: In paragraph 5....

BISHOP TALBERT: Is that, is that an amendment to the amendment?

GLENN B. KOHLHEPP: No, it's not.

BISHOP TALBERT: Then you're out of order. You'll have to wait until we dispense with this amendment.

GLENN B. KOHLKEPP: Thank you.

BISHOP TALBERT: All right, what's before us is this amendment. Yes? Number 9. Microphone 9.

SHARON A. HAUSMAN (West Ohio): I guess basically I have a question. Isn't there a way that a local pastor can stay a local pastor and never go through the ordination process?

BISHOP TALBERT: Is this on the amendment, the amendment is...

SHARON A. HAUSMAN: That's a question on that, before I talk for it or against it.

BISHOP TALBERT: You want, you want the person who made that motion to respond to you then on that?

HAUSMAN: Yes.

BISHOP TALBERT: All right, if you could, can you respond to that, sir? Microphone 4.

KAIL: My understanding of the proposal is that there is provision for local pastors to remain local pastors.

HAUSMAN: And that is for the committee also. I'd like to speak to it because if they are not going through the process, they still...we're talking 23 percent of the pastors in the conferences, 35 percent of the churches served. They still should have an ability to have some input into what makes for good pastoring, what makes for a good pastor. At least to have a voice in that. I think we do that in most of our clergy sessions at annual conference now. And we would just like to be able to see that there could be one that could at least have a voice, even if they don't have a vote. Thank you.

BISHOP TALBERT: All right, any further discussion on this topic? Yes? Microphone 7.

BARBARA DAY (North Georgia): I just want to reiterate what Herchel Sheets clarified. Local pastors have to appear before the board annually for renewal of their credentials. So, whether or not they are going ahead for ordination, they would be appearing before the same board that they might hold membership on. So, I would speak against the amendment.

BISHOP TALBERT: All right, any further discussion on this? Yes? Microphone 3.

LAVADA S. REDDING (Rocky Mountain): Many small urban, as well as remote and rural churches are served most effectively by local pastors. Their spiritual guidance, their pastoral skills and administrative abilities make them most effective in their setting. Yet, they're neither clergy or laity in many cases. It's a vital concern to them, in the life of the church, and yet often they cannot be participating. I would urge support of this amendment to include these most worthy servants in Christ's ministry.

BISHOP TALBERT: All right, any further discussion? Yes? We've had three for, and see...you speaking against? All right, OK. Number 8, microphone 8.

THOMAS R. BOLLER (Yellowstone): Bishop, it occurs to me, as I read through this particular paragraph, that when you give local pastors membership on a Board of Ordained Ministry or District Committee, but you say that they cannot deal with matters of character, qualifications, status or ordination, all you're saying is they can sit around and watch, but they aren't going to be able to do anything once they get there anyway.

I'm a district superintendent. I've got some good local pastors serving in the churches that I supervise. In fact, I would recommend some of them for the superintendency. And I would nominate some of them for the...to be bishop. They're that good. I don't question their qualifications as pastors or their ability to work. But it seems to me that this amendment to strike that phrase just doesn't make any sense.

BISHOP TALBERT: All right, do we have this before us now, three and three? Yes? This is the end of debate, so you, you have a question of clarification, or anything? Microphone 6.

JIM C. GILLAND (Western North Carolina): Would the maker of the motion accept the phrase, "with the exception of the Board of Ordained Ministry?" I think that would clarify what we've been talking about for the last little bit.

BISHOP TALBERT: All right, what you are doing is, is you are.....

GILLAND: I'm inquiring of the motion maker, sir.

BISHOP TALBERT: Let me see. Yes.

KAIL: I'm sorry, I'm not sure what the question is.

BISHOP TALBERT: He said, he asked you if you..would you state that question again, let him hear it?

GILLAND: Yes, I will. I agree with everything except local pastors serving on the Board of Ordained Ministry. I wonder if the maker of the motion would accept that one exception?

KAIL: I believe I'd like the amendment to stand as proposed.

BISHOP TALBERT: You'd like it to stand like it's...all right, committee?

DEBORAH PRITTS (North Central New York): We believe that many of the reasons that have been articulated around the room tonight for retaining the language as it was originally proposed by the committee and the Council of Bishops are sound. We believe that it is appropriate and, indeed, we celebrate the ability, if you pass this petition, of full and part-time local pastors to be able to participate in the life of the annual conference in ways that they have not been able to up until this point in time.

However, keeping in mind that local pastors need to appear before the District Committee on an annual basis for reapproval of their license, and keeping in mind the statements in the constitution of our church, we believe that the bishops are on target in recommending the provisions as they appear in point 5 of the original petition.

BISHOP TALBERT: All right, the amendment is before us. If you support the amendment, yes. If you do not, no. Vote when the light appears. [Results: yes, 170; no, 744] The amendment is lost. All right, this item is before us. Yes...What's the question? Hold it a minute, sir. You may go on to the microphone. Yes, question.

DON W. MENDENHALL (Iowa): I do have a question for the committee.

BISHOP TALBERT: All right.

*Question About Laity Serving as Pastors*

MENDENHALL: It has to do with this study. My sense is that the bishops and the committee did very, very well in the area of clergy responsibilities and who they are in their distinctions of ministry. When it really gets down to the laity, it gets thin real fast. Here's my question: In one area, for example, the idea of laity pastoring a local church. For example, in other parts of the world, maybe not so much in the United States, they do use lay evangels or lay persons that they train to be at preaching points. My question, then, is how does the study allow lay people to be involved under the supervision of a ordained elder to pastor local churches? Does it answer that question?

BISHOP TALBERT: All right.

MENDENHALL: I may have a motion, depending on the answer.

BISHOP TALBERT: All right, you're speaking to calendar item...

MENDENHALL: The reason I chose this is that the local pastor concept is very, very close to the use of a lay person in a part-time pastoring position. That's why I chose to ask the question now.

BISHOP TALBERT: All right. You want to respond to that?

PRITTS: I'll try. I don't believe that that falls under the purview of what we were discussing in terms of the Ministry Study. I don't believe that that topic was considered directly by the Ministry Study. I do believe that one of the other legislative committees during this previous week considered the question of lay preachers, and it may be that they will be bringing some legislation to us at another point in time.

MENDENHALL: All right. Then I do have a motion.

BISHOP TALBERT: All right, I think you need to...you raised to get the floor on a question, and I had recognized this gentleman, so I need to try to get back to you. All right, over here.

ALBERT SHULER (North Carolina): Bishop, on page 1008, at the top of that page regarding this petition, where it states, "The local pastor shall complete two courses per year." I think that's an error, is it not? Should that be four courses?

PRITTS: Yes. There is another petition that our legislative committee has voted that catches that error and changes the disciplinary language to reflect four courses a year, which is the expectation of the Course of Study outline. Thank you.

SHULER: Thank you very much.

BISHOP TALBERT: OK. All right, over here. Yes. Microphone 10.

GLENN B. KOHLHEPP (Western Pennsylvania): I would like to amend item five by the deletion of the words, "except student local pastors."

BISHOP TALBERT: All right, that's in the heavy, bold words, "except student local pastors." Is it seconded? I think it's seconded. All right.

*Rights, Obligations of Part-time, Full-time, Student Local Pastors*

KOHLHEPP: I serve as a pastor in Western Pennsylvania Conference and as a mentor to three student local pastors who are studying at Waynesburg College and serving charges in the Washington District. It seems to me if we were to extend these kinds of privileges to those who are part-time local pastors in the Course of Study and full-time local pastors in a Course of Study, that we ought to extend the same privileges to student local pastors who are also studying for ministry.

BISHOP TALBERT: All right. Yes. Microphone 3.

J.ERIC MCKINNEY (Central Texas): Bishop, I would oppose this amendment. The reality is that for annual conferences that have seminaries in close proximity or within their bounds many, many student local pastors serve in those annual conferences who have no connection at all with those annual conferences, serve those appointments on the weekend, intend fully from the day they take that appointment to return to their home conference. I see no parallel between a student local pastor and a part-time local pastor who is invested in longevity of appointment, grounded in the community long-term where he or she will serve, and does, in fact, have an ongoing relationship with the same annual conference.

BISHOP TALBERT: All right. Any further discussion of this? Yes. Back here. Microphone 13. No, microphone 8.

JOAN G. LABARR (North Texas): I have a question regarding the Course of Study for part-time local pastors.

BISHOP TALBERT: All right. What we have before us is this motion to delete. Is this on the motion to delete?

LABARR: I heard a few moments ago the statement that the Course of Study requirement was being changed to four courses.

BISHOP TALBERT: No. What is before us now is the motion to delete "except student local pastor." That's what we need to be talking about.

LABARR: Okay. Could we come back to that question?

BISHOP TALBERT: I'll try to get to you.

LABARR: Thank you.

BISHOP TALBERT: All right. What's before us now is this motion to delete. Yes. Microphone 8.

SUSAN W.N. RUACH (South Indiana): I speak against the amendment because some student local pastors have probationary membership in conferences where they are not serving because they're in seminary. And you can't have voting rights in two annual conferences.

BISHOP TALBERT: All right. Any further discussion on this? Yes. Microphone 4.

BRUCE R. OUGH (Iowa): I would support the amendment to delete this. Even in those conferences that have a lot of student local pastors we expect those student local pastors to perform the same duties as full-time and part-time local pastors. We expect them to raise apportionments, we expect them to disciple our people, they're under supervision of a district superintendent, and they're held accountable for all the same responsibilities. Let's let them vote.

BISHOP TALBERT: All right. Any further discussion? Committee.

DEBORAH L. PRITTS: We have recognized that there are many questions that surround the status of student local pastors. We felt that the questions were significant enough that they deserve further attention from the Division of Ordained Ministry of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, and we feel that it is important for them to be given a time for further dialogue with annual conferences about this issue, and would therefore ask that you not support this amendment.

BISHOP TALBERT: All right. This amendment is before us. If you will support the amendment, vote "yes"; if you do not, vote "no". Vote when the light appears. [736 approved] All right, the amendment is not supported. It's lost. The calendar item is before us. In the rear. All right. Number 8.

LABARR: My concern relates to the statement that part-time local pastors would be required to have four, not two, courses under the Course of Study per year. We have a program of bi-vocational ministry, which is basically part-time local pastors. The two courses a year is a very, very large commitment for them, and to increase that to four for part-time local pastors would be very problematic.

BISHOP TALBERT: All right, you want to speak to that?

PRITTS: Yes, I believe that the—I took the original question to refer to paragraph number one, which refers to full-time local pastors. The expectation has been, and will continue to be for full-time local pastors that they take four courses per year. The ex-

pectation for part-time local pastors in point two, will not change from two courses a year.

BISHOP TALBERT: All right. Yes. Microphone 4.

DON W. MENDENHALL (Iowa): I'd like to ask the committee, I do have a motion regarding the lay pastoring concept. Will the lay steward, even though it was nonconcurred, will that come up? That may be a better time for this motion than right now.

PRITTS: My understanding, from the chair of our legislative committee, is that it will come up as a motion of referral later in our work.

BISHOP TALBERT: And a motion of referral is debatable, so if you have something you will have a chance.

MENDENHALL: I think it would be better if I waited until that time. Thank you.

BISHOP TALBERT: Thank you. Thank you. In the rear. Number 12.

*Size of Appointments for Local Pastors*

JOHN A. MASON (West Virginia): In part two in the red *DCA*, page 1008, the last sentence of part two seems to me to suggest that a part-time local pastor may be appointed only to small membership churches which are grouped together. Therefore, I move, if I may, to change the "are" in the next to the last line to "may be."

BISHOP TALBERT: All right. Is that seconded? Did someone second that? It is seconded. All right. Do you want to say anything more about it?

MASON: The only thing I have more to say about it is that in our annual conference many part-time local pastors are appointed to very small single church appointments.

BISHOP TALBERT: All right. This is before us. Yes. Over here.

PRITTS: I don't believe that our committee would have an objection.

BISHOP TALBERT: Oh. So, you are accepting it?

PRITTS: We'd be willing to accept that.

BISHOP TALBERT: All right. Over here. All right. Number 2.

BRADLEY F. WATKINS (Central Illinois): I have a question about that same sentence because I was confused about whether that sentence, if we adopt that, would that limit the use of a part-time local pastor only to this kind of specification? We have part-time local pastors serving in many other kind of appointments, and I wonder why you specified that and did not identify the other uses and appointments that part-time local pastors currently are being used for.

BISHOP TALBERT: All right. Do you want to respond to that?

PRITTS: Well this is language that we did not change from the original ministry study that the Council of Bishops brought to us. As we read it, we did not understand it to be restrictive in any way but merely being permissive in pointing out another option for configuring of appointments.

BISHOP TALBERT: All right, are you ready. Yes, over here. The gentleman, yes.

He's going to yield to you? All right.

UNIDENTIFIED MAN: I'm going to yield to Joel Garrett, Western Pennsylvania. I'm going to yield to him because we're both doing the same thing.

BISHOP TALBERT: All right, let's do that.

CHRIS WHITE (Western Pennsylvania): Would it be in order to move the previous question?

BISHOP TALBERT: If you say so. [*laughter and applause*]

WHITE: I move the previous question, of all that's before us.

BISHOP TALBERT: All right. If you are prepared now to close debate, will you vote "yes," if you are not, vote "no." Vote when the light appears. All right, you're ready to go. Any word from the committee? No word. Item 791 is before us. Any discussion. If you are supportive, you will vote "yes," no, you will vote "no." Vote when the light appears. It is supported. [841 approved] Calendar Item 791 is adopted.

SANDRA W. LUTZ (East Ohio): The next item to come before you is in the blue *DCA*, page 389. It is Item 1700 and deals with paragraph 451. That's page 389, Item 1700, and that reference is to the red *DCA*, page 1011, paragraph 451, Petition 21880. The committee's recommendation was nonconcurrence, 55 to 26. The subject is disability leave. And Wee-Li Tan will speak to that.

WEE-LI TAN (New England): Thank you, Sandy. This petition before us right now attempts to combine two issues which really are distinct and separate. The issue of leave, which is an appointment issue, and that of eligibility for pension and health benefits.

Leave should be identified by categories of relationships to the annual conference rather than by categories of eligibility for benefits, which are secondary. And, since we believe the provisions in our current *Discipline* are adequate, we recommend nonconcurrence.

BISHOP TALBERT: All right, this is before you. Any discussion. If you are ready to vote, you will vote "yes" if you support the recommendation of the committee, "no" if you do not. Vote when the light appears. [855 approved] You have sustained the committee, the nonconcurrence is supported.

LUTZ: The next item is in the blue *DCA*, page 389, Item 1699, which deals with paragraph 509.1. That reference is the red *DCA*, page 1076, paragraph 509.1, and it is petition 21255. Committee voted nonconcurrence, 61 to 41, on this mandatory retirement item. And Ruth Daugherty will speak to that. She is going to speak from the floor.

*Length of Terms of Bishops*

RUTH DAUGHERTY (Easter Pennsylvania): Bishop, may I speak from the floor? The legislative committee recommends nonconcurrence with this petition. The vote was 61 for nonconcurrence and 41 for concurrence. The majority of the members of the legislative committee felt that the present provisions are adequate; that the retirement provisions should not be changed to lengthen the terms

of bishops. This was also in the context of quite a number of other petitions which we had, which came to us asking for the limitation of terms or for tenure for bishops. Those were voted nonconcurrence and that was one of the reasons given for this vote.

BISHOP TALBERT: All right, this is before you. Any discussion of this petition? All right it is before you. If you would support the committee you would vote "yes," if you do not, vote "no." It's before you. Vote when the light appears. [801 approved] All right, you've sustained the committee and the nonconcurrence prevails.

LUTZ: The next item is in the blue *DCA* page 389. It is Item Number 1698, and deals with paragraph 516.3. It is in the red *DCA* page 1079, paragraph 516.3 and it is Petition 21340. The committee voted concurrence as amended, 82 to 12. And this deals with working with ordained and diaconal ministers and commission personnel. Bill Crouch will bring that to you.

WILLIAM CROUCH (North Texas): As you can see, the item is Calendar Item 1698, blue *DCA*, 389. The petition in the red *DCA* at 1079, paragraph 516, deals with the duties of bishop. It is not a part of the ministry study, and the rationale is as follows. There are small items being considered here. One is to move home missionaries up into a place that we think is more appropriate, in the place where it belongs in the sequence.

### *Appointments "Read" or "Announced" by Bishops?*

The other is to remind you there will be a continuation of diaconal ministers who need to be appointed, and so diaconal ministers are not deleted.

The change that brought the 12 negative votes has to do with the fact that we are changing the phrase from "read" to "announce." That comes from another petition that was brought to us, and we thought that we would like to make both of them and make them consistent.

There's not a great deal of difference between "read" and "announce," but the majority believe that since there is very little difference, and since many bishops have long since abandoned "reading" of the appointments, that we would prefer to bring our legislation into conformity with our practice. The 12 voted, I think, to leave "read" rather than "announce," because they like the more traditional word "read." But, the committee moves concurrence as amended.

BISHOP TALBERT: All right, this is before us. Any discussion? Yes?

All right. Microphone 8.

DUANE V. SARAZIN (Minnesota): Duane Sarazin, Minnesota Conference. Just a question, please, Bishop. Are we going to run into any difficulty with the constitutionality or the appropriateness of the word "appointment" as it relates to lay persons in service or any of the other categories, as opposed to a word like assigned?

BISHOP TALBERT: All right, do you want to respond to that?

WILLIAM C. CROUCH (North Texas): All that we have changed is what you can see before you in this petition, and therefore, appointment has to do; we are not adding anything to all of this with respect to the appointment of lay persons in service with the General Board of Global Ministries.

BISHOP TALBERT: In other words, you're saying that the word "lay person" was already there and is not an addition.

CROUCH: Yes.

SARAZIN: Thank you.

BISHOP TALBERT: All right. This is before us. Any discussion? Any last words from the committee?

CROUCH: No.

BISHOP TALBERT: Think you're ready for us to vote on it?

CROUCH: Ready.

BISHOP TALBERT: All right. This calendar item is before us, Calendar Item 1698. If you are ready to vote, vote when the light appears. [891 approved] All right, the committee is sustained. You voted concurrence. All right.

### *Ministerial Recruitment of Persons with Disabilities*

CROUCH: The next item is Calendar Item 1701 found in the blue book at page 389. Now we would need for you to turn to the white book, page 1483. And here we're looking at paragraph, in the *Discipline*, 733, having to do with the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, and it is petition 22094. The right-hand column, the second paragraph there, if you're looking, or the second petition.

The petition asks that we include in the responsibilities of the Board of Ordained Ministry for enlistment for men and women of all races, ethnic origins, inclusive of those with disabilities. We recommended nonconcurrence, and I think that this is before you as a calendar item because of the number of persons who voted against nonconcurrence. We certainly believe that persons with disabilities ought to be welcomed and recruited. We believe that this a category, however, that is different from the others in terms of men and women and ethnic persons; it is covered in other categories; and that we should not imply that this paragraph ought to multiply all the categories in an attempt to be exhaustive of all those that ought to be recruited for ministry. And therefore, we moved, and ask for nonconcurrence.

BISHOP TALBERT: It is before you. Any discussion? I see none. If you will support the committee, you will vote yes; if you do not, you will vote no. Vote when the light appears. [838 approved] All right. You've sustained the committee, and you've voted nonconcurrence. Calendar Item 1701.

SANDRA LUTZ: Bishop, that concludes the items that are available to us for action today.

BISHOP TALBERT: Thank you very much. *(applause)* I recognize the person here, microphone 8.

JUANITA BASS WRIGHT (Tennessee): I have a question, Bishop,

and I'm not sure what we have done. Paragraph 434 in the 1992 *Discipline* states, "that a deacon is an ordained minister who has been received by the annual conference either as a probationary member or as an associate member and has been ordained deacon." Under the transitional provisions in this white document from the Legislative committee, it says, "affirm procedure for present diaconal members—ministers and associate members and those in candidacy to become ordained deacons." I want to know if we are saying that those who are presently associate members would have their deacon's orders invalidated.

LUTZ: No. People who are currently in positions have options. They may remain where they are and under the 1992 *Discipline*, or they can transition into the deacon position. Does that answer the question? They have the option of staying where they are. OK?

BISHOP TALBERT: All right, I recognize the gentleman over here. Yes. Goldschmidt.

VICTOR GOLDSCHMIDT (North Indiana): A very simple motion to be sure we don't get into a problem with conflicts. It reads as follows: "Parts of Consent Calendar items in conflict with the actions voted upon by plenary session shall be superceded by the corresponding plenary session action."

BISHOP TALBERT: Is there a second?

GOLDSCHMIDT: What this means, Mr. Bishop, and I can give some examples, but I won't.

BISHOP TALBERT: Let me test this. Don't we have a rule governing what takes precedence?

GOLDSCHMIDT: I've searched for the rule. I've not found it. Even the rule of the two and four courses is more folklore than true.

BISHOP TALBERT: I can't cite the rule, but somewhere I thought we said the item that takes precedence is the one last voted.

GOLDSCHMIDT: Mr. Bishop, in some cases, we may vote on the Consent Calendar after it was already listed, and we had an action in plenary that contradicted what was in the Consent Calendar but not yet approved as a Consent Calendar. So the definition of what was last voted becomes a little bit delicate.

BISHOP TALBERT: All right, let me see.

LUTZ: I know that the issues of language are confusing in this, but we were told that any floor action takes precedence over a Consent Calendar item.

BISHOP TALBERT: That's what I thought—we had a rule saying that.

GOLDSCHMIDT: I was not only addressing that issue. I'd like to see that rule, but irrespective of that, what I'm saying is tomorrow we may be approving a Consent Calendar which was listed today. But we may have voted since it was listing another item that contradicted what is in the Consent Calendar and not yet approved.

BISHOP TALBERT: Victor, I would suggest, if you wouldn't mind doing it, would you give the people a chance to find that rule, and then, if that is not satisfactory, then we will see if your motion is one that we can deal with.

GOLDSCHMIDT: Sure. Fair enough. Thank you.

BISHOP TALBERT: Thank you. Let's move then...

GOLDSCHMIDT: I see two bishops at work, and it's a pleasure to see that.

*[laughter]*

BISHOP TALBERT: I want to move to the other calendar items if you'll let me. Yes, what do you want. We're not at the privilege place, we got business before us tonight.

RANDALL F. ROBINSON (Central Illinois) Bishop, I have a question regarding the bound services of ordinatian of deacons and elders that appear in our 1992 *Book of Worship*. It seems to me that with the new understanding of ministry that we have adopted tonight, we're going to need new services of commissioning and ordination. And I'd like to know if the legislative committee provided for that to happen.

BISHOP TALBERT: Isn't something coming on that, I believe?

SANDRA W. LUTZ: Yes, there is a reference to the Board of Discipleship.

BISHOP TALBERT: There is something coming on that. All right, I'm ready for the next calendar item, Financial Administration, I believe.

### *Shared Salary Plan*

CASHAR EVANS (North Carolina): Page 387 of the blue *DCA*, Calendar Item 1683, page 362 of the red *DCA*, right column, third of the way down, Petition 20499. Subject, shared salary plan option. Committee recommendation, nonconcurrence, vote 62 for, 16 against, 2 abstentions. I would move the committee's recommendation.

BISHOP TALBERT: It is before us, any discussion? Yes, in the rear. Microphone 11.

SUE C. JARRETT (West Virginia): I stand to speak against the vote of nonconcurrence. Often we form opinions based primarily on our own frames of reference. This leads us not only to myopic vision, but limited understanding. I ask you to consider the small-membership churches across this land and this globe. This petition only asks for permission for each annual conference to decide whether or not it wishes to consider and practice appointment-making and salary-setting in more flexible consultative ways.

To vote against nonconcurrence will strengthen churches and the church, offering to those thousands of churches, with little resources and even less voice in this great connection of ours, an opportunity to explore clustering of appointments and other configurations, which will offer hope and new life to churches, by making possible strong effective informed leadership, which the church at all levels so desperately needs.

BISHOP TALBERT: All right. Any further discussion of this calendar item? Yes, right in front here. Go to microphone 9.

SUSAN DAVIES, (Nebraska): I, too, would like to speak against the committee's recommendation. I served on the subcommittee that considered this item. And we put forth a substitution that incorporated several of the items that came from the different conferences, cabinets, rural fellowship, and others to address this issue.

And I would like us to seriously consider the ways in which we might be flexible at this time, that we might put this back into the opportunity of the conference to look at its own situation. And that this is certainly a time when our conference is looking at flexibility and things that are close to each individual setting's appropriateness. We could present at this time a motion for substitution of the item that we presented in our subcommittee and was supported by that subcommittee. If that's proper, I would do so.

BISHOP TALBERT: Well, you've spoken against this one, I think you need to make your motion before you speak. So I'll have to move on to the next person. Microphone 14.

DONALD R. HOUSE (Texas): I was on that subcommittee, as well, and we discussed the merits of this. The points that came out of our discussion really mainly were two. One is that we would like to retain the rights of the local church to determine the compensation of the minister. There are several reasons behind that, the main one is, we believe that the local church is in the standing that is best to determine that compensation.

The second point is that we don't believe that the conference is in a position to make that determination of any kind of salary scale. If you look at the resolution it indicates that the salary scale could be determined on the basis of the number of dependents, the amount of education, cost of living, and a variety of other factors. These things, we don't believe, necessarily might be related to the compensation of the minister. We believe that in the judgment of the local church those things that are most important to the church should be weighed, and not those things that might appear on a resume. So we are urging you to accept the recommendation of the committee, which is nonconcurrence.

BISHOP TALBERT: All right, thank you. Microphone 7.

JEAN-PIERRE DUNCAN (Wyoming): I'd like to ask a question, and then speak against nonconcurrence, if I may. The question is, is this petition that we're dealing with now the only chance that we will get to discuss shared salary of plenary?

BISHOP TALBERT: Can you answer that?

EVANS JR. (North Carolina): I don't have any others to discuss at this evening.

DUNCAN: Well, then, I might take this opportunity to speak against nonconcurrence. The issue of shared salary has been before the General Conference since 1972. It has been a part of our polity prior to that time, and a significant number of our annual conferences have been in support of such a plan. It is high time that we would give our annual conferences the option to care for making appointments to churches based, not upon salary structures, but rather upon the quality of the pastoral care needed for a particular church.

Too many times, churches which need pastors with particular skills, are not able to have such persons appointed to them because those persons are considered to be a little higher on the salary scale. Allowing annual conferences the option of standardizing salaries appropriately could enable conferences to care for such churches.

BISHOP TALBERT: All right. Are you ready? OK, over here. Number 4.

CHARLES E. LIPPSE (Holston): I'd like to speak in support of nonconcurrence. It's a similar argument to the other one put forward, but I'd like to underscore even more that it is the Charge Conference that sets the salary, and we've talked about connection. That's when the superintendent is present. I think some similarities to the issue that was before us at the last General Conference when we, as a General Conference, initially made health care mandatory for all the annual conferences.

Now, we're about to suggest that the annual conference can make mandatory the salary of the pastor. I believe that that's moving in the wrong direction, and the power of the Charge Conference in the local church needs to be protected.

BISHOP TALBERT: All right. Are we ready? We have three and three here now, and according to your rules, I think we need to turn to the committee. Is there something other than debate? All right, a motion to substitute. Let's try. I'm recognizing microphone 8.

*Summary of Shared Salary*

THOMAS R. BOLLER (Yellowstone): I want you to know, there's nobody in this room more exhausted than I am tonight. But I'm not sure that this issue is going to come up again. I move to substitute petition 20499 with the following, beginning of paragraph 722 would read, "equitable commission/shared salary option plan therefore shall be in each annual conference, an equitable compensation plan or a shared salary plan."

The paragraph then will continue as it exists adding a new sub-paragraph after 11, and begin with 12. You can turn on page 362 in your red *DCA* and that, where it says 12.a you would strike the "a" and it would read, "an annual conference by two-thirds majority vote at any regular session may adopt a shared salary plan for the support of its active itinerant clergy and local pastors."

Then, point "b" would become "a." It would read, "the shared salary plan may allow for differences in years of service, educational levels, and other variables such as actual differences in

living costs, as the annual conference may approve."

"C" would become "b." "The amounts due from the pastoral charges shall be paid to a conference treasury established for that purpose, and all shared salaries due shall be paid from that treasury. The shared salary provided for each clergy under the plan shall constitute his/her entire cash compensation."

Point "d" becomes "c," and would read, "The Equitable Salary Commission shall administer the shared salary plan and the conference treasurer/director of administrative services shall be responsible for collecting and dispersing the funds."

Point "e" would become "d," "An annual conference which has elected to pay its salaries according to a shared salary plan as herein provided, may terminate the plan by a two-thirds majority vote of the annual conference at any regular session."

Point "f" would become "e," and it would read, "If adopted by an annual conference, this plan would constitute an exception to the authority granted in paragraphs 248.13, 257.3.f, 722.1 through 722.11, and the comparably related divisions of paragraph 270.2.f.4.

BISHOP TALBERT: All right, is that seconded. It is seconded. Anything further you want to say on it?

BOLLER: Bishop, there have, in the subcommittee, sub-subcommittee that we worked on this particular reading of this proposal, we dealt with about 15 different petitions on shared salaries. The committee worked hard to take the best out of each of those, to try to use language that would be faithful with the needs of annual conferences. We consulted with representatives from the General Board of Pensions to check and see if the language would be such that it could be workable within the pension plans, and we tried to give as much leniency and openness to the proposal that annual conferences would have a great deal of control over the design; it would take two-thirds vote for them to adopt it, and two-thirds vote for them to end it. It seems to me that, if we have that many folks that would like to try it, we don't have to make it mandatory, but we can sure give them permission to try.

BISHOP TALBERT: All right. This is before us. Right here. Microphone 7.

MARVIN H. MCCALLUM (Detroit): Bishop, on a similar matter, yesterday, we moved that this be referred until we could have it printed in the *DCA*. I would move the same for this, and if it's in order to make a second motion, I would move that we close debate on all that's before us.

BISHOP TALBERT: You can't do the second part. If you're going to refer this, it takes with this, until this whole matter is dealt with. All right, we'll take your first one, and if the body refers it, then that's it on this one until it's printed, and then it comes back before the body. Is that your motion, to refer it?

MCCALLUM (Detroit): Yes sir.

BISHOP TALBERT: Is that seconded? Yes. On the referral. It's too late to get it in tomorrow's *DCA*, you need to understand that. All right. Number 8.

JERRY J. SMITH (Southwest Texas): Bishop, I speak against referral. I was on the legislative committee, and I voted for this proposal that my friend, Tom, just brought. It was defeated. It seems to me strange for us to try to do the work of a legislative committee on this floor. If we could not get it past the legislative committee, we ought to vote nonconcurrence. That's the reason I'm against referral. I think we ought to handle the thing tonight.

BISHOP TALBERT: All right, the motion of reference is before us. Yes, on the reference. When I get this one done, I want us to get out of here. All right, number 9.

SUSAN P. DAVIES (Nebraska): Bishop, I understand what Jerry is saying about this. However, I think we're in a different situation since both the Legislative Committee on Local Church and also on Conferences have put forth legislation that would support this idea of the shared salary plan. So I think it is worthy of the full body considering it.

BISHOP TALBERT: All right, over here. Microphone 5.

AL GWINN (Kentucky): Bishop, I move that we suspend Rule 36 in order that we might vote on all that is before us.

BISHOP TALBERT: All right, that motion is before you. If you would cut off debate, that's what that rule is, I believe, you would vote "yes." If you would not, vote "no." Vote when the light appears. [817 approved]

You're ready to cut off debate, so what's before us is the substitute, no, the referral. Sorry. The referral. If you will vote to refer this, vote "yes;" if not, vote "no." Vote when the light appears. [Results: yes, 290; no, 621] Substitute does not prevail.

What's before us now is Item 1683. If you will support it, you'll vote yes; if you do not, vote no. Vote when the light appears. [Results: yes, 676; no, 226] All right, you've sustained the committee, and you have voted nonconcurrence.

This is it for calendar items. We turn now to the secretary to do a couple things. First of all, I want her to read the rule regarding the Goldschmidt request earlier. Could you share that with us, secretary?

CAROLYN MARSHALL: In the rules of the conference, VIII.A.2.b. reads: "To assure that when a calendar item approved on the Consent Calendar or under an omnibus vote is found to be in conflict with parts of another calendar item discussed and voted upon at a plenary session, the item discussed and voted shall prevail."

BISHOP TALBERT: All right, I think that takes care of that. All right. We're ready now for the Committee on Presiding Officers and the Committee on Agenda and Calendar.

C. REX BEVINS (Nebraska): Bishop and members of the conference, the presiding officers for Thursday, April 25th are as follows: Thursday morning, Bishop Joseph Yeakel of the Washington Area;

Thursday afternoon, Bishop William Oden of the Louisiana Area; Thursday evening, Bishop C.P. Minnick of the Raleigh Area.

BISHOP TALBERT: All right. Calendar and Agenda.

*Planned Phone Call to Bishop Ndoricimpa Announced*

SARAH S. MILLER (Wyoming): Thank you, Bishop. When we first came to conference, we heard about Bishop Alfred Ndoricimpa, who was denied a visa to come and join us. He's in Burundi. We've arranged for a telephone conversation with him 10 minutes tomorrow, right after worship. Hope you'll all be here and in your places for that. Also tomorrow morning, we'll consider the General Board of Global Ministries Site Location.

In the afternoon, there'll be presentations by the directors of the General Council on Finance and Administration, followed by presentation of the budget. We'll elect members of the University Senate, and alternates for the Judicial Council, and many more calendar items. We have a graph to show us how far we are now. We're coming along.

BISHOP TALBERT: All right, I saw this card. What is it now? We've finished our business for tonight. What is your privilege? Number 2.

KEITH M. LADD (Eastern Pennsylvania): We know that friends of Charles Yrigoyen will be interested in knowing and saddened to hear that Chuck has had to leave this conference. Chuck's son is gravely ill, and has been taken back to the hospital with an undiagnosed illness. We know that you will hold Chuck, his son, and Jean in your prayers as they go through this trying time.

BISHOP TALBERT: Thank you very much. All right, announcements. Yes, what is this? Over here. Number 5.

WILLIAM LUX (Iowa): Bishop, as we look at those tired, haggard faces staring at the words concessions, men and women, the only things that we aspire to in the episcopacy, are those cool pitchers of water that we don't have access to. I'd recommend, Bishop, that we be able to bring bottles of water tomorrow and place them on the floor, if we can't place them on the tables. And if we can't do that, hide your pitchers of water up there, so we can't see them. [*laughter, applause*]

BISHOP TALBERT: They heard you. Secretary.

MARSHALL: Perhaps the place to start with announcements tonight would be to reply to that one. I have been advised that, as a result of a note which has been passed up here during the evening about water, that we had planned to have water stations available; they were to have been set up today, and obviously, that did not happen. At this point, they're promising us that they will be set up tomorrow.

Now for a couple of announcements of committees that need to meet yet tonight. I note your enthusiasm. [*laughter*] The General and Judicial Administration Committee must meet briefly this evening. They will meet in room A207, A207 for the General and Judicial Administration legislative committee.

One other meeting, Ordained and Diaconal Ministry leadership team will meet immediately following adjournment in room A106. Bishop, that completes the announcements.

All right, Bishop Kelly, will you come now and dismiss us for the evening.

BISHOP LEONTINE T.C. KELLY: [*prayer*]

BISHOP TALBERT: Thank you. Until tomorrow.

## Thursday Morning April 25, 1996

*Bishop Joseph H. Yeakel, presiding*

*(song)*

BISHOP YEAKEL: Now will you please be seated, and as I indicated earlier, we will extend this period of time together and reach out across the miles to Nairobi where Bishop Alfred Ndoricimpa is on the line. And I've asked Bishop Solomon to lead us in that conversation with Bishop Ndoricimpa, and if some of you may wish to raise a question with the bishop, would you go to a microphone and I'll try to recognize you at the appropriate time. If we don't have time you'll understand, but at least we'd be prepared. Bishop Solomon.

*Telephone Conversation with Bishop Ndoricimpa*

BISHOP SOLOMON: Thank you Bishop Yeakel. Alfred, I'm going to take a moment to context this conversation for our delegates. To The United Methodist Church—those who are on this platform—are a council, but to those of us who are bishops, this our congregation. When we were elected bishops, our church membership was transferred from our home annual conference to the council. We left one home to enter another one. Think of your own congregation this morning where you share life and love and leadership, where you hurt and hope and do so in community. Then you will now understand when I say to Alfred, we long to be with you that our joy may be complete. Alfred, we greet you in the name of the blessed Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and ask you now to share a word of greeting with this 1996 General Conference.

BISHOP NDORICIMPA: Thank you very much. On behalf of Burundi Annual Conference of Eastern and Central Africa, I want to express my deep appreciation for this opportunity to be able to greet the 1996 General Conference. Also, I want to take this opportunity to report on the critical condition in Burundi where the world keeps on going on. The entire country of Burundi has been affected whether it be the Hutus or the Tutsi are being forced to leave their homes and escape to the neighboring countries each day. People are leaving Burundi in great number. However, I want to express my deep appreciation to all those countries who are hosting these refugees who are hopeless. I'm most grateful to the churches in those countries where the refugees are going. It is there where there is special caring. It is my prayer that they will continue to do this.

BISHOP SOLOMON: Alfred, would you say a further word about the refugee situation as it now is?

BISHOP NDORICIMPA: It is bad, and they know that refugees leave their own place without notice. When they leave, they leave without food, no clothing, nothing, so in the places where they are going, you understand that they are suffering, no food, no clothes, no medicine. They are just suffering.

*Role of Church in Burundi*

BISHOP SOLOMON: What is the church doing to address the situation of the refugees?

BISHOP NDORICIMPA: What the church is doing is exactly what I'm doing. We just keep informing brothers and sisters across the world, if they could come to the assistance of the refugees in the countries where they are. And here I want to emphasize that I'm not talking only about the Burundi refugees, but I'm talking about the refugees in general in the region.

BISHOP SOLOMON: Alfred, there are persons gathered here at this General Conference who may wish to ask you a question, and I'm going to ask Bishop Yeakel to lead us in a few moments of conversation.

BISHOP NDORICIMPA: Thank you. I am ready to answer any question.

BISHOP YEAKEL: There's a woman at microphone 8, please.

L. CECILE ADAMS (Detroit): Hello, Bishop Ndoricimpa. Cecile Adams from Detroit.

BISHOP NDORICIMPA: Hello? Nice to hear your voice.

ADAMS: It's nice to talk with you. You and I have had conversations about the refugee children and youth in Kenya. Would you talk with us a little bit about the situation with those children and youth who were refugees in Kenya?

BISHOP NDORICIMPA: The refugees children in Kenya and the young people in Kenya as well as those young students who are at the university, they are here. They are more cared because, I want to express my deep appreciation to the General Board of Global Ministries, because they have been sending money to us to assist those children, and not only those children in Kenya, but also in Burundi.

BISHOP YEAKEL: Thank you, microphone 9, please.

J. LAVON KINCAID (Pittsburgh): We were together in August of last year, and I enjoyed our time together, and our prayers are with you. My question specifically is: Is there any word from you regarding the vision and goals for the Methodist Church in Uganda to become a conference with Rev. Solomon Mawanda? Can you share with us today regarding that question?

BISHOP NDORICIMPA: Yes, I am happy to answer the question. You know, this is not a question of which is left to me. In order to become an annual conference, the Uganda District will have to come from the decision of the whole annual conference if it has fulfilled all the requirements which is required any district in the country to become first a provisional annual conference, then after becoming provisional annual conference, to become full annual conference. We have to go through the proper channels of the committees.

BISHOP YEAKEL: Thank you. Let me go to microphone 7.

HORST KERSHER (German Southwest): Dear Bishop Alfred Ndoricimpa, we are in a special relationship with your Burundi Annual Conference. Our local congregations think of the Methodist people in Burundi every Sunday in their worship. However, we want to do more for your people. Please tell us what can we do in addition to our prayers to bring relief to those who are suffering?

BISHOP NDORICIMPA: Let me express my deep appreciation to The United Methodist Church in Germany for the relationship we have several of the years and for being sister annual conference. What you can do? You can send assistance to help the children in Kenya, young people in Kenya, refugees, as well the children who are orphans, who are in Burundi or in Tanzania or in Zaire. The need is enormous.

BISHOP YEAKEL: Thank you, number 11, please.

LAMONT COX (Liberia): Thank you very much, Bishop. Good morning, Bishop.

BISHOP NDORICIMPA: Good morning.

COX: I would like to find out from you, how would you relate the problems of your country to what is happening in Liberia now, and do you feel as to whether, despite what Burundi has undergone over the last few years, is the church still alive and is it growing, and what may account for this? Thank you.

*Causes of Strife in Burundi*

BISHOP NDORICIMPA: Thank you very much. I may have an unhappy answer to your question. Number one, the problem of Burundi, how it is related to the problem in Liberia, I want to tell you, in one way there is some kind of difference. Because Burundi problem, is mainly those people who have been in power, the minority group who is in power, particularly the military, the army who's been in power for so long, so they don't want civilians to come in power. The military in Burundi wants to keep controlling. Then the civilians want say that now enough is enough for the army to keep controlling us for 35 years. Civilians feel that they want to come in control through elections—popular elections, democratic—popular elections of the people. But the army wants to come in power by guns. So in Liberia, I don't know exactly. It would be different issue, but what I want to tell you all these problems in Africa, if you are asking me if they are related, yes, in one way there is someone behind all these problems in Africa. Why? These people in Liberia or Burundi are not, they don't manufacture guns. Who are supplying these arms to the Liberians or Burundians? This is a question mark.

BISHOP YEAKEL: Thank you. We have one more question, and then Bishop Solomon will talk with you, Alfred. At microphone 6.

J. FAY CLEVELAND (Western New York): Bishop Ndoricimpa, sister conference to Burundi, asking you, sir, if you could give a word about the pastors and churches where we have been so interested and supportive of developing the ministry. Is there any word on the pastors and churches in Burundi?

*Status of Pastors in Burundi*

BISHOP NDORICIMPA: Yes, I have a word on that. Thank you for I hear your voice. As you know, as I said that the war is still going on some places such as Etega or Kayero or Moreje, you know the place? Moreje is doing very well. Kayero is doing very well. Etega—not very well because the armies killing people day by day. For the last two weeks, I don't have news about my pastors in Etega, but in Kayero, Moreje the churches are doing very well. And I want to answer you this question which I even forgotten to answer. The previous person who asked me the question from Liberia. You know the church belongs to God, and God always has grace for people even if someone may want destroy the people, God is there to protect them.

BISHOP YEAKEL: Alfred, we rejoice that we have this privilege of conversation with you this morning. Two concluding comments: one, would you share a brief word as to how your family is doing.

BISHOP NDORICIMPA: The family is doing very well. The pastors who are with me in Kenya are doing very well. The lay people who are with me in Kenya are doing very well.

BISHOP SOLOMON: Alfred, an additional word, as a citizen of the United States, I want to express to you profound apology for the unwillingness of the government of the United States to give you a visa that you could be here in your congregation this morning. And I'm going to ask, not only that we pray for you, but that we do that even in this moment. And I'm going to ask those who are gathered here to take the hand of someone who is near to you, as I share this prayer for you.

*Eternal God, whose grace and love know no limitations of time and space, and yet bring a hollowing to all time and space, uphold our brother Alfred and his familiy in the strength of faith and hope and love, that they may serve faithfully the calling to which you, oh God, have called them. And Alfred, we pray that the Lord will watch between you and all of us as we are physically absent one from another as we are united in the strong bonds of Jesus Christ. May God bless you richly, Alfred and your family, Amen.*

BISHOP YEAKEL: And Amen. Go in peace, Alfred. Thank you very much for sharing this time together. I'm sure you would want to sing as we are led, the chorus, and have the opportunity of regathering for the work of the day.

*[hymn]*

BISHOP YEAKEL: Before we begin our work, let me say thanks to all who led us this morning in the time of worship, to our preacher Bishop Boulton, to the Christ Church of the Deaf

Choir from Baltimore, Md., celebrating 100 plus years of ministry to the deaf community in that city. [*applause*]

And it would be most appropriate that we continue in the time of discernment now. So with this experience and this worship together, let us turn to each other, seeking the answers to the questions, "What is it that God has placed upon our hearts for this day, and what is it that we believe God wants of us this day." Let us discern together. [*conversation*] Now let us share in our time of intercessory prayer.

*[The Lord's Prayer]*

BISHOP YEAKEL: Let me recognize Jim Lawson at microphone 4.

JAMES LAWSON (California-Pacific): Bishop Yeakel, I rise to make a motion of personal privilege. I move that the historic addresses of Pastor William Quick and Mrs. Hillary Clinton be published in the *DCA*. [*applause*]

BISHOP YEAKEL: I think you have a second and a vote on that, and we will so do. We turn now for the Consent Calendar. OK Gerry Reist and Sarah Miller.

FITZGERALD REIST: Good morning. The calendar has some removals this morning. They are found on page 584. And there are some changes that I would ask you to make in your copies of the *DCA*. There is an additional removal, 1806, it's not actually a removal, it's a move from one calendar category to another. It was incorrectly recorded as nondisciplinary which put it in B06; it should have been in A05. Sorry, correct that, it was B05 and should have been in A05. They are both consent but it is a disciplinary item.

Then the Items 1900 and 1957 should have been added to A06; they were incorrectly recorded as C05. They should have been A06. They are consent items.

If you'll turn on page 543, Consent Calendar...I'm sorry. We had a late night last night and I'm afraid I have gotten myself a little confused. Consent Calendar A05 which begins on 445, has the correction of 1561, and includes the item 1806 that was on the Consent Calendar B05. Those are the only changes in Consent Calendar A05.

*Consent Calendars A05, B05, C05 Adopted*

BISHOP YEAKEL: Thank you. Now, Sarah Miller.

SARAH MILLER: Bishop, I move the adoption of Consent Calendar A05 with the additions and changes noted.

BISHOP YEAKEL: All right, the motion is to adopt. Please vote when the light appears. [784 approved] And the motion is adopted, the calendar is adopted.

REIST: The only other changes to Consent Calendar B05 are those that already noted in the calendar—the inclusion of 1410 and 1582.

BISHOP YEAKEL: And that begins on page 459.

MILLER: Bishop, I move the adoption of Consent Calendar B05 as explained.

BISHOP YEAKEL: All right, it is before you. Vote when the light appears. [752 approved] And B05 is adopted.

REIST: Consent Calendar C05 on page 464 is before you. There are no changes.

MILLER: Bishop, I move the adoption of Consent Calendar C05.

BISHOP YEAKEL: This is properly before you. Please vote when the light appears. [794 approved] And C05 is adopted. That brings our Consent Calendar in line?

REIST: Yes. Bishop, I'm not sure if I referred the delegates to page 584 for the removals; I thought I did, but I am not quite sure that I did lift those up.

BISHOP YEAKEL: You did refer us to that page.

REIST: Thank you.

BISHOP YEAKEL: We understand that they get to be long nights and we thank all of you for the work you are doing for us to facilitate our work here. Thank you very much. [*applause*]

BISHOP YEAKEL: I have been asked to remind you or to tell you that there are now water stations where the refreshments are in the surrounding areas of the bar of the conference, so if you need a glass of water you will know where to get it.

Now we are getting behind time in our work together. I see a number of folks who want special privilege. Microphone 10—we'll try you. Please make it quick, and if you will go over to microphone 7, I will call you in a moment and...with you.

JAMIE POTTER-MILLER (Western Pennsylvania): The headlines all over the papers this morning in Denver and other places proclaim to us that the Methodists have welcomed the First Lady and that the Methodists have taken certain actions. As the elder in the Johnstown District, privileged to share in supervising with the disciples of Jesus Christ in our part of Western Pennsylvania, I am blessed to be a part of the Wesleyan family. And, as Bishop Milhouse reminded us yesterday, I am deeply indebted to others in our lineage.

In this year of the 50th anniversary of the event that was held, by the way, in historic First Church in my hometown of Johnstown—the event that created the EUB Church—let us remember that not only those who, like myself, stood when Bishop Milhouse invited us, but all of us in The United Methodist Church have spiritual roots in the family trees of Albright, Otterbein, and Boehm. I hope that many of you will come to the party that we are planning in Johnstown this next November—it's going to be some party. And I hope that you will remember that we are all United Methodists. And I trust that with that on page 521 of today's *DCA* we will correct the word Johannesburg, Pa., and make it Johnstown, Pa. Thank you.

BISHOP YEAKEL: Thank you. Now microphone 7.

SHARIE MORGAN (North Indiana): I move that in a spirit of honesty

and openness, the Council of Bishops respond to the morale and the legislative authority of the General Conference. If I could have a second, I'll speak to the motion.

BISHOP YEAKEL: Would you be kind enough to tell me what you mean by the council respond? What is your desire of response?

MORGAN: I would like to have a response from the Council of Bishops to take home to our local churches.

BISHOP YEAKEL: I believe the council's response was printed in the *DCA* several days ago.

MORGAN: But we would like to have a response to the vote that was taken yesterday.

BISHOP YEAKEL: I don't understand your question. What vote are you referring to yesterday?

MORGAN: The votes that were taken yesterday during the session when we voted on the language of homosexuality in our *Discipline*.

BISHOP YEAKEL: I think the council is on record. I believe the word was "collectively and individually to uphold the actions of the General Conference." And I think that response is already before you.

MORGAN: Excuse me, sir, but we are receiving many phone calls from local churches. There is a great deal of confusion at home because of reports in the newspapers. We as lay delegates and perhaps some clergy delegates, we feel that we need to take a strong, concise statement from our Council of Bishops...

BISHOP YEAKEL: All right, let me interrupt you. Bishop White, Woodie White, are you present?

He is not present. I believe if he came to the platform and would make a statement, it would be to say that we have given you a precise response to the question you're raising.

MORGAN: Sir, that response was a response in response to the message given by 15 bishops. Since then other things have happened.

BISHOP YEAKEL: Ma'am, I really believe that you're out of order at this time. The council is not individually accountable to this particular part of the church. If it is a question of our personal accountability, it would be to the jurisdictional conferences. As a council, we have tried to speak in regard to that particular situation and to all of the surrounding concerns that have come forth, and I think that's the only answer I can give at this time. And I believe that is the correct answer.

MORGAN: Okay, I did receive a second, I'm not real familiar...

BISHOP YEAKEL: Well, I'm ruling your motion out of order at this time. Microphone 12. Microphone 12, please. Yes, you're going to come forward to number seven?

*Publishing Makes Offer on Hispanic Hymnal*

VERGIL L. DAUGHTERY (South Georgia): As a point of personal privilege, I wish to call to the attention of the General Conference an opportunity for mission related to a motion adopted on last Monday evening. The opportunity for mission appears on page 434 of the *Daily Christian Advocate* in an article entitled, "United Methodist Publishing House President Responds With a Mission Opportunity." Neil Alexander, the president and publisher of the United Methodist Publishing House, is offering to give one copy of the new Spanish hymnal at no charge to the United Methodist Hispanic Ministries when a delegate to the General Conference purchases one of the new Spanish hymnals. Delegates who wish to purchase and give a new Spanish hymnal for use in the mission and ministries of the United Methodist Hispanic Ministries will have their gift matched by a free gift of a Spanish hymnal from the United Methodist Publishing House. Distribution of these gifts of hymnals will be directed by the Committee on Hispanic Ministries. I know that each of the bishops on the stage, including my own bishop, Richard Looney, will want to lead the way in giving two of these hymnals. *(laughter)*

BISHOP YEAKEL: All right, thank you very much, I think we have the point. Will the chair of the committee, the calendar—no General and Jurisdictional Administration—we must go to business. Will you come, please, and orient us to the business at hand.

DAVID SEVERE (Oklahoma): Bishop, I believe we are to deal, are we not, with the site selection?

BISHOP YEAKEL: Yes we are.

SEVERE: All right. And, I believe the first thing is the report by Dr. Messer on the site selection committee. The delegates will note that the item was non-consented in the Legislative committee, and that appeared on the consent calendar and has now been approved by that process. But the report has not yet been made, and Dr. Messer is here to make that.

*History of the Site Selection Committee*

DONALD E. MESSER (Rocky Mountain): We in Denver are delighted that the weather has cooperated, and we hope you like our Rocky Mountain springtime. We hope that this will also be a day of renewal and joy for our conference as we deal with the issue which has perplexed and troubled our church for some years. God is calling us in many directions, and I can assure you that four years ago I never expected to be called to deliver this particular report. But we respond to the call of our bishops and our leaders of our church, and we do the task that is presented to us in as open and as honest and as fair and as firm a fashion as possible.

The 1988 General Conference established a task force to study the feasibility of relocating the General Board of Global Ministries. That report was presented to us at the 1992 General Conference in which that task force by a divided voted of nine to four recommended that it was feasible to relocate the General Board of Global Ministries. A key portion of that report, prepared by Price Waterhouse, suggested a relocation was feasible, and I quote, "Further study and analysis are warranted." If you will turn in your red books to page

683, you will find there a complete report from the 1996 Site Selection Task Force.

The 1992 General Conference received the report from the task force to study the feasibility of relocating the General Board of Global Ministries. Those familiar with that debate will know that it was contentious and close at many points. The report was debated in its entirety, and it was the determination of this General Conference to amend the report's recommendations in three important ways. Number one, there was a motion which passed on this floor which changed one fundamental recommendation of that report. The original recommendation was the task force would have responsibility to have completed the relocation move already by this time, or at least to have worked out all the financing and details. The 1992 General Conference determined in its wisdom, however, that this was not the proper way to proceed, and that a report should be given to this '96 General Conference giving in detail a site, plans for such a location, and all funding sources and aspects.

A second motion was made and passed overwhelmingly by a vote of 721 to 238 that three members of the task force should be representative of the central conferences. They had not been a part of that deliberation, and the location of the General Board of Global Ministries is very, very important to members of the central conferences. And, therefore, the task force was expanded to include three members of the central conferences. And finally, by motion of this body a third amendment was inserted which insured that one of the 13 persons be a youth delegate or representative.

The 1992 General Conference then, after these recommendations were amended, voted by a very close margin of 485 to 470 that they approved the conclusion that it was feasible to move the General Board of Global Ministries from its present location at 475 Riverside Drive in New York City.

Secondly, they directed that the General Board of Global Ministries headquarters be moved from New York City.

Third, they established a Site Selection Task Force which was empowered to select a new site for the General Board of Global Ministries headquarters. The membership was specified, as you will see in the report, to include three persons who previously served on the '92 task force, three persons who would be named by the General Board of Global Ministries, two persons to be named from the General Council on Finance and Administration, two persons from the General Council on Ministries, as well as the three persons from the central conferences. And, you will see that they have served faithfully from Angola, the Philippines, and Sweden.

A relocation coordinator was approved by action of this body so that we would have in detail the best analysis of all possible sites and locations and have a professional firm handling this task.

Finally, they approved, as I have said, that we are to bring to you a site plans for such location and all funding sources and aspects. The body, itself once assembled under the leadership of the Council of Bishops, elected its own officers, and you will see, they are listed. The task force held 14 meetings plus spent over two weeks in five visits to selected cities. Never has it been my privilege to work with a more dedicated group of laity and clergy anywhere. Those 14 meetings plus two weeks of intensive day and night work, had 100 percent participation at every meeting, and ultimately comes before this body with a unanimous report on the site, on the plans for such location, and all funding sources and aspects. Diverse as we were, from around the world and from all the respective agencies and previous task force, we reached a unanimous conclusion after full participation.

*Site Selection Committee Budget*

The budget was $400,000 plus various travel expenses which were to be paid by the agencies we represented, and contributed staff services. The costs of the study were enormous. As you can see, on page 313 in the red book, the estimated travel expenses costed out to the various agencies—General Board of Global Ministries, General Council on Finance and Administration, General Council on Ministries as of Dec. 31, 1995—was $112,000. Add that to approximately $400,000 and you can see that the cost well exceeded $520,000 thousand, and not counting the hours and days of work of the staff of the General Council of Finance and Administration, General Council on Ministries, and the General Board of Global Ministries.

*Qualifications of Reston, VA.*

The site selection committee reviewed proposals from 21 firms and interviewed four, and hired the nationally respected firm of Cushman & Wakefield which has offices throughout the United States to do the professional analysis. Critical to our work was to determine the community criteria where we would locate the General Board of Global Ministries. Our task force never considered the possibility of staying in New York City, because this body determined it was to move. But we knew we must find an inclusive cosmopolitan community affording access to a pool of competent workers who are multi-racial, multi- cultural, and international in background with a variety of language skills other than English. In selecting Reston, Va., we found such a location.

Secondly, we had, as our community criteria, good affordable housing of various kinds: apartments, houses for general and executive staff, in neighborhoods that are racially and culturally inclusive and economically integrated. Our task force members visited actual homes and places that were available in the area. Reston,

Va., has been an inclusive, integrated community in Virginia from its inception, a planned community.

Third, it must have a good educational system. Fairfax County in Virginia has one of the finest educational systems which can be demonstrated by many many surveys.

Fourth, it had to have an international airport with convenient accessibility to flights to a wide variety of international destinations in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. The value of Reston, Va., is that we got not just one international airport, but we got two international airports, Dulles, which will be just a few miles away, and Baltimore International Airport, which is in close proximity. In addition, National Airport, which serves broadly throughout the United States.

A fifth community criteria was that it must be in a place where there is a large base of United Methodist members and strong local churches. Well, Virginia is the conference with the largest United Methodist membership. There are United Methodist churches in the nearby vicinity of the proposed location, plus it has a beautiful ecumenical witness, with the Interface Center of Reston, where they work together to deal with the homeless in Reston, and to struggle with the social problems of that community.

Sixth, it must have access to consular offices, both to facilitate the securing needed travel documents and communications with governments. No place in the world better than Washington, D.C. for those purposes.

And finally, among those criteria, I lift up the need for having excellent higher educational institutions in the vicinity. And here again we are proud to have a United Methodist University, American University, pledging its cooperation with the General Board of Global Ministries if moved to Reston, Va., and the excellent services and facilities of Wesley Theological Seminary.

*Facilities Criteria*

The site selection criteria included needed to have work space which was at least equivalent in size to present space. Our facilities in New York City are first-class quality at a low rental cost of just over $13 [per square foot]. We needed to have equivalent facilities. We do not need luxury facilities, but we do not need a warehouse. We just need equivalent first-class facilities to facilitate the mission work of our church throughout the world for Christ's sake.

Therefore, we did detailed analysis of the facilities and determined that we needed approximately 120,000 sq. ft., plus we needed space for the chapel, the cafeteria, elevator, heating, cooling systems, and library, all of which need to be moved. These had to be cost-effective facilities, whether we owned them or leased them, whether they were existing or built to suit. It had to be fully wired and capable for computer network and communication needs. It had to have parking facilities for our persons, and many other of the criteria.

The Site Selection Committee began with a list composed from computer analysis and advice from our professional consultants of 23 cities. We examined those cities in detail, and reached a unanimous decision to narrow the list to five metropolitan areas: Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas, Denver, and Washington D.C., speaking alphabetically. We received appeals from two cities—Kansas City and Indianapolis—and we considered those appeals but decided that these five were still our unanimous decision because they best met the criteria.

Now, I admit that my preference was for Denver, and after you have experienced this city, you will see why. But it was not the prevailing view. It was, based on the best analysis that we could make, that the best two cities to narrow the selection were Chicago and Washington D.C. That was the unanimous decision, and none of the three other cities chose to appeal. Therefore we did an intensive analysis of nearly 20 specific building sites, or buildings existing, in Washington D.C. and Chicago metropolitan areas. And then, by a unanimous decision, we decided, a build-to-suit location in Reston, Va., would best serve the Board of Global Ministries if we are moving from New York City.

Unfortunately, it costs a great deal of money to relocate. That is why this General Conference ordered us to do intensive studies; because you wanted to be in a position where you are not in a predicament in the future; that you would vote with the full facts before you. Unfortunately, the estimated total cost came to nearly $42 million. You will see those major expense categories and estimated amounts: the personnel related costs, the land acquisition, the office building and parking structure, the other developers' costs, and additional tenants costs. You have seen, for example, proposals circulated that things could be done cheaper. I can assure you I have had all proposals analyzed by our professionals of Cushman & Wakefield, and I have discovered exactly where the differences are and prepared to answer those if that question should arise. It is very important that we not be excessive in our cost, but it is extremely urgent that we be realistic about the facts. No contracts have been signed, but the price of the land has been guaranteed and we have an option to buy if that should be the wish of this General Conference. You will note in that report that we said that if there were any revised estimates, we would print those in the final editing of the *Daily Christian Advocate* as General Conference opened. I, therefore, went to the General Council on Finance and Administration and to our professional consultants over a month ago and said, "Our estimates were as of the end of September. Would you review these figures? Is there a deviation? Is there a way to report that the costs will increase or decrease?" And they—the General Council on Finance and Administration staff, who have worked so faithfully and diligently in this

task—reported that these are the best estimates that we can give you at this time.

*Necessity of Borrowing Funds*

Unfortunately, there are no funds or funding sources presently available in our great church. The General Council On Finance and Administration has explored all the financing options and could be prepared to answer questions if asked. But I can assure you that we do not have those funds. Therefore, it would be necessary to borrow at estimates based on 8 percent over 15 years. The previous task force suggested possibly 8 percent over 20 years. So it could vary. The cost of interest could go up or down. But anyway, these are the best estimates that the General Council on Finance and Administration can provide today. Therefore, we would need to borrow this $42 million. Our belief is that once relocation was completed in 1998, there would be an estimated savings of $850,000 annually. That's the good news. The bad news is that it would cost us $4,935,000 per year from apportioned general church funds over a period of 15 years. This raises the total approximate cost of moving from New York City to our new location proposed, to approximately $72 million. This would raise your apportionments approximately 4 percent annually for the next 15 years. At the conclusion of that 15 year period we would have a valuable asset which would, of course, increase in value over the years, and we would have our own facility for the General Board of Global Ministries much as we do for other agencies of the church.

*Summary of Site Selection Proposal*

Thus, the recommendations of the task force are as follows: that the General Board of Global Ministries site be on a specific parcel of land in Reston, Virginia; the General Board of Global Ministries be authorized to construct on this site according to the specifications cited in our report; that the General Conference go on record endorsing the principle of the ongoing mission work of the church to the General Board of Global Ministries be continued; and that the costs related to this headquarters relocation are not to be paid from or impact negatively funds intended to support that work; that all expenses will be paid from the apportioned General Fund receipts which you will so generously give; and that the General Board of Global Ministry be authorized to borrow the needed money. The General Board of Global Ministry will have authority for carrying out this General Conference action, but in the event of unforeseen circumstances, General Council on Finance and Administration will be authorized to grant additional amounts from appropriate funds in the church's eight general funds. This relocation process can be completed with a new building and relocation by January 1998, and the staff moved. The best recommendation of all is the final recommendation unanimously agreed to by the task force. And that is that the Site Selection Task Force would be dismissed by this General Conference. Thank you.

BISHOP YEAKEL: Thank you Dr. Messer.*[applause]* The chair needs to remind the body that this was a commission set up by the General Conference and therefore the report here is appropriate and proper; however, you have already acted upon this report on page 360 of the blue *DCA*, Calendar Item 1363, which is on the Consent Calendar indicates a unanimous vote in the committee; 88 for, zero against, that nonconcurrence with this proposal was adopted. There is, however, at least one minority report that should come to you at this time and I'll call on the chair, David Severe, to bring this to us.

DAVID SEVERE: Bishop, there was an additional motion or petition, rather, in our committee, and it was acted upon. Harriet Olson, who chaired that subcommittee, will present the majority report and then Patricia Miller and Joe Whittemore will present the minority report on that petition.

BISHOP YEAKEL: All right. And the petition is on 360, I'm sorry, 481 number 1996. Is that correct?

*Majority Report for Nonconcurrence*

HARRIET JANE OLSON (Northern New Jersey): That's correct, Bishop. Calendar Item 1996 appears on page 481 of the blue *DCA*. The Bishop has already indicated that the house has supported the committee's decision of nonconcurrence with the report of the Site Selection Committee. But as you find this item that we propose for action today, I think it's appropriate to say here what we said in our legislative committee, which is that we appreciate the degree of effort and attention that was given to this effort by the task force. You will see that one of the things that we express in this motion is appreciation for the work of the Site Selection Task Force. We are grateful for the time that they spent with us in our grappling with the report and the recommendation that's brought to you.

However once we had reached the conclusion to non concur with the Site Selection Task Force we had a selection of other petitions in front of us, and we grappled with several issues. One of them was the great concern that has been expressed throughout the church about the proposed move. Another issue is our concern about stewardship, about the financial impact that Dr. Messer has already described. We're also concerned about whether we are in a good position at the present time make decisions about what kind of a facility we need. We had already heard a presentation on the global nature of the church. You have already adopted that.

We will be looking toward multilateral resourcing for mission. Our view in the committee was that we're not sure that we currently know what kind of a facility it is that we will need by the year 2000 or by the year 2004. Finally, we struggled with being faithful to the action of the 1992 confer-

ence in expressing a desire to move from New York. And the result of that struggle is the majority report which you see before you at 1996.

The effort here is to recognize the prior work, to take into account the uncertainties about the needs for a facility that will result from the possible restructuring in the global nature of the church report. To recognize the issues raised about the New York location in 1992, and also to address the concerns we have about the expenditure of additional funds. You'll note that the majority report does not call for additional budgeting, refers the issue to a standing joint task force, and does not call for the presentation of a specific recommendation of a site from which to move in the year 2000. The majority of the committee thinks that this is a proper way to resolve this issue, and we recommend it to you today.

BISHOP YEAKEL: All right thank you. Now there is a minority report.

*Minority Report for Concurrence*

PATRICIA MILLER (South Indiana): Bishop, brothers and sisters of General Conferences. We celebrate the wisdom of this and previous General Conferences in providing an avenue for a variety of views to be heard. Our legislative committee, as you've already heard, unanimously rejected the site selection report. It seems reasonable to ask: have we spent four years, $300,000 and produced a recommendation which apparently not one single delegate can support? We believe our church is calling for stewardship and responsibility in our decision making process. Since the site selection report has already been rejected, this conference has not been presented with a proposal that enjoys the support of any segment of the church. Without a viable alternative, this conference has not had the opportunity to make a decision. The minority report would solve this problem. The majority report would delegate the responsibility for reconsideration of this major decision to a committee thus denying the General Conference, in the year 2000, the opportunity to weigh alternatives. Our minority report on the other hand calls for the General Conference to make the final location decision after review by the standing joint committee. We are confident the best answer to this solution can only be made by General Conference itself. Without question there are enormous operating costs savings available from alternative locations thereby making more resources available for mission. We believe our minority report provides a way to evaluate the alternatives and present the best of them to the next General Conference for consideration. We think it is tremendously important for us to accept the responsibility and the opportunity that the church has given us. I would urge your favorable consideration of the minority report.

BISHOP YEAKEL: All right thank you. Now you should be on page 481 of the blue book, item 1996. Since there is a majority/minority report we will need to perfect them and then you will vote on them appropriately. First of all, we will go to the majority report which is in the middle column, and to the right column you see the words minority report. We're down to that point. What is in order right now are motions to perfect the majority report and most importantly the two parts of the recommendation numbers one and two on the right hand column. Are there any motions to perfect the majority report. That's all we're doing. We're not making speeches for or against. I see no one going to a microphone. I do see a card now yes. Will you come to microphone 9? Microphone 9.

PHILLIP CONNOLLY (West Ohio): I'd like to move to amend the majority report by dropping the, deleting the words following the word "*Discipline*" and inserting the following in it's place. "Evaluate the East Point Georgia proposal and adopt that proposal unless proponents of some other suitable location put forth an even less expensive proposal which saves even more funds for mission. If I can have a second I'll speak to it.

BISHOP YEAKEL: Is there a second? I hear a second. You may speak.

*East Point Proposal*

CONNOLLY: The East Point proposal before us clearly demonstrates that there are other opportunities that we've not adequately examined. I feel that the church deserves a full opportunity to look at the other proposals. This will give us an opportunity to move ahead and not continue to deal with this matter for year after year and allow the General Board of Global Ministries to get on with their work.

BISHOP YEAKEL: All right thank you. Be sure the body knows where you are. This is under point number 2 of the majority report the right hand column in the middle. if you count up the one, two three, the fourth, one, two, three, four, the fifth line from the bottom where it says review the suitability of New York. It would turn us toward the East Point situation in Georgia. Is there a speech against this particular amendment? You're speaking against the amendment. I can't see beyond..yes the.. right here on the... yes ma'am. This is a speech against this amendment? Yes.

SHARON HOWELL (Kansas East): What is the East Point proposal? It's not before us that I know about.

BISHOP YEAKEL: May we have a brief definition of the East Point proposal? If you will allow the chair, I think the Georgia people around Atlanta did make a specific proposal to the commission and it was visited, or at least it was reviewed. Dr. Messer is that not correct? Is this..This is for information the East Port proposal.

MESSER: The East Point Georgia proposal was never formally presented to the Site Selection Task Force though we visited Atlanta, Georgia and visited with the governor, business officials, and church leaders of Georgia. This proposal has been circulated in this body this week but never formally presented to the

site relocation. An analysis, however, has been done by Cushman & Wakefield.

BISHOP YEAKEL: Well I think that might be argument. I think you've described the proposal and thank you for that. That answers your question. Now let me, right here in the center please. Section C which microphone is closest to you? Go to microphone 8 please. We're on the amendment only.

LUCILLE VANZANT (Oklahoma): I stand to speak against this proposal because not long ago I flew to Atlanta. I could have flown to New York City at half the price because from Oklahoma City to Dallas is one leg, and from Dallas to Atlanta was another leg. From Dallas to Atlanta, that last part of the leg, cost more than a round trip ticket to New York City. People, I stand as an example of a person in many instances who sacrifice her own money to get United Methodist meetings wherever they are. And I don't see the need of me spending my mission money trying to make our church look good for some reason never spoken, undercurrent, and never intentioned to be in mission. We can certainly use that money to put a day—care center in every city where there is a Methodist church and help our children become United Methodists for the world. Thank you.

BISHOP YEAKEL: All right, speech for and a speech against. In the middle over here of section D. Number 9 please.

*Speeches For and Against East Point Amendment*

ROBERT SWEET (New England): Bishop, it would be helpful to me, in knowing how to vote on this, if I could have the information that the consulting firm has discovered in looking at the East Point proposal. I wonder if we could ask Dr. Messer to share that information with us.

BISHOP YEAKEL: Well, the reason I stopped him when I did, was that, as I understand the amendment, it would turn this responsibility toward this particular project and make it the comparative for everything else that the committee did, so I didn't think you needed the details about what had already been done. It's whether the body wishes to identify a specific place that would be used then as the rule of thumb for all the rest of the work. I think that's the intent of the amendment; and that's why I didn't proceed in that way. Would the body support me in that, or do you want this information? If you'd support me, would you lift the hand, if not would you lift the hand. I believe I have the support of the body, and we will proceed.

I'm going to take the person off to the left there, giving me green on one side, yes, I know there are multiple cards. Number 9. We're on the amendment only. I had a speech for and a speech against. And which way will you be speaking, sir.

STEPHEN T. DECKARD (North Central New York): I'm speaking against. I believe we have addressed this when we approved the interactive study committee. In point six of that study, we adopted a way to look at this. I'm a former forestry student. And it appears to me that we are spending a lot of time looking at individual trees, when what we need to do is to consider the worldwide forest. I would encourage us to go back to the main motion, to defeat this minority motion, and to give our church a chance to work together, to look at the many options that involve the world, the world community, and what we're really about around the world. Thank you.

BISHOP YEAKEL: All right, I need a speech in favor of this motion. I'll take the gentlemen right here next to microphone 8.

AFONSO ZUMO (Western Angola): [*translated*] Thank you very much. My brothers and sisters, dear bishops, we just heard about the problems in Burundi and problems in many other parts of the world, and we consider these questions. We need to consider the conferences outside the United States. We understand that the relocation implies heavy expenses, and there is the need to help the peoples, who have needs as we have seen. Why do we consider incurring this heavy expense instead of helping the people who need our help? If there is money for the relocation, we should use that money to give help to the people who need it. Thank you very much. Those are my thoughts.

BISHOP YEAKEL: All right. Thank you. I have two speeches for and two against. It's time for the break this morning. Is it possible you could decide on this amendment? We will then, in a moment, take the recess, and when we come back we'll continue to perfect the majority report. It's obvious we're not going to get it all done before the break time. If you would be willing to vote, would you lift the hand. If not would you lift the hand. You are willing to vote. If you favor this...

HARRIET J. OLSEN (Northern New Jersey): Bishop, may I speak to this?

BISHOP YEAKEL: Yes, yes you may speak. If you favor the amendment, you would vote "yes," of course, and it would be for setting this potential site in Georgia as the primary and rule of thumb point for the rest. I think, if with that, will you speak please.

OLSEN: Thank you, bishop. The committee did not have the analysis from Cushman & Wakefield. I can't tell you that they've looked at it. I have a list of questions that they've raised about the proposal, but I don't think that that would help the body. What I want to suggest, at this point, is that this amendment would make the majority report much more like the minority, That if you are asking for a specific proposal to be brought back to the conference of 2000, you have an opportunity to do that. It's not our feeling that the...we did receive information about the East Point proposal, but it did not appear to us to be one that we would recommend to you. And we would urge that you reject this amendment.

BISHOP YEAKEL: All right. Thank you. We are now ready to vote. If you favor the .. What is your point of order, please? Number 7.

PAUL R. ERVIN JR (North Georgia): I believe we've had two speeches against and no speeches for.

BISHOP YEAKEL: We've had two speeches for and two speeches against, and I asked if the conference was ready to vote, and I had an almost unanimous vote on that, and so I'm moving forward on the amendment only.

ERVIN: We've had two speeches for?

BISHOP YEAKEL: Yes, sir. The original maker of the speech, and there was another speech that I noted in favor of it. That's what my tally has.

ERVIN: Who was that? I'm just asking the question. Could this person stand?

BISHOP YEAKEL: I can't...I don't have the notation on that one, Paul. I have notes here, two for and two against. What's your tally show?

ERVIN: I heard the original speaker and two against. You asked if there was one for...

*East Point Defeated*

BISHOP YEAKEL: All right, you want another speech? Does the body wish to return and get one more speech in favor? Let me ask you to record this vote. If you wish me to open it up for one more speech, you will vote yes; if not, vote no. Please vote when the light appears. [Results: yes, 335; no, 606] All right, it is lost on the two—to—one vote, so we will proceed now. We've had the speech, and we're ready to vote on the amendment only. The last five lines of item number two, substituting the amendment that would make East Point the primary site unless other sites could be proven more appropriate. Is that a correct, or generally correct restatement of the amendment? Please vote when the light appears. 276 for, 672 against. The amendment is lost. When we come back after the break, we'll continue perfection. Will you give Bishop Fannin your attention, please.

*Kelly Clem Introduced, Speaks*

BISHOP ROBERT E. FANNIN: Thank you, Bishop Yeakel. General Conference, delegates. On March the 27th, 1994, while preaching in another part of my area in North Alabama, I received a phone call telling me that a tornado had hit one of our churches in the Piedmont area. I later found out that it was the Goshen United Methodist Church. I immediately left for Goshen. When I arrived, I found myself trying to find cover, for another tornado was following the same path. Visiting the hospitals where the injured had been taken, it soon became apparent that the reports were correct. Twenty persons had lost their lives in the sanctuary of Goshen United Methodist Church. As the children were sharing their Palm Sunday pageant, seven children were to be counted among those who had been lost.

The witness of that congregation, their families, and friends caused my faith to be strengthened. At the very center of this shocking drama was the powerful, loving, pastoral witness of their pastor, the Rev. Kelly Clem. Having lost her own four year-old daughter, Hannah, Rev. Clem continued to minister in the midst of her own grief and shock to her people. Her powerful witness to the world shared with all a sign of the ultimate depth of the call of those serving in ministry in The United Methodist Church. Rev. Clem is a delegate to this General Conference. She would like a moment of special privilege to express her feelings surrounding your tremendous response to this tragedy. Because of your love from around the world, families are merging their grief and faith. The Goshen congregation and church are rebuilding. As we said that Easter morning in 1994, we are the Easter people. Rev. Kelly Clem and her husband and partner in ministry, the Rev. Dale Clem. *(applause)*

KELLY A. CLEM (North Alabama): Bishops, delegates, and guests, I did not ask for this personal privilege to call attention to myself or us. I simply wanted to make a few, a few words that my heart has led me to come up and say. As we've been meeting here these two weeks, several systems of tornadoes and storms have crossed the Midwest and South of the United States, have caused tremendous losses of homes, businesses, some lives, and even some United Methodist churches. I rise and stand before you in earnest plea to each of you and to your churches to respond, either directly to these communities or through the United Methodist Committee on Relief, that healing might be affected and the witness of Christ be furthered.

And I would be remiss if I passed up this opportunity to commend the United Methodist Committee on Relief, Bishop Robert Fannin, Herb Williamson, my district superintendent, individuals like you and thousands of churches—United Methodist Churches—especially, worldwide, who offered my church, community, and family direct assistance in our time of similar loss. Thanks to you, we are on the road to healing. Our new church building should be completed next month, and it will stand proudly as a tremendous witness to your love and support, which has been, and I use the words of Mrs. Clinton yesterday to say, "in the Methodist spirit of compassion and unity. Remember our connection, and please, please keep up your vital witness to a world in need." Thank you. *(applause)*

BISHOP YEAKEL: Thank you so very much. We will be in recess until five of eleven.

*(Break)*

BISHOP YEAKEL: Please assemble. Please come back.

STEPHEN KIMBROUGH: Friends, as you return to your seats, if you happen to have the little green book, *Global Praise I*, turn to page 43. And if you don't, you can follow the screen as the words will be projected for us

in this very simple melody of praise to God from the Taizé community of Jacques Berthier in France. "Sing praises all you people, sing praises to the Lord." We'll begin with the Latin words, "Laudate omnes gentes." We'll sing it over and over until we gather. A very simple melody. Some of you may care to sing the parts as we go along. Just fall into that as you may choose.

*[song]*

BISHOP YEAKEL: All right, folks, may we be in order, please? I have a special privilege at microphone 13 that I think you'll want to hear. I'm sorry, microphone 3. Microphone 3. Will you please give us your attention as you're coming to your seats?

*Hillary Clinton Invited to Join*

YOUNGSOOK C. KANG (Rocky Mountain): Bishop, I rise to my personal privilege. I'd like to make a motion that we invite First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton to be the honorary chair of the Shared Mission Focus Team of Young People that the 1996 General Conference decided to form. If I have a second, I will speak to it.

BISHOP YEAKEL: We have a second.

KANG: Yesterday we heard the first lady's enlightening message about reaching out to young people. We heard her love and care for young people clear and loud. As a matter of fact, my 14-year-old daughter was here. I know she will do anything if she can get out of school. And if Mrs. Clinton became part of this focus on young people's team, the team will be enriched by her presence and expertise. So I think it is very appropriate to invite her to be part of this team as the honorary chair.

BISHOP YEAKEL: All right, the motion is to ask Mrs. Clinton to consider being the honorary chair of the Youth Emphasis in the Church. Can we proceed to vote on this by a show of hands? If you'd adopt this request, if you're in favor, will you lift the hand, please? If not, will you lift the hand? We have acted to extend this invitation. I'd like to recognize microphone 11.

*Prayers for Arkansas Tornado Victims*

D. MAX WHITFIELD (North Arkansas): Bishop, I rise to a point of special privilege. The delegation from North Arkansas and the people of Arkansas would like to express our deep appreciation for the immediate response by the General Board of Global Ministries, the United Methodist Committee on Relief to the tornadoes that struck Fort Smith and Van Buren this past Sunday.

Over 2,000 families are without homes. Two churches and one parsonage were damaged. Four persons were killed. This Sunday, all the congregations in Arkansas, both in the Little Rock and North Arkansas conferences will take a special offering to assist. It's great to be a part of such a great denomination, which can and does respond to needs so quickly and appropriately. We appreciate all the prayers and expressions of concern, but especially the response that has been made by the church. Thank you.

BISHOP YEAKEL: Thank you, sir. While this is on your minds, and you have a pencil or pen in hand, the UMCOR ADVANCE Number for tornadoes: 901-670-1; the ADVANCE Number again is 901-671-1. Now, let me call on Bishop Galvan for a moment of privilege in the life of the conference.

*Introduction of Autonomous Affiliated Churches*

BISHOP ELIAS GALVAN: Sisters and brothers in Christ, it is for me a privilege to be able to present to you as the chair of the Autonomous Affiliated Churches, the bishops and presidents of the Autonomous Affiliated Churches, who are here in attendance. Some of them have already left, several are seated right here with us on the platform. Others are seated with you on the floor, and others are still on break, and I don't see them. But I will read their names, and I ask them as I read their names, to please stand. I'm going to ask you to refrain from applause until I am able to read all the names. And there is a good number of them. These are those persons who I am introducing at this time:

Bishop Aldo M. Etchegoyen from the Evangelical Methodist Church of Argentina and president of the Council of Bishops of Latin America; Bishop Neftali Aravena from the Methodist Church of Chile; Bishop Francisco Gustavo Cruz Diaz from the Methodist Church of Cuba; Bishop Adriel de Souza Maia from the Methodist Church of Brazil and president of the College of Bishops in Brazil; Bishop Nelson Latey from the Methodist Church of Brazil; Bishop Paolo Lockmann from the Methodist Church of Brazil; Bishop M. Lucia Leiga de Oliveira from the Methodist Church of Brazil; Bishop Luis F. Palomo from the Evangelical Methodist Church of Costa Rica; Bishop Garcia Alvarez of the Methodist Church of Mexico, (she had to leave); Bishop of the United Church in Ecuador; the president of the Evangelical Methodist Church of Uruguay; Bishop Sundo Kim from the Korean Methodist Church; Bishop H. Doloksaribu from the Methodist Church of Indonesia; Bishop Denis Dutton from the Methodist Church in Malaysia; Bishop Ho Chee Sin from the Methodist Church of Singapore; Bishop U. Maung Than from the Methodist Church of Burma; Bishop Jacob F.S. Ching from the Methodist Church of the Republic of China; Bishop Lincoln Leung Lamhoi, president of the Methodist Church in Hong Kong; the president of the National Methodist Church of Guatemala; Pastor Francisco Mendosa from the New Church Information in Venezuela; the pastor of the New Church Information in Colombia; Dr. William Whadty, president of the Methodist Church of the Caribbean and the Americas; Dr. Brian Beck, president of the Methodist

Church in Great Britain; the Rev. James Lowe, general secretary of the Methodist Church in India; Ms. Rita Oliva, executive secretary of the Council of Evangelical Methodist Churches in Latin America (CIEMAL). [*The names of four persons introduced in the above transcription were not received by the* DCA. *Also, the correct spelling for 13 persons listed above were not received by the* DCA.] And last night you also greeted the president of the Evangelical Church of Spain and the General Superintendant of the West African Methodist Church Sierra Leone.

I'm going to ask also the representatives of these churches to please stand where you are. The delegates of the Autonomous Affiliated Churches who are with us. Will you please greet and receive these delegates and bishops of our sister churches? [*applause*]

BISHOP YEAKEL: Thank you very much. We are privileged to have you with us and sharing with us in these opportunities and responsibilities. Now, I'm required to ask you to be prepared to take a ballot. We're going to take the ballot for the Judicial Council and also for the Senate. Before we do this, I have an embarrassing statement to make and that is that it's been reported to us that at least a few of you have discovered a way to vote twice. By the use of one of the unused keypads. It feels uncomfortable to have to remind you that you are entitled to one keypad and one keypad only. We'll appreciate your cooperation.

*Ballot for Laity Member of Judicial Council*

Now, if you'll prepare when the appropriate information is on the screen. We're going to go into the laity ballot for the Judicial Council. We must, by the *Discipline* elect six alternates, lay alternates, and they must have a majority vote. We can't do it on a plurality vote. The names that are available are before you and their key numbers. Will you make note to yourself of the six people that you want to vote for. We will be doing it like we did yesterday. You'll vote for one. That will be tallied in. It will come back on, you'll vote for a second one. Your machine is programmed that you cannot repeat the same number that you had already used. So you need to get in your mind and thinking and probably on your note pad, the numbers of the six persons out of the 13 for whom you'll be voting.

If you have this information ready for yourself, then please, yes? This is a question? All right, go to microphone 5.

MARY VIRGINIA TAYLOR (Holston): I just wondered if you could give us the page where the biographical information was located?

BISHOP YEAKEL: Ah, yes. 194 is the page where the biographical information is located. And thank you for the help on that one. Yes? Is this a question, Ma'am? All right, come to number 3 please. I know this takes time, but it doesn't take nearly the amount of time if we were doing paper ballots and collecting and counting. You know that.

ROBBIE BEAN (Rocky Mountain): I was wondering if we could see the people in person?

BISHOP YEAKEL: No, I don't think we can produce pictures. They're not all here. I don't think that would be fair to those who were properly nominated if they're not present, to just see the others. Thank you very much. I take it you are ready to vote. Question? Yes, number 2.

TOM GRIEB (Louisville): I'm wondering if we could see the tally from the last ballot of both lay and clergy side?

BISHOP YEAKEL: It will take a little time for us to check with the folks in the *booth* to see whether we have the last laity ballot tally. We're trying to check on that, and you'll just have to wait. I'm sorry, that's not in the computer. We'll have to create one and we'll give it to you the next time. All right. You will vote for one, one of the numbers and you were reminded yesterday if you're in the double number, move quickly from the first key to whatever other key you are using. Vote for one when the light appears. All right, thank you. That will be going into the computer. And when you're ready in the booth if you'll put the screening up again for the second voting. You will vote for one when the light appears. Thank you. When the booth is ready. Put it on the screen. You will vote for one...when the light appears. Yes, thank you. All right this is being put into the computer. Let me remind you that according to my tally, since I'm having a hard time counting, this would be number four on your list. Good, we agree this time. Vote for one when the light appears. All right, and when you're ready in the booth. This will be your fifth ballot. Vote for one when the light appears. And it's complete. Now, one more. Vote for one. This is the sixth. All right, we'll need time to get this altogether and report it later.

*Ballot for Clergy Member of Judicial Council*

We now go to the clergy side. We also need six alternates. Again, they must have a majority, and we'll have to keep doing it until we accomplish that. So whenever the booth is ready they'll give us the names eligible for election, the nominees. When you're ready, we'll have the names for the next ballot, the clergy ballot. The clergy ballot now listing is before you. There are nine names. Will you make note to yourself of the six numbers that you intend to for in this first ballot. We'll do the one at a time for six times again. Are you ready? No, I'll give you a little more time. Yes, I see a question over here. Go to microphone 6. It's not proper to interrupt the balloting, but before the balloting we're OK. Yes.

BARBARA WILLIAMS RIDDLE (Florida): My question is, is our ballot considered invalid if we vote for less than six.

BISHOP YEAKEL: I'm getting the answer, no. And according to Roberts Rules at least anything six or less is a valid ballot. They tell me the machine

is set up for processing it in that fashion. All right? Do you have your 6 numbers now in hand? All right, vote for one when the light appears.[1] Thank you. Vote for one when the light appears. [2] Vote for one when the light appears. [3] This should be number four. Vote for one when the light appears. [4] Vote for one when the light appears. [5] And your final vote. Vote for one when the light appears. [6] All right, thank you. Now if you want to check on the biographies. We're going to vote for the Senate. It's pages 195 and 196.

Pardon? You gave me the wrong reference, 438. You know what it said about Moses; he leaned on his staff and died. They're loading the program—just so that's all they're loading. There are two categories here, one of CEOs and one of other than CEOs. You'll be voting for two persons in each of those categories, so we'll take two votes, and we will have the report of this. This does not require a majority, it requires a plurality. So we'll only have to go through this exercise once, and you'll have the answers of your balloting, so don't plan for any throw away votes. This will count right away.

*Ballot for CEOs for University Senate*

All right. You've got the screen with the full name before you now. These are chief executive officers of United Methodist institutions. You will need to note, for yourself, two persons in this category. So if you'd write down those numbers so you don't forget them.

Now, are we going to the screen to vote on this or are we going to go to the ... We're going to show you the next, oh, I'm sorry. The signal's off, there are four more names that you should have here to consider. Do we need to go back to the first screen and then the second one? All right, look at this one, and then we'll put the first screen back on. There will be one with everybody in the last name, so that should clue you in, and I'll give you a little chance.

All right. Can you give us...? There's the comprehensive listing, last names only. You have two persons to vote for out of these nine. Are you ready? Vote for one when the light appears. Wait, we're getting a message here. The booth was concerned that you understood this would be a plurality vote. I did explain that and I think we are understanding. It will be the two highest ranking vote getters, whether it is a majority or not. Vote for one when the light appears. All right. The first choice is completed. No, wait a minute. They're allowed to vote for two persons, so there must be a second vote, and then you have to put the two tallies together and work it out. All right.

What our discussion is about is that the booth understood that they only needed one tally. If you take one tally, then you really are only voting for one person, but you have the right to vote for two. So we have to reprogram like the Judicial Council one, so it can be compiled, and then you get the ranking for a plurality. At least that's my understanding, and I guess I have the chance to rule on it, don't I? So that's the way we'll do it. Otherwise, you only choose one person, or get to vote for one person. But we may, will we be late? OK. What we'll do is take, signal's off, you didn't vote for anybody. We're going to go through the exercise, this isn't so long, we'll vote again, you'll do it twice. Can we have the composite screen of all of the names? All right, now. Vote for one when the light appears. We'll do this twice. Vote for one when the light appears. [1] Now, as soon as they're ready, they'll put the screen back up and you'll vote for your second choice. All right, vote for the other one when the light appears. [2] All right, thank you. Now, when the booth is ready, they will put up the screen or screens for the nominees who are non-CEOs of United Methodist institutions, and there are to be two voted on there, so you'll want to check the list appropriately. When you're ready in the booth.

*Ballot for Non-CEOs for University Senate*

All right, I'm told this is the entire list of nominees, so there is only one screen to look at. You'll need to determine which two you wish to vote for. I take it you have your notations on your pad. We'll put up a different screen when we're ready to vote. When you change the screen we will vote. Ok, we can use this screen. Vote when the light appears. [1]

And we will take one more vote. Now all right vote when the light appears. [2] All right, the machine is working. The folks are in the presentation on the calendar item we discontinued when we broke for the recess. You were ready and we'll be going to that just as soon as this is completed.

*Return to Site Selection Report*

While we're waiting for this you might want to get your blue book open to page 481 Calendar Item 1996 and in the red book page 715 the petition in the middle of the left hand column on that page number 20515 is the petition that allows us to get in this series of majority and minority reports. We're still waiting for the report on the ballot. Okay it's going to take a little longer to get that report, so what we are doing now is on page 481 we are in the process of perfecting the majority report which begins in the middle column and goes up through half of the right hand column. We had one attempt at an amendment to point number 2 that was not adopted. Are there any other amendments in perfecting the majority report? I for once do not see any cards I take it we are ready to go to perfect...oh I'm sorry over here. Microphone 1, thank you for your help.

ERNEST S. LYGHT (Northern New Jersey): Bishop I'd like to try an amendment to the majority report. It would occur in the third column under number 2 the sixth line where it says

"1006.26 of the *Discipline*" Starting there to delete everything that follows and insert these words, "continue their regular review of all general agency locations."

BISHOP YEAKEL; Is there a second to that? This amendment would return it to the CFA and COM in their regular review, and that's the intent of it.

LYGHT: Correct. My reason for putting forth this amendment is that I have a concern about unspoken words. I would characterize that concern by suggesting a question of whether or not there are some unexpressed demons. Perhaps I could suggest a couple. Are we talking about an issue of power versus participation? Are we talking about a matter of location versus mission? I would submit that our concern ought to be around participation and mission, and in light of all that we have said and done here in this General Conference, that our participation and mission should go forth in unity. Thank you.

BISHOP YEAKEL: All right, that's a speech for it. Does anyone wish to speak against the amendment? All right do you wish to have a speech before we vote?

HARRIET J. OLSEN: (Northern New Jersey) The attempt of the committee was to try to harmonize this action with the action of the '92 conference. We did not have this particular proposal in front of us, so I don't know that we can really speak for the committee on this matter.

BISHOP YEAKEL: All right, I take it then we're in the proper order to vote on this one. All of our numbers are the same this time. If you will adopt you'll vote "yes" if not vote "no." It is to relate this basically to GCOM, GCFA and their regular responsibilities. If you will adopt please vote when the light appears. OK the booth's not ready. If you're in favor will you lift the hand. If not, will you lift the hand. This amendment is adopted. Now we've amended it once, are there any other amendments. Is it now perfected? I'll declare it perfected. Now if the people presenting the minority report will please come and let me ask are there any amendments to the minority report? We're perfecting the minority report. Way back there on the aisle come to number 9. Yes sir?

### *Further Discussion of Minority Site Selection Report*

GREGORY D. STOVER (West Ohio): I move to amend the minority report by deletion and addition. If you'll look on blue *DCA* page 482 item 1b in the first column. I move that we delete the words "one or more" and insert the words "at least two" so that the beginning of item 1b would read "a recommendation of at least two relocation sites" if I have a second I will speak to it.

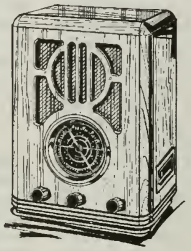
BISHOP YEAKEL: All right, is it seconded? it is seconded.

STOVER: The spirit and goal of this minority report is to give opportunity for the General Conference to make a decision among several acceptable locations for the General Board of Global Ministries. This is consistent with the spirit of the 1992 General Conference to provide a choice of an alternative location for New York City. By decisive action of the legislative section those who previously opposed the move of the board and those who previously supported a move have come together to reject the recommendation that was brought by the Site Selection Committee. Almost everyone of us understands that the proposal of the committee involves excessive costs and does not give us an acceptable alternative. As a consequence, we as a General Conference now have only one possible choice that is reasonable for the short-term future. Leave the General Board of Global Ministries in New York. I believe that this is an unfortunate turn of events, given the directive of the 1992 General Conference. I also believe there are a number of cities which would meet the criteria established by the site selection committee at a more affordable and reasonable cost. It would be unfortunate in the year 2000 to be presented with only one option outside New York City. This amendment makes certain we will be able to choose among New York City and at least two other sites at the General Conference in the year 2000. Let me close with an analogy. Not long ago our family purchased a new family car. Our old car wasn't in terrible shape, but we sensed that it had a lot of miles and that it might not meet the needs of the future as well as a new one. Now a Mercedes would have been nice, but we couldn't afford it. So we shopped around and finally settled on a beautiful, affordable, usable Dodge Caravan. The report of the Site Selection Committee and the majority report leaves us with the choice of the old family car or a Mercedes. I believe that there are many Buicks, Plymouths, Dodges, and maybe even some Cadillacs out there that we may well be able to afford. I think we ought to shop for them.

(Continued in Next Issue)

# WHEN YOU GET BACK HOME...

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*Daily Report*

# Daily Christian Advocate

THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Denver, Colorado | Saturday, April 27, 1996 | Vol. 3 No. 11

## Delegates Approve $508 Million Budget as 1996 General Conference Draws to a Close

"Soon, and very soon . . . ." The words of the spiritual seemed appropriate for General Conference delegates April 26 as they headed into the final day of their quadrennial meeting with hundreds of calendar items yet to receive action.

After three hours of debate, a budget of almost $508.3 million to fund worldwide ministries for the next four years was approved. The budget reflects an increase for 1997 of 1 percent above 1996, no increase for 1998, and a 2-percent increase for 1999 and 2000.

Included in the total is $253.6 million for World Service, the church's basic benevolence fund; almost $110 million for the Ministerial Education Fund; $43.7 million for the Black College Fund; $61.7 million for the Episcopal Fund; $18.5 million for the General Administration Fund; $6.5 million for the Interdenominational Cooperation Fund; and $10 million for the Africa University Fund.

The askings will be apportioned to annual conferences and passed on to local churches, using a formula based on the number of members and other factors.

### A Conference Moment



Friday night: The 1,304th vote.

*photo John Goodwin*

Turning to other matters, delegates marked the 10th anniversary of the tragic Chernobyl nuclear power accident in the Ukraine where the loss of life was heavy. Anton Zakharchenko, one of two Russian observers attending General Conference, said "people are dying from the results of radiation," especially in the countries of Ukraine, Belarus and Russia.

On another international note, Indiana Area Bishop Woodie W. White said the delegation seeking a meeting with President Clinton and Vice President Gore regarding the Middle East hope to visit the White House during the week of April 28. (See related story in this issue.)

Turning to local church items, delegates approved changing church law to provide for a lay person to be vice chair of the committee on nominations. The pastor will continue as chair. Another action specifies that "all locations of meetings for sanctioned church groups and agencies shall be in facilities accessible by participants and potential participants, including people with disabilities."

It was announced that three special offerings received during General Conference totaled about $25,000. The money will go as designated to the United Methodist Committee on Relief, Native American ministries, and honorariums for conference pages and marshals.

A major item of business during the closing hours of the conference was adoption of a paragraph defining the meaning of self avowal in the *Disciplinary* ban on ordaining or appointing "self-avowed practicing homosexuals." The paragraph reads: "Self-avowed practicing homosexual is understood to mean a person openly acknowledges to a bishop, district superintendent, district committee on ordained ministry, board of ordained ministry or clergy session that a person is a practicing homosexual."

Other business items included resolutions giving annual conferences greater flexibility and increasing from 630 to 650 the number of directors of general boards in the coming four years. The latter was to accommodate creation of a General Commission on United Methodist Men.

At 10:30 p.m. Houston Area Bishop J. Woodrow Hearn declared the business of the conference concluded. Indiana Area Bishop Woodie W. White led in a brief closing worship calling on the delegates to spread the word that "the good news is that the bad news is wrong."

Great strides have been made in Denver, the bishop said, "but the work begins when we leave. May God bless what we have attempted to do here, but may you bless others as you share the good news."

The conference formally was adjourned at 11:03 p.m. Delegates will assemble next on May 2-12, 2000, in Cleveland.

*—Robert Lear*


## Daily Christian Advocate

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## Top Ten Reasons to Be Glad General Conference Is Over

10. You're tired of finding a place to eat within an hour.
9. Accessories are nice, but the badges are a bit much after two weeks.
8. There are only so many routes you can take from your hotel to the convention center.
7. You're sick of listening to people talk just to hear themselves.
6. You finally can get a healthy five hours' worth of sleep.
5. Your clothes are beginning to stand up without hangers.
4. The charm of bleachers and folding chairs is beginning to fade.
3. You can brag about shaking Hillary Rodham Clinton's hand, even if you didn't.
2. Cookies will not be rationed.
1. Chances are, your co-workers don't say every three minutes: "Vote when the light appears."

*—Dawn M. Hand*

## 'DuBose and Company'

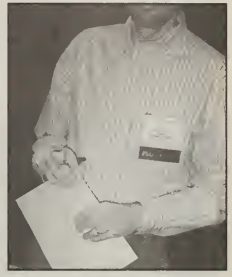
This is the first General Conference for some delegates, but it is also a first for Mike DuBose, photographer for United Methodist News Service, United Methodist Communications (UMCom). Mike came to UMCom in February 1995 after several years as a photo journalist with *The Tennessean,* the local newspaper for Nashville, Tenn.

Mike and his team arrive each morning at 8 a.m. and stay on the job until at least 11 p.m. Each day reporters and conference leadership request photo coverage of special events at General Conference. Mike has covered every corner of the convention center and hotels to photograph worship, committee meetings, special events and informal gatherings. Along with John Goodwin, he has recorded on film the many special events of the conference.

In the midst of a busy schedule, Mike had all the challenges that came with the visit of First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton. His inspiring photo, which appeared on the front page of Thursday's *DCA,* was an example of his creativity and vision. Mike's sense of humor and his sense of ministry through his craft are a gift to this conference. Mike is assisted by two technical assistants, Jackie Vaughan and Sheri Alford, along with a team of volunteers.

*—Bradford L. Motta*





**These photographs illustrate the importance of having a "real photographer" in charge of documenting the life of General Conference. Mike DuBose appears in both photos.**

## Chilean Pastor Launches Hispanic Ministry in Sweden

"Felipe brings a lot to the conference. He serves as an example of what the church and ministry are about."

Bishop Hans Vaexby, Northern Europe Area, Central Conference, is referring to Felipe Stuart who, since 1993, has served a Hispanic congregation. This is nothing new for this Chilean pastor. What is new, however, is Mr. Stuart's latest appointment: Vaxjo [Sweden] United Methodist Church.

Over the past couple of decades, Argentine, Chilean and Cuban refugees, fleeing political and social violence, have found refuge in Sweden. "These are the people we minister to," said Bishop Vaexby. "Ironically, The United Methodist Church is not for Swedes, but for people who live in Sweden," he added, referring to Sweden's secular state.

A few years ago, when Mr. Stuart visited Sweden, he saw no opportunities for Hispanics to worship in Spanish. He asked Bishop Vaexby and the conference for permission to work with the Hispanic community in Sweden. In 1994, Mr. Stuart received a special appointment, funded by the Northern Europe Area, Central Conference, and the World Division, General Board of Global Ministries.

Since then, Mr. Stuart has developed a Hispanic congregation that gathers for worship, Bible study and youth programs.

*—Adrian Vega*

## Button Update

During the past week, numerous buttons have landed on my desk. I now walk around looking like a 25-button general. Buttons include the following messages:

Stand for Children
Transforming Congregations
Casino
Africa University
Retire in the Rockies
Baltic Mission Center
Volunteers in Mission
Shalom Is on the Loose
Whom Shall I Send? Advance
Blessed Be...Counted, Go Tell!
Open the Doors (with wheelchair)
Open the Doors (English, Spanish, Korean)
"That We May All Be One" COCU
Red Apple
Affirmation (UMC logo on pink triangle)
4000 Challenge
Global Mission Partners
United Methodists Lifewatch, Love Them Both
Holy Boldness, Live the Vision
Hispanic Ministries
Native American Comprehensive Plan
The General Commission on Religion and Race
Good Help Is Hard to Fund: The Ministerial Education Fund
Their Future Is in Your Hands: Black College Fund




Due to the poor response to my request for $1 from each delegate, I was forced to postpone that project until the 2000 General Conference. Just in case you are not elected to that General Conference, I would be glad to hold on to those dollars until then.

*—Brad Motta*

## Dancing to the Music



Enjoying a light moment during General Conference are Denver Area Bishop Mary Ann Swenson and Ohio East Area Bishop Edwin Boulton.

*photo Robert L. Robertson*

# General Conference Approves 'A Shared Focus on Young People'

An initiative designed to increase and enhance the involvement of youth and young adults in the church during the next four years was approved Thursday by the General Conference.

The General Council on Ministries (GCOM) created "A Shared Focus on Young People" in response to a 1992 General Conference declaration that the church must do more to address the needs of young people. Delegates voted 589 to 329 to accept this new missional focus and recommended $3 million to fund the initiative.

Jeff North, lay delegate, North Arkansas Conference, requested the GCOM make available another $230,000 to local churches to be used as "seed money to respond to the needs and issues of young people in the church and community."

He also proposed that $2.4 million be provided to a shared mission team to oversee and coordinate pilot programs in 10 annual conferences and 10 local churches. He further recommended a $100,000 grant to undergird a fund to strengthen theological education in the area of ministry with young people.

"It's time for us to . . . dive into the ministry of youth and young people in our denomination," Mr. Quick said. "We are not studying it; we're deciding that this is going to be a priority and a focus of our denomination."

Rebecca C. Carver, clergy delegate, Iowa Conference, made an impassioned plea: "I have waited all my life to see The United Methodist Church take youth and young adults seriously and be committed to us."

*—Linda Green*




Providing acapella harmonies April 26 was the 10-person Iluzija Choir from the United Methodist Church of Liepaja, Latvia.

*photo John Goodwin*

# General Council on Finance and Administration

Report No. 16
Mission Initiatives/Focus 2000

The General Council on Finance and Administration believes it is important for the General Conference delegates to understand the complex variety of factors that have influenced this report. During the last four years, we have worked diligently to respond to the local churches and annual conferences that have urged no increase in apportionments.

Accordingly, the GCFA developed a proposed "0-0-2-2" budget limit for the next quadrennium through a careful budgeting process. Budget proposals were prepared by all general boards and agencies over the past four years, and carefully considered by both the General Council on Finance and Administration and the General Council on Ministries. Not all budget requests submitted were approved. Many of those approved were not at the level requested by the initiating group. GCFA has been faithful to that process, as have the general agencies. The "0-0-2-2" budget established after GCFA's listening process was intended to enable local churches and annual conferences to increase the percentage of apportionments paid over the course of the quadrennium.

The *Advance Daily Christian Advocate*, Volume I (pp. 275, 277 and 279) shows the decrease in real dollars for general church boards and agencies over the last two quadrennia. The GCFA is conscious of ministries that do not happen when dollars lose purchasing power at the same time that budgeted amounts decline. Consequently, many worthy general church programs will not receive funding support this coming quadrennium. We also hear the urgent concerns for new mission and ministry raised by legislative committees and delegates to this General Conference. The new programs you have voted for require funding beyond our recommended budget limits of "0-0-2-2".

**It is the General Conference's responsibility to determine whether these programs are important enough to increase apportionments.** If General Conference votes to support these increases, the total addition to the quadrennial apportionment will be $4,760,000, an additional 1 percent over GCFA's proposed budget.

As provided in the Plan of Organization of the General Conference, Section IX.B, certain legislative committee reports and other actions adopted by the General Conference were referred to the General Council on Finance and Administration for its advice and recommendations. Prior claims for interpretation and administration of the new apportionment for Focus 2000 will be set in accordance with disciplinary requirements and in consultation with United Methodist Communications.

After careful consideration, GCFA is bringing recommendations for action by the General Conference.

Asian-American Language Ministry Study. (Calendar No. 441, page 174; Petition # 21344-GM-NonDis-O$, Advance *DCA*, page 777). The petition requests funding in the amount of $1,120,000 for the 1997-2000 quadrennium. The legislative committee recommended concurrence with the petition. The General Conference adopted the report and referred it to GCFA on April 22, 1996.

The four program components are: recruitment and training of pastoral and lay leadership, development of new congregations, development of community ministries, and development of language resources and materials. The language groups included in this study are: Mandarin, Cantonese, Amoy (Taiwanese), Tagalog, Vietnamese, Cambodian, Laotian, Hmong, Urdu, Hindi, Gujirati, Telegu, Tamil, and Japanese.

**GCFA recommends that funding in the amount of $900,000 for the quadrennium be allocated to the General Board of Global Ministries and apportioned as part of Focus 2000.**

*Strengthening Korean Ministry.* (Calendar No. 751, page 234; Petition # 21731-CO-NonDis-O$, *DCA*, dated April 16, 1996, page 31). The legislative committee report consists of a "Resolution Strengthening Korean Ministry". It proposes the establishment of a task force to conduct a comprehensive study of the Korean-American Ministry within the United Methodist structure. The task force would include 15 persons, in specified categories, to be appointed by the Council of Bishops, plus three bishops and a representative each from the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women and the General Commission on Religion and Race.

The legislative committee report estimated that the cost of the task force's work would be $150,000. The General Conference amended the legislative committee report to request funding in the amount of $200,000; the report, as amended, was adopted and referred to GCFA on April 24, 1996.

**GCFA recommends that the quadrennial total of $200,000 be allocated to the General Board of Global Ministries and apportioned as part of Focus 2000.**

*Connectional Process Team.* (Calendar No. 764, pages 235-258; Petition # 21676-GJ-NonDis-O$, Advance

*DCA*, page 551). The legislative committee, in Calendar No. 764, recommended the establishment of a Connectional Process Team (CPT) of up to 38 members, plus three non-voting members from affiliated and autonomous churches, as a response to the GCOM's Connectional Issues Study and the Council of Bishops' study on the Global Nature of the Church. No cost estimate for the work of the CPT was included in the legislative committee report.

The General Conference adopted the report on April 23, 1996, with a recommendation that funding be provided by GCFA (*DCA*, page 253). GCFA estimates that the work of the CPT will cost $660,000.

**GCFA recommends that the quadrennial total of $660,000 be administered by the General Council on Finance and Administration and be apportioned as part of Focus 2000.**

*Focus on Young People* (Calendar No. 1694, page 388; Petition # 21678-GJ-NonDis-O$, Advance *DCA*, page 599). The petition requested funding in a quadrennial amount of $270,000. The legislative committee recommended concurrence with the petition.

When the report was considered by the General Conference, it was amended by the inclusion of an additional funding request contained in Petition # 22747-DI-Non-Dis-O$. As amended, the total requested was $3 million to be allocated among four separate programs: 1) the program which had been proposed in the original petition submitted by GCOM in the amount of $270,000 to fund a discovery process, resource ministry action plans, interpret, provide scholarships to events, and provide meeting expenses for the Shared Mission Team; 2) $230,000 to "be available to local churches in the form of seed grants for use as seed money to respond to the needs and issues of young people in the church and community"; 3) $2.4 million for salary of trained and qualified staff to craft ministry with young people for the future and for these staff people to meet together on an annual basis for review of the program, related to "quadrennial pilot programs in 10 conferences and 10 local churches..."; and 4) $100,000 "for the purpose of strengthening theological education in the area of ministry with young people..."

The report, as amended, was adopted by the General Conference and referred to GCFA on April 25, 1996.

**GCFA recommends that the quadrennial total of $3 million be administered by the General Council on Ministries and be apportioned as part of Focus 2000.**

**FOCUS 2000**

| | 1996 | 1997 | | 1998 | | 1999 | | 2000 | | Quadrennial Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **On Ratio:** | | | | | | | | | | |
| Asian-American Language Ministry Study - General Board of Global Ministries | | 225,000 | | 225,000 | | 225,000 | | 225,000 | | 900,000 |
| Korean - American Task Force - General Board of Global Ministries | | 50,000 | | 50,000 | | 50,000 | | 50,000 | | 200,000 |
| Connectional Process Team | | 165,000 | | 165,000 | | 165,000 | | 165,000 | | 660,000 |
| Focus on Young People - General Council on Ministries | | 750,000 | | 750,000 | | 750,000 | | 750,000 | | 3,000,000 |
| Fund Total | | 1,190,000 | | 1,190,000 | | 1,190,000 | | 1,190,000 | | 4,760,000 |
| | | | % change | | % change | | % change | | % change | |
| Original GCFA recommendation Pages 284 & 285, Advance DCA | 123,905,561 | 124,000,000 | 0.1% | 124,000,000 | 0.0% | 126,500,000 | 2.0% | 129,000,000 | 2.0% | 503,500,000 |
| Revised Apportionment Total | 123,905,561 | 125,190,000 | 1.0% | 125,190,000 | 0.0% | 127,690,000 | 2.0% | 130,190,000 | 2.0% | 508,260,000 |
| | | | | | | | | 4 times 1996 apportionment | | 495,622,244 |
| | | | | | | | | Percent change | | 2.5% |

## Thank You, Denver Area!

"Welcome, world, to our neighborhood," said Denver Area Bishop Mary Ann Swenson on the opening day of General Conference. "Our neighborhood is vast and diverse. It is peaks and plains, mountains and metropolitan, sunshine and snow, desert and Continental Divide. . . . Let us be God's people celebrating God's creation with a dream that we will know ourselves, participating in God's mission to redeem and restore all of creation to God's intended design." As delegates and visitors head home, they take unforgettable memories of General Conference 1996. Thank you, Denver Area, for your hospitality!



*photo John Goodwin*

## JUDICIAL COUNCIL DECISIONS

**Memorandum No. 786**

We have received a referral raising the question, does the statement "Ceremonies that celebrate homosexual unions shall not be conducted by our ministers and shall not be conducted in our churches" belong in Par. 71C?

Par. 2616 provides that the General Conference may petition the Judicial Council regarding constitutionality, meaning, application or effect of proposed legislation.

This is a legislative placement decision. We do not have jurisdiction.

April 26, 1996
Tom Matheny, President
Wayne Coffin, Secretary

## Commission on the General Conference Elects Officers

The new Commission on the General Conference has organized and elected officers for the 1997-2000 quadrennium:

Mollie Stewart, Southeastern Jurisdiction, chair;
James Perry, Northeastern Jurisdiction, vice chair for program;
Harry Shaner, Western Jurisdiction, vice chair for facilities;
Robert Brandt, Northeastern Jurisdiction, secretary;
Aileen Williams, North Central Jurisdiction, assistant secretary.

## Can You Top This?

### A FAMILY AFFAIR

The Rev. C. Maness Mitchell, retired, North Carolina Conference, and his wife, Vivian P. Mitchell, have attended every General Conference since the 1968 Uniting Conference. Vivian recorded and transcribed plenary sessions (1968-88) and the standing legislative committee (1992). Their son, John, has attended as a visitor (1972-96).

Twila Stowe Bryan has been married to two bishops: Bishop W. McFerrin Stowe (1943-88) and Bishop Monk Bryan (1992-).

### BIG GIFTS IN SMALL PACKAGES

Margaret F. Knight, lay delegate, North Georgia Conference, is one of 33 members of Tunnel Hill United Methodist Church, Jenkinsburg, Ga.

### LOUDEST SNEEZE BLESSED BY A PRESIDING BISHOP

"Gesundheit!" to Stephen T. Deckard, clergy delegate, North Central New York Conference.

### MOST ATTENDEES FROM ONE CHURCH

First United Methodist Church, Evanston, Ill., is represented by 11 persons at this General Conference. They include: Neal Fisher, president, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary; Stephanie Hixon, co-general secretary, General Commission on the Status and Role of Women; Ken Lambert, General Board of Pension and Health Benefits; Carl Mowry, General Board of Pension and Health Benefits; Betty Ann Percell, visitor; Emery A. Percell, clergy delegate, Northern Illinois Conference; Bonny Roth, *The Flyer* editor, General Commission on the Status and Role of Women; Doris Rudy, co-leader of General Conference seminar, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary; Beth Taylor, General Council on Finance and Administration; Gale Whitson-Schmidt, treasurer, General Board of Pension and Health Benefits; and Nancy Zabel, alternate delegate, Jurisdictional Conference, Baltimore-Washington Conference.

*—Barbara Dunlap-Berg*

## Joys

T. Terrell Sessums, lay delegate, Florida Conference, welcome the arrival of a new grandson, Todd Hartley Sessums, born April 25. Congratulations!

## Delegation Heads to Washington to Deliver Statement of Concern

Indiana Area Bishop Woodie W. White, president of the Council of Bishops, will lead a delegation of United Methodists to the White House to deliver to President Clinton and Vice President Gore a statement of concern from this General Conference about escalating violence in the Middle East.

In addition to Bishop Woodie W. White, the delegation will include both bishops and delegates. They are: Ronald Bretsch, North Central New York; Bishop Judith Craig, West Ohio Area; R. Randy Day, New York; Kristen E. Dowdy, Virginia; Jo Ann Fukomoto, California-Pacific; Bishop Dan E. Solomon, Oklahoma Area; and Bishop C. Dale White (retired).

General Conference approved the statement April 19 after learning that more than 175 persons were killed or wounded by retaliatory attacks launched by Israel following Lebanon-based Hezbollah rocket attacks. According to Mr. Day, physicians in Lebanon report the bombing and shelling has caused more suffering than the 1982 invasion.

Delegates welcomed Bishop Craig, who called for United Methodists to continue to be "a voice that cries for a just peace." She presented the statement prepared by an ad hoc committee. Writing team members included: Mr. Bretsch; Mr. Day; David M. Graybeal, a retired professor from Drew University; Shirley Stevens, chair, North Central New York Standing Task Force on Peace with Justice in Israel and Palestine; and Bishop C. Dale White.

The delegation will ask President Clinton to take steps to protect children, youth and other civilians and seek a return to normalcy for persons living in that region. It proposes that Christians, Jews and Muslims be able to practice their faith in Jerusalem, a city which is holy to all three major monotheistic religions. The document requests increased efforts to assure geographic, economic and political security.

According to Bishop Woodie W. White, as of April 26, the exact time the delegation would be received had not yet been determined by the White House. He anticipated that the group would be welcomed in the White House during the week of April 28.

*—Arvin R. Luchs*

## Don't Buy Those Airline Tickets!!!




*photo Bradford Motta*

*DCA* news and features editor Barbara Dunlap-Berg points to the sign that has been confusing people. Persons going down the escalator after leaving the Cokesbury display are surprised to find the sign "See You in Las Vegas, April 26-30, 1997." Some people fainted when they saw the sign, thinking it meant General Conference would meet again next year. Others scurried to buy airline tickets, and some just ran screaming at the thought of another General Conference. Please disregard the sign; it was not meant for the eyes of delegates.

*—Bradford Motta*

## Interjurisdictional Committee Membership

Chair, Don M. Pike, South Central Jurisdiction
Vice chair, Sally Ernst, Northeastern Jurisdiction
Secretary, J. LaVon Wilson, North Central Jurisdiction

North Central Jurisdiction: Shirley Cook and Gene R. Becker, lay; Penelope Eberhart and Joyce L. Alford, clergy.

Northeastern Jurisdiction: Ernest L. Swiggett and Genie S. Bank, lay; Bernard "Skip" Keels and Aimee W. Twigg, clergy.

South Central Jurisdiction: Anita Crump and Tal Oden, lay; Janice Riggle K. Huie and James W. Moore, clergy.

Southeastern Jurisdiction: Anita K. Archer and Darlene V. Amon, lay; Thomas W. Eblen and James R. King Jr., clergy.

## Legislative Committee Chair Recalls Discerning, Consensus-Building Process

"We examined and reflected upon that document, where we raised concerns, affirmations and questions," said Sandra Lutz, East Ohio lay delegate and Ordained and Diaconal Ministry Legislative Committee chair.

Introducing an evening of legislative action on the Ministry Study report from the Council of Bishops, Ms. Lutz described the discerning, consensus-building process undertaken first by the bishops, then by her legislative committee dealing with 1000-plus petitions and, finally, by General Conference delegates.

She recalled that small groups of delegates spent part of a morning reflecting on the report. "After considerable discussion," she said, "we reached an understanding [in the committee] that we would accept the bishops' proposal as our base line, but felt called to perfect it in ways to reflect those concerns. We found ourselves resonating with that summary report. Our hearts seemed to be one."

Ms. Lutz also made reference to traditional elements of ordained ministry, but said the committee was "overwhelmingly convinced that, as a denomination, we must move forward in ministry, and that it is more important that our structure honor God's call on all our lives than that we hold to historic patterns which, although once effective, may now interfere with our ability to move ahead.

"We have been studying ministry a very long time," she said. "Amazing as it seems to some of us, God's spirit right now seems to be moving among us, gently nudging and encouraging us to take heart, breathing life into the dry bones, and calling us to trust new models and new understandings of ministry.

"Like a good parent," she concluded, "God knows when we are ready to move. We need to remember that when God calls us, God also is there to hold our hand on the journey and receive us in a new place. Let us move ahead to new understandings."

*—Ann Whiting*

# 'We Fall Down, and We Get Up'

Controversy over theological and justice issues have been with us a long time, Missouri Area Bishop Ann B. Sherer said at the final morning worship of General Conference. She reminded the 1,000 delegates that such struggles did not destroy the church. "Fracture it? Yes. Improve it? Sometimes. Destroy it? Never."

Bishop Sherer had researched General Conferences from some 100 years ago. In the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, General Conference delegates were fussing about the holiness movement. In the wake of their condemnation of excesses and narrowness, 27 new denominations were formed, and 100,000 persons left the Methodist fold.

Two years later, in the Methodist Episcopal Church, the issue was the election of four women delegates who, unfortunately, withdrew from the conference. [There is no record of how many women left the Methodist Episcopal Church and never returned.]

Continuing her theme of controversy, Bishop Sherer recalled the story of a little girl who asked an old monk from a monastery on a hill, "What do you do up there?" "We fall down, and we get up," was the startling response.

In our journey, the bishop explained, "we continue to fall down, and by God's grace, get up again.... In our life, falling down and getting up, we come closer to God and one another," the bishop said.

The service was introduced by acapella harmonies of the 10-person Iluzija Choir from the United Methodist Church of Liepaja, Latvia.

The liturgist, New York West Area Bishop Hae-Jong Kim, received positive response from his greeting, "T.G.I.F." No one needed a translation. Iris Rajamaa of the Finland-Finnish Provisional Conference read the Scripture.

*— Dick Thornburg*

## Corrections

In Thursday's proceedings (p. 724, column 2, paragraph 3), the correct Advance number for tornado disaster relief is 901-670-1. Givers should write "Tornado Disaster" on their checks.

The General Conference highlights videotape will be distributed May 15 by United Methodist Communications, rather than June 15.

P. 687, column 2, under homosexual practice, the speaker was the Rev. Djundu Lunge, not Akasa Umembudi.

P. 652, column 1, under Africa, correct name is Djundu Lunge.

Add the following to p. 652: Kirbyjon Caldwell, Dale Sergrist, Djundu Lunge, Frederik Wegelius.

Please take note that the First Reserve for Puerto Rico Autonomous Church is Ms. Ann Andújar-Vélez, not Vanessa Alers.

### ♀♀ *Blessed Be the Women: Be Counted!* ♀♀

Final Plenaries: Women = 35% and Men = 65% of body

| Topics | Comments | |
|---|---|---|
| | % Women | % Men |
| 4/25, IC & GM Items | 36% | 64% |
| 4/25, Abortion | 32% | 68% |
| 4/26, FI, GCFA Reports, & Cal Items | 32% | 68% |
| 4/26, LC, DI, CC Items | 31% | 69% |

We note that women's participation increased to near parity on 4/25 and 4/26 (this is notable given the topics addressed).

We note that the vote to return the Connectional Process Team nominations to the Council of Bishops to address inclusiveness, particularly clergy women, was defeated by the body (40%-60%).

We celebrate the leadership of female bishops who served as presiding officers or support to the presider.

***Blessed Be!!***

## Consent Calendar Explanation

There are three consent calendars: A) concurrence with proposed changes to the *Discipline*. **B)** concurrence with petitions on non-Disciplinary matters. **C)** non-concurrence on Disciplinary and non-Disciplinary items. The first day items will be listed as **01**. The second day will be listed **02**, and so forth. Items can be placed on the consent calendar if: 1) no more than five votes were cast against the prevailing position; 2) it has no financial implications; 3) the proposal does not require a constitutional amendment. Any five delegates may have a consent calendar item removed by signing the appropriate form found in Room 204. This form must be returned to the secretary by 3 p.m. on the day it appears in the *DCA*.

# Special Consent Calendar A08

**2464**-2301.3
**Subject: Commission on Central Conference Affairs**
Committee Item: CC5-2301.3-C
Petition:
23082-CC-2301.3-D
Membership: 36; Present: 21;
For: 19; Against: 0; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/15

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**2465**-2623
**Subject: Chargeable Offenses**
Committee Item: GJ174-2623-C
Petition:
21267-GJ-2623-D, Pg. 1092
Membership: 98; Present: 69;
For: 69; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**2466**-101
**Subject: Ministry of all Christians**
Committee Item: MN66-101-C
Petition:
21733-MN-101-D, Pg. 982
Membership: 113; Present: 90;
For: 90; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**2467**-524.1
**Subject: Council on Ministries and District Superintendents**
Committee Item: MN466-524.1-A
Petition:
20690-MN-524.1-D, Pg. 1080
Membership: 113; Present: 102;
For: 95; Against: 7; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

Undelete the deletion in the sentence 1.

Undelete sentence 2. and amend it to read 2. To work cooperatively with the conference council and its staff in all program concerns of the Church and may serve as a member of the Annual Conference Council on Ministries.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

# Special Consent Calendar B08

**2468**-NonDis
**Subject: World Service Special Gifts Program**
Committee Item: GJ97-NonDis-C
Petition:
21685-GJ-NonDis-O, Pg. 633
Membership: 98; Present: 81;
For: 81; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**2469**-NonDis
**Subject: Prison Ministry/Prison Reform**
Committee Item: GJ126-NonDis-A
Petition:
21681-GJ-NonDis-O, Pg. 625
Membership: 98; Present: 86;
For: 86; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/19

The Committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows:

**Mandate**

The focus on prison ministry was first initiated in 1984 when the General Conference adopted a mandate to coordinate this ministry. In 1988, General Conference reaffirmed the mandate, and it was continued and expanded in 1992.

The 1992 General Conference adopted Calendar Item 208 on page 237 of the *Daily Christian Advocate* which continued the ongoing consultation among general program boards in order to receive progress reports on work related to prison ministry/prison reform. This legislation called for an interagency committee, under the direction of GCOM, to build awareness and provide resources to local churches and annual conferences. The General Council on Ministries was asked to convene an interagency committee for oversight, planning, and program implementation for this area of ministry. The mandate also called upon this interagency group, the Council of Bishops, and the General Council on Ministries to build an awareness by providing leadership and advocating the development of effective prison ministries.

**Process**

In order to implement this General Conference mandate, the General Council on Ministries contacted each general secretary of the four program boards to identify one staff representative to serve on the interagency committee. Once the four boards named a representative, a GCOM member and GCOM staff person convened the interagency committee, and the planning process began.

First, a comprehensive prison ministry booklet was updated for general distribution to bishops, districts superintendents, annual conference council directors, annual conference prison ministry programs, and other interested individuals

seeking resourcing on how to develop and enhance prison ministry programs.

The interagency committee then set out to develop a four-year holistic plan for building awareness and resourcing the denomination. This planning process reflected both the ongoing work of each agency in this area of ministry, plus specific assignments which were made to general boards and GCOM by the 1992 General Conference. At each yearly meeting of the interagency committee, the program boards reported on their agencys work and outreach in prison ministry.

Early in the planning process, the interagency committee determined the need to develop the study guide. This committee also decided to continue the distribution of a resource packet. The study guide was made available at the end of the 1993-96 quadrennium.

During the previous quadrennium, annual conference cabinets were asked to record their visits to jails and prisons. During the current quadrennium, bishops were asked to identify outstanding prison ministry/ prison reform ministries within their conferences. The interagency committee determined this was an effective way to build an awareness of the work already under way. Sixty-five outstanding prison ministry programs were identified by bishops. GCOM provided certificates of recognition to honor these projects and persons within annual conferences.

A primary way that awareness was stimulated was through the consultative services of the Criminal Justice Mercy Ministries Office, under the leadership of the Reverend Dr. Jerry Murray. Dr. Murray, a member of the interagency committee, made himself available to annual conferences and local congregations for planning, organizational development, and training. Dr. Murray made frequent reports to the interagency committee on the development of prison ministry programs and evolving ministry opportunities and needs of constituents. Also, Dr. Murray provided education for members of the interagency committee. Each member of the interagency committee provided an opportunity to learn about existing United Methodist and ecumenical programs related to prison ministry.

The committee continued discussions with the General Board of Publications and other agencies of the general church regarding effective distribution of surplus materials for use by chaplains and prison ministries.

In every general board, there has been increased attention to programs and issues related to prison ministry/prison reform.

The committee was made aware, through the work of the General Board of Higher Education and the General Board of Global Ministries, of the increase in awareness and involvement in prison ministry within the central conferences.

*The General Board of Higher Education and Ministry* held its second prison chaplains consultation early in the 1993-96 quadrennium. Information and insights from this event were shared with the interagency committee. The GBHEM provided expertise in the creation of prison ministry in central Russia and continuing support for prison ministry in Germany.

*The General Board of Church and Society* offered input and information on the Human Relations Day and outreach services for communities in crisis and prison work. The board, through its focus on Peace with Justice, raised awareness and provided study resources to congregations. Their work with Police and Community Relations provided an important component for the emerging work in annual conferences. This boards ministry with Saving Stations offered opportunities for proactive involvement in justice ministries.

*The General Board of Discipleship* offers the Covenant Discipleship in Prisons. This board was instrumental in the development of a churchwide resource packet on prison ministry, with over 5,000 packets having been distributed. In addition, the board prepared and distributed the *Prison Ministries Action and Study Guide*.

**The General Board of Global Ministries** offered many services. The United Methodist Women developed and implemented programs of learning, services and support for prisoners, crime victims and their families. The work of the Communities of Shalom, Church and Community workers, the Substance Abuse and Related Violence Program are several ways the board has enabled the committee to plan and to be proactive. The National Program Divisions focus on Combating Violence Against Women and Children enabled the committee to share resources with constituents who want to assist women and their families. The committee acknowledges the work performed by this board as foundational and pioneering. Other denominations and many local churches have been empowered through the effective models and ministries initiated and ongoing by this board. The World Division has been responsive to requests from central conferences for assistance in the development in prison ministry.

*The General Commission on Communication* has been supportive in providing coverage of the interagency committees action and plans.

*The General Council on Ministries* has provided coordination, support, and guidance for the work of this interagency committee.

**Theological Statement**

We are a covenant peoplebut we are marked in many ways by having broken the covenant. The Biblical story reflects Gods relationship with uscreating us, accompanying us, always calling us back into right relationship with God and Gods creation.

We are mandated by Christ to be in ministry by proclaiming freedom to the captives, and we are all summoned to remember those in prison as if you were their fellow captives (Hebrews 13:3). The ministry of the global church affirms that we no longer see anyone from a human point of view (citation), but rather through the eyes of Christ we see the world of prisoners, crime victims and their families as an arena of Gods grace and the place of our ministry.

Jesus identified himself as being the one who was hungry, thirsty, a stranger, a prisonerand invites us to ministries of nurture, outreach, and witness. We respond to this invitation and commit ourselves to justice-making.

We understand that justice-making is restorative rather than retributive, seeks to create wholeness rather than merely isolate blame, cares for both victim and offender, and seeks the ultimate restoration of right relationships among God, persons, and people until we see peace (shalom) restored in the community.

We understand that our ministry is to prisoners, crime victims and their families. This includes a concern for the entire criminal justice system, including persons who are employed within the structures of that system, such as law enforcement, judicial, correction officers. Our ministry is both pastoral and prophetic, seeking both to heal those who have been wounded and to transform those structures which inflict those wounds.

We believe that the following recommendations represent the significant and essential next steps in establishing channels through which The United Methodist Church shall respond to this commitment.

**Recommendations**

**Recommendation #1**

We recommend the formation of a ~~Global Prison Ministry Resource and Training Institute.~~ **Global Criminal Justice and Mercy Ministries Institute.** A global coordinating committee shall give

guidance to the operation of this Institute. The global coordinating committee will be composed of fourteen persons: two members and one staff person from each of the program agencies (12); and one Council member and one staff person from GCOM. The agencies will provide funding for their representatives to this global coordinating committee. The Council of Bishops will name one episcopal consultant from the central conferences, and one episcopal consultant from the United States (at the expense of the Council of Bishops). The bishops will convene the first meeting of the global coordinating committee in the spring of 1997, in advance of the meeting of the General Board of Global Ministries, in order to include input from other members of the central conferences. The General Board of Global Ministries will be requested to provide linkage and access to these leaders and their expertise in the global context.

**The General Board of Global Ministries will provide funding for staffing and facility needs for the Global Criminal Justice and Mercy Ministries Institute.**

The purpose of this committee is to give leadership to the Church through the Institute for enhancement, coordination, and enablement of effective prison ministry programs around the world.

The purpose of the first meeting of the committee will be to engage in a holistic planning process to determine strategies, identify resources, and develop nurture, outreach and witness ministries in relating to prisoners, victims of crimes, and their families in the global community. This may include the areas of:

Evangelism

Discipleship

Education and motivation of congregations in criminal justice and mercy ministries

Social justice theology for prison ministries

Celebrating United Methodist involvement in Criminal Justice and Mercy Ministries

Sharing effective Models through networking people and programs

Coordinating services and programs

Developing cross cultural models

Facilitating the use of the Study Guide within annual conferences and local churches around the world

Working with central conferences in the development on resources and study tools which are context specific

Developing biblical and theological resources

Dialogue on the creation of a Prison Ministries Action and Study Guide

Also, at the first meeting consideration will be given to identifying a site location and accountability structure for the ~~Global Prison Ministry Resource & Training Institute~~ **Global Criminal Justice and Mercy Ministries Institute.**

**Recommendation #2**

We further recommend that the United Methodist Women give consideration to the integration of prison ministry/justice ministries within the Schools of Christian Mission as they develop study curricula. We recommend that the United Methodist Women ~~give consider- ation to creating units with jails and prisons for women.~~ **encourage the exploration of how United Methodist Womens units may be begun in and/or related to jails and prisons for women.**

**Recommendation #3**

We encourage the General Board of Global Ministries to give consideration to naming missionaries in the field of prison ministry.

**Recommendation #4**

That central conferences and annual conferences within the United States be linked through E-Mail, **when available,** so that frequent communication can enhance the planning process of the Institute.

**Recommendation #5**

That the General Board of Discipleship be responsible for training of local churches and annual conference leaders to utilize study processes such as Disciple Bible Study, Covenant Discipleship, and to provide mentoring.

**Recommendation #6**

We recommend that the United Methodist Men give consideration to starting units within jails and prisons and create study guides and tools to promote Christian disciplemaking.

**Recommendation #7**

We recommend an evaluation of existing programs and resources to assess their applicability and effectiveness in ministries to victims, families and those incarcerated.

**Recommendation #8**

We recommend that the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry and the General Board of Discipleship consider the development of a certification process for those providing ministries to prisoners, crime victims, and their families.

**Members of Interagency Committee**

Rev. Patricia BarrettGeneral Board of Higher Education and Ministry

Rev. Kinmoth Jefferson and Ms. Peggy Halsey General Board of Global Ministries

Rev. Dr. Jerry MurrayDirector of the Criminal Justice Mercy Ministries

Ms. Pamela CrosbyGeneral Commission on Communications

Mr. Hillary SheltonGeneral Board of Church and Society

Ms. Alyne JoAnn EslingerGeneral Board of Discipleship

Chaplain Joseph ErringtonSouth Central Regional Federal Bureau of Prisons

Ms. Anita FenstermacherGeneral Council on Ministries

Resource Persons: Rev. Dr. William ApplebyProgram Consultant

Ms. Jody MoxleyMember of GCOM

GCOM Staff: Dr. Trudie Kibbe Reed (Through August 15, 1995)

Staff Consultant: Linda Bales (Beginning September 19, 1995)

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

**2470**-NonDis
**Subject: Ethnic Local Church Concerns Committee**
Committee Item: GJ138-NonDis-C
Petition:
21689-GJ-NonDis-O, Pg. 644
Membership: 98; Present: 81;
For: 81; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends concurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

# Special Consent Calendar C08

## 2471-702
**Subject: The Purpose of the Annual Conference**
Committee Item: CO110-702-N
Petition:
22435-CO-702-D, Pg. 1266
Membership: 86; Present: 69;
For: 66; Against: 0; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2472-702
**Subject: Composition and Character of the Annual Conference**
Committee Item: CO119-702-N
Petition:
21247-CO-702-D, Pg. 186
Membership: 86; Present: 69;
For: 66; Against: 0; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2473-752.2
**Subject: Membership of the District Council on Ministries**
Committee Item: CO201-752.2-N
Petition:
20311-CO-752.2-D, Pg. 202
Membership: 86; Present: 70;
For: 65; Against: 2; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2474-36
**Subject: Voting Rights of the Annual Conference**
Committee Item: CO202-36-N
Petition:
22433-CO-36-C, Pg. 1259
Membership: 86; Present: 69;
For: 66; Against: 0; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2475-NonDis
**Subject: A United Methodist Alternative to Promise Keepers**
Committee Item: DI163-NonDis-N
Petition:
22410-DI-NonDis-O, Pg. 1299
Membership: 112; Present: 75;
For: 69; Against: 2; Not Voting: 4;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2476-748
**Subject: Flexibility in Annual Conference structure**
Committee Item: GJ103-748-N
Petition:
20072-GJ-748-D, Pg. 693
Membership: 98; Present: 81;
For: 81; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2477-276
**Subject: Ministry Sunday**
Committee Item: GJ112-276-N
Petition:
21518-GJ-276-D, Pg. 1326
Membership: 98; Present: 81;
For: 81; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2478-2623.3
**Subject: Chargeable Offenses**
Committee Item: GJ181-2623.3-N
Petition:
21548-GJ-2623.3-D, Pg. 1488
Membership: 98; Present: 69;
For: 69; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2479-2623.1
**Subject: Chargeable Offenses**
Committee Item: GJ185-2623.1-N
Petition:
22854-GJ-2623.1-D, Pg. 1487
Membership: 98; Present: 69;
For: 66; Against: 3; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2480-810.3
**Subject: Length of Service on General Church Boards and Agencies**
Committee Item: GJ188-810.3-N
Petition:
20889-GJ-810.3-D, Pg. 701
Membership: 98; Present: 56;
For: 56; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/20

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2481-321
**Subject: Authority and Responsibilities of Deacons in Full Connection**
Committee Item: MN105-321-N
Petition:
22935-MN-321-D, Pg. 1506
Membership: 113; Present: 88;
For: 88; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

## 2482-50
**Subject: Council of Bishops**
Committee Item: MN719-50-N
Petition:
20807-MN-50-C, Pg. 1430
Membership: 113; Present: 74;
For: 68; Against: 6; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/22

The Committee recommends Nonconcurrence.

[ ] Concurrence [ ] Nonconcurrence Date /

# Calendar Item Corrections

**200**-206.2

The legislative committee recommendation was corrected on the floor. Please refer to the verbatim.

**480**-813

This calendar item was reported incorrectly. The committee recommendation should have been Nonconcurrence.

**1555**-38

This calendar item was reported incorrectly. The committee recommendation should have been Concurrence.

**1580**-458

This calendar item was reported incorrectly. The committee recommendation should have been Concurrence.

**1929**-2625.3

This calendar item was reported incorrectly. The committee recommendation should have been Concurrence.

**2125**-436

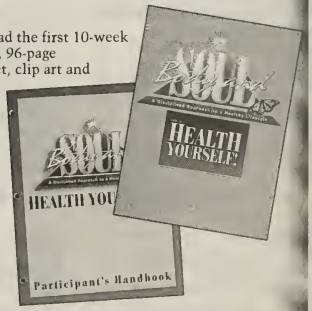
Tiiis calendar item was reported incorrectly. The committee recommendation should have been Nonconcurrence.


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DCA-351-6

# Proceedings of the 1996 General Conference of The United Methodist Church

## The Committee On Journal

The Committee On Journal hereby certifies as accurate, with the following corrections, the proceedinga s printed in the *Daily Christian Advocate*, for Friday April 26, 1996.

*Daily Edition*, page 672, column 2, six lines from the bottom; replace "abandonment" with "amendment."

*Daily Edition*, page 672, column 3, line 17; replace "or" with "a."

*Daily Edition*, page 710, column 2, eight lines from the bottom; Randall Robinson's correct initial is "L."

**Reported by William Reasner**
**Chair, Committee On Journal**

## Thursday Morning April 25, 1996

*(Continued from Page 727)*

BISHOP YEAKEL: All right, thank you. Can I test the body? This seems to me to be a pretty clear kind of an amendment. It's either stay with what is, which says "one or more" or say that at least two so it's multiple. Could we vote on this quickly? We're taking lots of...well, OK I saw someone right over here then in number 2. Are you the person?

*Site Search for GBGM*

ANITA CRUMP (Louisiana): I'm against the amendment for the reason that we don't need to seek any other locations or areas for the movement of the General Board of Global Ministries. I concur with the majority report. Many delegates are concerned about the $520,000 which we spent for the Reston, Virginia study. How can we justify another study and a waste of our funds when we have so many people who are in need, so many groups, and we need to be concerned with missions.

BISHOP YEAKEL: All right, thank you. May I point out that we're on the simple amendment of substituting the words "at least two" for the words "one or more" in item "b" under point 1 of the minority report. That's all we're on right now. Over here please.

BISHOP YEAKEL: Microphone 9.

JEROME K. DEL PINO (New England): Bishop, I have a question, and the question is whether those two locations would be delimited to the continental United States?

BISHOP YEAKEL: I can't answer your question.

DEL PINO: Is it possible that the maker of the motion could indicate whether that is intended or implied?

BISHOP YEAKEL: Would the maker of the motion respond to that? Nine. Microphone 9.

GREGORY STOVER (West Ohio): There is no intention in the amendment to make a limitation.

BISHOP YEAKEL: There is no limitation. We're still on this amendment. Are you ready to vote on this? Do you want to speak to it, sir?

JOE M. WHITTEMORE (North Georgia): Thank you, Bishop. Our objective in the minority report has been to leave the comparison to the standing committee. We would be willing to accept the decision of this body either way.

BISHOP YEAKEL: All right, I take it you are ready to decide. If you will adopt the motion to insert "at least two" for the words "one or more," will you vote "yes;" if not, vote "no." Please vote when the light appears. [Results: yes, 481; no, 448] It is amended. Now the minority report as amended once is before you. Microphone 2. We're perfecting the minority report.

CARL L. SCHENCK (Missouri East): Thank you, Bishop. I would move the following amendment to the minority report: that we delete the "whereas" paragraph at the bottom of page 481 on the *DCA*, and as it continues to the top, delete that whole paragraph. Further, in the second "whereas" paragraph on page 482, that we delete the word "strong." And finally, that we, under the "now therefore be it resolved," that we add recommendation one from the majority as follows: "The 1992 Site Selection Task Force is dismissed with apreciation," and then renumber the following paragraphs.

BISHOP YEAKEL: All right, there's three parts to this. Deleting the paragraph at the bottom of page 481 continuing on the top of 482; deleting the word "strong" from the second "whereas"; and inserting the number one from the majority report as number one in the minority report, making the others two, three, and four. Is that correct sir?

SCHENCK: That is correct.

BISHOP YEAKEL: Is there a second? It is seconded.

SCHENCK: Bishop?

BISHOP YEAKEL: I'm sorry.

SCHENCK: May I speak?

BISHOP YEAKEL: Yes, you may.

SCHENCK: Just briefly, I think the minority report has merit, but I believe that the deletions I am recommending and the addition make the report more charitable and more generous to those who have labored long, and less with the connotation, perhaps, of criticism of those who have labored over the site selection report.

BISHOP YEAKEL: All right, thank you.

WHITTEMORE: Bishop, do we have the option of accepting that as a friendly amendment?

BISHOP YEAKEL: Yes.

WHITTEMORE: We would be delighted to accept it.

BISHOP YEAKEL: All right, it is accepted as a friendly amendment. Now, we are perfecting the report. Are you ready? You're not ready. Yes? Here in the middle, please.

MARY H. MILLER (South Indiana): On page 482, I'd like to ask for two editorial corrections.

BISHOP YEAKEL: All right.

MILLER: In the second "whereas," the third line, I believe after the word available that should be "which" rather than "with."

BISHOP YEAKEL: I think that's correct.

MILLER: In the fourth "whereas," in the last line of that paragraph, I believe the word should be "joint" and not "joined" committee.

BISHOP YEAKEL: I think that's right. We need to have "t".

MILLER: Thank you.

BISHOP YEAKEL: OK. Yes sir, what is your motion please? Number 9. We are perfecting the minority report.

FRANK L. DORSEY (Kansas East): I want to stand opposed to the amendment.

BISHOP YEAKEL: We are not debating it yet, sir. We're amending it, perfecting it. That's the point I've been trying to make. When we get all the motions, then we'll come around to debate. Is the report now perfected? Is it your agreement that..? I see someone wanting to perfect the report. Number 5, please. Microphone 5.

JIM HOLSINGER (Kentucky): If it's in order, I'd like to move that we vote on all that is before us and suspend the rule.

BISHOP YEAKEL: Suspend the rules, move that we vote on all that is before us. Well, we'll test it with the house. If you will suspend the rules and put us in the posture to go ahead with the appropriate speeches from the committee chairs, which would be a part of our rules not suspended in this, then we'll go to vote right through, will you vote when the light appears. "Yes" if you approve, "no" if you don't. It takes two-thirds. You are ready to vote on the material that's before you. Our conference rules say that we vote on the minority report first, we hear from the chair of the minority report, and then we go to the chair of the primary report. When we've heard those two persons, we will vote. That's the order we're going. So you have the speech, sir.

WHITTEMORE: Bishop, can you clarify for me that once we finish with the two closing statements, we will then be voting on the minority report.

BISHOP YEAKEL: That is correct.

WHITTEMORE: So if we want to support the minority report, we would vote "yes." Is that correct?

BISHOP YEAKEL: When we vote, if you want to support the minority report, you will vote "yes;" if you want to get to the majority report, you'll vote "no."

WHITTEMORE: We urge you to vote "yes" for the minority report. This would allow the 2000 General Conference to make an informed decision of the location of the General Board of Global Ministries. The legitimate concern being expressed by our minority report is, there has to be a better answer, and the General Conference should make that decision. We are not asking for special consideration of any site. We, the General Conference, are the servants of our beloved church, and we have been given the opportunity and the responsibility for church decisions. The majority and the minority of our committee unanimously agreed to approve legislation to prohibit the use of any program funds for relocation. Implementation of the minority report will cost no more than the majority report. However, the minority report provides the mechanics for General Conference to regain the confidence and trust of our membership on this issue.

At this point in time, the New York location of General Board of Global Ministries has not been compared to any other location in this process. Clearly, adequate sites are available that would reduce annual operating costs and make those millions of dollars available for mission. Clear review and decision making with integrity never hurts. It heals, and it paves the way to collaboration, to reconciliation, and indeed to community. To take advantage of these possibilities and have General Conference make this important decision, we encourage you to vote "yes" for the minority report. Again we want to thank you for this consideration.

BISHOP YEAKEL: All right, thank you. Now we'll hear from the majority. The speakers and the summary are under the three minute rule. They don't have a light over there. I have one here, and you have one out there, so we'll try to be gentle.

DAVID L. SEVERE (Oklahoma): Thank you, sir. We would suggest that the minority report is flawed in a number of ways but in particular at the point at which it asks for this report to the General Conference. I would remind you that under your *Discipline* the joint committee that is spoken of is required to report to the General Conference. That is already a conclusion that need not be debated. It's in the *Discipline*, so we do not need that to be in a motion. The review that they would do in their natural way of doing all the reviews is required to be reported to the General Conference.

Secondly, I think you need to be aware of the fact that to require there to be a number, any number, of sites investigated requires an additional amount of money because the report of the committee that has been, or would be dismissed by all of our actions, has taken into account situations that you've already rejected, so we would have to have new analyses done. That is a very expensive process. If we put it into the whole process of the general church as we now see it and particularly could relate it to the Connectional Process Team and their ongoing work, we believe that we would have a far better chance of seeing the grand picture of the whole church and not be required to expend that kind of money.

I believe that we should defeat the majority report, that we should adopt the minority report, that we should

adopt the majority report, and I trust that you will do that. Thank you very much.

*Minority Report Defeated*

BISHOP YEAKEL: All right, thank you. Let's be clear what you're voting on. What is before you is the minority report. If you vote "yes," it becomes the primary report. If you vote "no," we then go to the majority report, and we'll hear the speeches and then vote on that. Please vote when the light appears. [Results: yes, 400; no, 558] The minority report is lost. We are now ready to go to the majority report. Is there a final speech from the chair of the committee? There is no final speech.

*Majority Report on Site Selection Adopted*

Let me tell you what you're voting on. If you vote "yes," then this becomes the action of the conference. If you vote "no," there is no action, and the report of the Consent Calendar, which brought the original search to conclusion, is the action of the conference. What I'm trying to have you understand is, it's not a simple "yes" and "no" on this particular item. Voting "yes" means this will be what we do in the next quadrennium. If you vote "no," there is no further action on this particular item coming from this General Conference because you have already on the Consent Calendar set aside the report of the Messer task force, if I can refer to it that way, which has already been adopted. Please vote when the light appears. [Results: yes, 584; no, 354] The majority report is adopted and will be the plan and procedure for the next quadrennium. All right, I think that, hopefully, that completes this particular part of your responsibility, but you have other items. All right.

SEVERE: Would the rest of the members of my committee please make their way here quickly. We did not have enough key pads up here for everybody, so we had asked the committee members to return to their seats. We have a number of items to bring to you today that are under the General and Judicial Administration area. I want to, in the beginning, want to express appreciation for the people who have been in that committee. We have had a number of things to deal with. I would particularly like to express my appreciation to Minerva Carcaño who has been our vice chair, and she has done a wonderful job of assisting and helping and giving leadership in a number of ways in the committee. I very much appreciate her help and her leadership in all the work of the committee.

Thelma Johnson has been our secretary and has done a yeoman's task, for we have had a great number of petitions to deal with, and she has kept up with that. She has kept the chair from making major blunders, and she's just been a great help to us, so we want to express appreciation to her. I would also like to express appreciation to the subcommittee chairs, to Rex Bevins who chaired the connectional issues and GCOM legislation subcommittee; to Harriet Olson who was just here, who chaired the committee on site location and the constitutional questions that were in the petitions; to Sam Wynn who dealt with the missional studies and the special Sundays; and to Alfred Johnson who dealt with the judicial petitions that we had. My deep appreciation goes to all these people, some of whom will be on the platform during these presentations and others of which you will see a little later.

At this point, Minerva Carcaño will lead us in two or three items. I have forgotten, we got one of them already...two items. Thank you, Minerva.

*Amenability and Program Accountability*

MINERVA G. CARCAÑO (Rio Grande): The first petition deals with amenability and program accountability. You will find it on page 170 of your blue book. It is Calendar Item 433, Petition 21534. The text of the petition is found in your white *DCA* on page 1327. It's on the right hand column, the second paragraph. The essence of the petition is that it would limit general agencies to paying for only three persons to any non-United Methodist event. The recommendation of the committee is nonconcurrence with a vote of 84 for, 9 against and 1 abstention. And the rationale of the committee is that we believe that as general boards and agencies do their work, they are in a better position, a more informed position, to make the decision about our need for representation at events. I would move the recommendation of the committee.

BISHOP YEAKEL: Motion is for nonconcurrence. I take it you're ready? Please vote when the light appears. Shift gears. If you will support the committee will you lift the hand? If not, will you lift the hand? The committee is supported.

*Inclusiveness of the Church*

CARCAÑO: The second matter deals with the inclusiveness of the church. It is related to paragraph 4 of the *Book of Discipline*. You will find it on page 170 of the blue book. It is Calendar Item 437. It is Petition 22869, and the text of the petition is found in your white *DCA* on page 1324 on the right hand column, third paragraph. The petition seeks to add language on inclusiveness to the fourth paragraph of the *Book of Discipline*. The committee recommends nonconcurrence with a vote of 73 for, 19 opposed and 10 abstentions. The committee believes that the *Discipline* is clear and strong as it stands. It already states that all persons shall be eligible for membership in the United Methodist Church, and for participation in all of its programs and ministry. The paragraph also lists examples of inclusiveness, a list which is clearly not intended to be exhaustive. So we recommend nonconcurrence.

BISHOP YEAKEL: All right. The recommendation is nonconcurrence.

This item has to do with the Constitution of the church. I see no cards or anyone moving. I will put the question if you will adopt the committee's recommendation of nonconcurrence, will you lift the hand? If not, will you lift the hand? You do support the committee.

CARCAÑO: Thank you.

SAM WYNN (North Carolina): Call your attention to the blue book page 235, Calendar Item 762, Petition 21677 found in the *Advanced DCA* on page 579.

BISHOP YEAKEL: Page 235 in the blue book, and what was the number again in the red book?

WYNN: 762.

BISHOP YEAKEL: What page number, please?

WYNN: Ah, page 235.

BISHOP YEAKEL: No, that's in the blue book. What's in the red book? What's the number..

WYNN: Page 579 in the red book. This petition is a petition of support for the Black Church Study.

BISHOP YEAKEL: Page 579 in the red book is not the right page reference. Well, let's see, well 579 is the Strength of the Black Church. What is your point of order, please? One of you was raising the point of order. All right.

EDDIE SELF (North Alabama): In my book it shows me that we dealt with that on the 22nd. Is that not correct?

WYNN: Bishop, this is just the petition of support and it would have to be referred to GCFA.

BISHOP YEAKEL: It has dollars with it?

WYNN: Um, well, yes it does, but it is a petition of support for the Black Church.

BISHOP YEAKEL: But the point, legal question they're asking me was didn't we adopt this the other day? And everybody says they did, so we don't need to adopt it again. Well, we don't have to refer to the petition if you adopted the calendar item. So it has been passed. You're one up, Sam.

*Enabling Legislation for Shared Focus of Young People*

WYNN: OK, thank you. Page 388 in the blue book. Calendar Item 1694, Petition 21678. It's found on page 599 of the *Advanced DCA* of the red book. This is the Shared Focus of Young People. And the report has been received in the GCOM report, but this is the legislation to enable this to happen. The committee concurs with a vote of 80 for, zero against, 2 abstaining. There are dollars. It's been referred to GCFA. The rationale we believe this will be a great opportunity for the entire church to enhance and to increase the young people and the youth in involvement of the United Methodist Church.

BISHOP YEAKEL: All right. This does take your action to refer it. Especially to see GCFA. I take it you're ready? All right? No you're not, I see a card over here to my right. Microphone 7.

JEFF QUICK (North Arkansas): I rise to amend what we are doing or about to do. Let me make sure I'm in the right place.

BISHOP YEAKEL: Get us all to that place. What page are you on?

QUICK: I would like to turn us to 1305 of the white *DCA*. I would like to amend the budget of the Shared Mission Focus in the following way.

BISHOP YEAKEL: We're on 1305. What petition are you in there?

QUICK: Petition 22747.

WYNN: Bishop, this is a different petition.

*Funding of Shared Focus of Young People*

QUICK: Right, and what I would like to do is amend the Shared Mission Focus budget by adding a portion of this petition. I would like to see the budget remain at $270,000 that's listed on 603 in the red *DCA* and then add the following: "$230,000 which would be available to local churches in the form of grants to be used as seed money to respond to the needs and issues of young people in the church and community." And then "$2.4 million which the Shared Mission Team will oversee or coordinate, quadrennial pilot programs, in ten conferences and ten local churches." And then, finally, "$100,000 to fund a fund for the purpose of strengthening the theological education in the area of ministry with young people." If I have a second, and if that's in order, I would like to speak to that.

BISHOP YEAKEL: Well, I'm not sure that it's in order. Let's get our minds around this. We're on 1694 in the blue book which is referenced to the petition found beginning on 599 in the red book. I need help in knowing the connection between what's in the white book and the red book. Can you help me with that?

WYNN: Yes, Bishop. These are two separate petitions, and our committee has some action that we plan to bring for the second petition found in the white book. And we would oppose this simply because we feel that we have an enabling petition or action that will help accomplish some of the goals that set forth in Petition 22747.

BISHOP YEAKEL: OK. I think a motion is in order to bring part of the material on 1305 onto page 603, but not the other way around. And if I understood what you proposed, you were taking a part of 603 and putting it onto what's on 1305. You were not?

QUICK: No, sir. I would like to move part of 1305 to add that to the bottom of the 603 report.

BISHOP YEAKEL: All right. Would you repeat then how you are perfecting what's on 603, which is the budget. I think that's where you were working. Is that correct?

QUICK: Right. That's correct. I'd like to leave the $270,000 total that is on page 603...

BISHOP YEAKEL: All right.

QUICK: And then, if you move to 1305, underneath. We propose a plan for implementing a focus on young people. I'd like to include the next three bullets, only changing that first bullet which would read "$230,000 will be available to local churches."

BISHOP YEAKEL: So you want 230 to go in there instead of 500,000. Take those three paragraphs and put them on page 603.

QUICK: Yes, Sir.

BISHOP YEAKEL: Is there a second? All right, I think it's a proper motion.

QUICK: I've worked with youth, both as a young person, as my local church's youth chair person of United Methodist Youth Fellowship, and also for the past seven years as a youth director of local congregations in the Arkansas area. One thing that I've noticed about young people is that they have a wonderful skill of noticing hypocrisy among people. I find that $270,000 is belittling to a focus or to a priority of the Church, especially on the denominational level. I think that that will filter back to our youth, and our words will be without action, and we will be doing little more than speaking out of the sides of our mouths. Mrs. Teddlie encouraged us early on in the week to reorder our priorities, and to accept this focus of young people. I support that 100 percent. The scriptures say, however, that where our treasure is, there our heart is. It seems to me that yesterday we adopted a plan of studying the ministry of different areas, and we adopted a $200,000 budget to go along with that study, to see what we wanted to do. Now we're ready to work. It's time for us to go, hands and feet, and dive into the ministry of youth and young people in our denomination. We're not studying it; we're deciding that this is going to be a priority and a focus for our denomination. And to do so with only $270,000, seems unfair. It seems to me that there should be more of a difference than just simply $70,000, in something that we're proposing as a study and something that we're proposing as a focus. I support both the Korean ministries of our church as well as the young people. I just think there's a difference between what we support as a study and what we say we're going to dive into and make real in the life of our denomination.

BISHOP YEAKEL: All right, thank you. Speaking against? You're speaking against, sir? Come to microphone 9.

JOSEPH L. HARRIS (Oklahoma): Would it be in order to table until we hear the committee's recommendation on 22747 and act on it at that time?

BISHOP YEAKEL: A motion to table would be in order.

HARRIS: So move.

BISHOP YEAKEL: Is it seconded. You cannot table it until a specific time. If you table it, you table it, and then it will have to be re-enacted at that time anew. A tabling motion is not debatable. If you will support the tabling motion, will you lift the hand? If not, will you lift the hand? It is not tabled. The motion is before us. Yes, right here. In section C, come to number 8, please. A speech against the motion would be in order.

DOUGLAS BRANTLEY (North Georgia): I'm moving to substitute the amendment to the amendment.

BISHOP YEAKEL: All right.

BRANTLEY : I move that the General Conference refer this proposal for further study and development and to ask the General Council on Ministries to bring back to the 2000 General Conference for a consideration for a new plan for a bold, real focus on young people, a missional priority.

BISHOP YEAKEL: All right, that's your motion. You're into the speech, are you not? You're still on the motion?

BRANTLEY...a missional priority to reach young people for Jesus Christ, not to exceed $10 million over the next quadrennium.

BISHOP YEAKEL: All right, this is a motion to refer. From my information, you would refer the whole thing, not just the amendment, but the amendment and the basic text.

BRANTLEY: Correct.

BISHOP YEAKEL: All right. We're debating the referal only. Yes, down here, number 3.

BRANTLEY: May I speak to that?

BISHOP YEAKEL: All right, yes, you may speak. You speak first.

BRANTLEY: I appreciate the efforts that have been made to present this proposal at this time, but I agree with the person who spoke a few moments ago, that this is not a focus on youth. A focus is described as a priority, a cause of critical importance. A focus on young people is critically important at this time, but that proposal that calls for only $270,000 is not a focus. The time has come for The United Methodist Church to place young people as a real focus of the church. This proposal is only a quick glance at youth. It is time to focus on youth. I call upon the General Council on Ministries to come back in 2000 and lead The United Methodist Church in a dynamic focus on young people. It is time for that bold focus in the midst of the problems and needs of young people today. Out of a proposed budget for The United Methodist Church for the quadrennium of over $5 million, $270,000 says that we're committed, not to a focus, but a mere glance. I call upon the General Council to come forward with a bold plan to help us to consider in the following years of 2000, a proposal to reach the more than 50 percent of the young people, and to find ways of speaking, seeking, and enabling young people to find Christ. In the 1992 General Conference in Louisville, it was declared that the church must do more to address the needs of young people, specifically the spiritual, social and emotional needs that are critical to the achievement of wholeness. It is my prayer that our great church will indeed focus on young people with a focus that is worthy of challenge that faces the church today. It is time to give further consideration for this critical issue that confronts us as a church.

BISHOP YEAKEL: Thank you. Now I presume you were speaking against it. Microphone 3. Your name and conference please.

JEANNIE TREVINO-TEDDLIE (Central Texas): I would speak against the amendment. We can't afford to postpone for four years. I served as you all saw, with GCOM

that developed the proposal. We would love to have recommended much more than we did. But we wanted to take this step, in thinking of a New Testament story, where Jesus, in the midst of so many people, wanted to feed them, and asked the disciples, "What do you have? Feed them with what you have." The disciples felt like they didn't have anything, but Jesus asked them to look, and they found something. We knew the budget limitations that we're facing. We felt this was a good first step. I don't want to delay this for four years. Let's take a step with what we can do.

BISHOP YEAKEL: All right, thank you. Is there a speech in favor of reference? In the C section all the way in the back. No, over -. OK, the card's down. All the way back in B, microphone 13. I take it you're speaking in support of reference. Give us your name and conference.

WILLIAM T. MCCLENDON (South Carolina): I have a point of clarification which will enable me to make up my mind about reference.

BISHOP YEAKEL: All right.

MCCLENDON: The item on page 1305 in the white book, in the bullets that the gentleman shared, mention a figure of $2.4 million and a figure of $100,000. I'm not sure where that money is going to come from. And I need that answer before I would like to refer.

BISHOP YEAKEL: Will the maker of the amendment concerning the finances, yes, will you come, please, to the microphone and respond to the question? Where is it that you anticipate this particular money to come from? Obviously, it would be referred to GCFA, according to our rules, but it's an appropriate question.

QUICK: And I'm not sure exactly where that money needs to come from best either. My recommendation would be that it be referred to GCFA for their insight.

BISHOP YEAKEL: All right. Thank you, Jeff. That's the best we can do, sir. All right. Now, a speech in favor of the reference would be, unless you're ready to vote. A reference question, it seems to me, is fairly simple. Are you ready to vote? Time, you know, tomorrow night at midnight is coming. You're not ready to vote on this? All right, over here. Microphone 5. And which way are you speaking?

REBECCA C. CARVER (Iowa): I am speaking against referral. This week I turned 35 years old at this General Conference.

BISHOP YEAKEL: Happy Birthday.

CARVER: Thank you. I have waited all of my life to see The United Methodist Church take youth and young adults seriously, and to be committed to us. I have watched my friends walk away from the church. I'm a campus minister. I watch students walk away from the church because they do not feel that they are taken seriously. We cannot afford to spend four more years thinking about young adults and youth. We need to be supportive and keep them, keep all of us, in the church. I urge you to vote against referral.

BISHOP YEAKEL: All right. This is properly before you. Are you ready, now, to vote? You're ready to vote. All right. This is on referral only. If you vote for referral, it takes the whole thing with it. The machine is working on this one. Will you vote when the light appears? The vote to refer is not supported. [Results: yes, 142; no, 777] We're back on the original amendment which takes a portion off of page 513, adds it to the budget on page 603. That amendment is before you. I've had one speech in favor. You're speaking to this? Are you speaking against it? A speech against it would be in order. Over here, then, microphone 5.

JIM HOLSINGER (Kentucky): Bishop, I move we suspend the rules and vote on all that is before us.

BISHOP YEAKEL: All right. You have a motion for suspending the rules and voting. Are you ready to receive that? Whichever way you wish to vote, do so when the light appears. [775 approved] The motion is supported. Do we have amended the document. Now, the document. I'm sorry. Thank you. I'm trying to do too many things. Thank you for your help. Now you're ready to vote. We need to hear from you, sir, before we vote.

SAMUEL WYNN (North Carolina): I would call your attention to the emphasis that GCOM as well as this General Conference is trying to enhance. We have been in depth, listening sessions, we are trying very intently to address the needs of the youth. We believe that this is a good beginning, and over the next four years I believe very positively that some things will come from this that will enhance the youth of our church.

BISHOP YEAKEL: I thank you. Now you have the amendment before you. Please vote when the light appears. [Results: yes, 589; no, 329] The amendment is adopted. Now the whole thing as amended is before you. There is still one last speech from the chair.

WYNN: One of the questions that was asked earlier, and that was in reference to page 305, the $2.4 million. There has been no consultation or dialogue with GCFA about where this money would come from. And I would ask you to take note of that. We are trying to address the need of the youth within our denomination, and we feel that the proposal that we have will adequately begin that process.

BISHOP YEAKEL: All right. You now will vote on the item as amended with the budget information. Please vote when the light appears. [Results: yes, 753; no, 173] You have adopted this calendar item. And it is referred automatically to GCFA. Now, Sam, I'm going to interrupt you and do some other things at the moment.

### *Jurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy Confirmed*

If you will turn in your blue book to page 31, or your red book to pages 80 and 81, the Inter Jurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy needs to be elected. The nominations are appropriately before you. They come from

each of the conferences so represented, and it just requires your confirmation. If you will confirm the Inter Jurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy please vote when the light appears. [Results: yes, 819; no, 30] It is confirmed.

*Weems Bigham,*
*Gonzales, Bing-Harnis*
*Elected to University Senate*

Now, I want to, working with the folks wherever they are, I keep saying the booth. They're in the booth or someplace around here. The report of the University Senate election, of the CEO category. Will you please give that to us? Well, now you make me work. We have elected then, Weems and Bigham, is that correct? They are the two highest number of vote getters. The records show Weems 441, Bigham 281, and they are elected. Now the non-CEO category. Gonzales, 437; and Bing Harris, 418; and they are elected. There is no further work to be done on the University Senate.

*Tews, Sweet, Brockwell,*
*Collins, Pickens, Cain,*
*Clergy Elected to Judicial Council*

Now will you put up the information on the Judicial Council clergy? Six persons to be elected. They must have a majority of the ballot. Needed for election is 366. Will you put up? We have elected, I believe, all six. Tews 595, Sweet 579, Brockwell 555, Collins 508, Pickens 481, and Cain 464. All have received the appropriate number of ballots needed and are elected. Now may we have the ballot for the Judicial Council of the Laity. Needed to elect will be 331, and will you give us the slate? Grey received 452,

BISHOP YEAKEL: Geis 440, and Hill 361, they are elected.

BISHOP YEAKEL: Will you make a note for yourselves, of the other persons so that when we convene this afternoon we will take another ballot for three more lay persons for the Judicial Council alternates. You need to go to the two screens, would you give us the first screen again? Beginning with Plowman, Sessums, Lett, Church, Bonney, Gordon, Panganiban, Danburam. And there's two names on the other side, Kolasa and McLane. If you can make a note for yourself for the persons, you need to consider three. We will do that voting this afternoon.

We'll go to announcements at this time, then I'll survey the membership. Announcements please, madam secretary.

CAROLYN M. MARSHALL: I will have to ask your forbearance because there are several announcements. More than we have had at any one session so far during the General Conference.

The first is a request for the Philippines delegates to meet on the right hand side of the platform right after the morning session. And also a request that the three bishops from the Philippines meet with them.

One, just a comment, we've received a fly back and I'll have to thank the delegation that has sent numerous messages about lights, we'll say to you that we get requests here as far as heat, first its too hot and then its too cold, and we keep relaying those messages. Then lights are bright then they're not bright, and so right now we seem to have gotten them where at least the people who have been bothered by them are happy. Thank you for our word of appreciation in the various languages.

A note that there are valuable items available in the lost and found, and if you have lost something and would like to meet up with it again, there is a probability that it is at the information desk.

Just a few moments ago we elected the Inter-jurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy. That committee will convene this evening in room A 209

In today's *DCA*, on page 537, there is a listing of schedules for the airport shuttle. If you happen to be in one of the hotels that is not listed, would you please go to room A113 to make arrangements. That is, the original is listed on page 537 in today's *DCA*.

And, a word to you, we have been blessed during this general conference by the music leadership of Cynthia Wilson-Felder and S. T. Kimbrough. They, as a special for this particular conference, did record spiritual songs from the American experience. There are solos by each of them as well as duets, and those are available in both CD and cassette form in the Cokesbury display.

And, then this one for our use, this comes to us from the Denver Visitors and Convention Bureau. And, I'm going to read it in its entirety: "We have been made aware of some unfortunate communications which several of you may have received from your hotels. We apologize for any inconvenience or confusion that may have been created. These are the steps that you should take to resolve any problem. For those of you who have received letters, go to the front desk of your hotel and request to extend your stay. In most cases they will be able to help you. In the event your hotel cannot extend your stay, please call this telephone number, 571-9431, between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. to discuss alternatives. This number will also be posted at the information desk in lobby A. You will NOT, in caps, be put on the street. There are hotel rooms available. Please know that this problem is not, again the not is emphasized, created by the United Methodist conference office. In some cases reservation forms noted Friday check out; in other cases letters were delivered inadvertently. Again, we apologize for any inconvenience. We trust you will continue to enjoy your stay in the Mile High city.

Bishop, that completes the announcements.

BISHOP YEAKEL: Thank you. Let me call now for Mary Silva for a point of personal privilege. Is that Mary Silva at microphone 7? Thank you.

BYRD BONNER (Southwest Texas:)

MARY SILVA (Rio Grande): And we move that we allow Bishop Ray

Owen and the heads of the delegation from Rio Grande conference and Southwest Texas conference to make a presentation.

MINERVA G. CARCAÑO (Rio Grande)-

*San Antonio Area Gives Hispanic Hymnal to All Delegates*

JANICE RIGGLE K. HUIE (Southwest Texas) [spoken alternately]

On April 20th this General Conference received the gift of its first hymnal in the Spanish language, *Mil Voces Para Celebrar*. This body rejoiced in celebration making the Spanish language hymnal an official hymnal of the United Methodist Church. This hymnal comes at a time when the United Methodist Church is experiencing great growth in its ministry with and among Hispanics. And so as a sign of our ongoing commitment to Hispanic ministry, and our rejoicing over the new Spanish language hymnal, the Southwest Texas and the Rio Grande conferences, the San Anatonio area is pleased to be able to give each delegate of this General Conference a copy of *Mil Voces Para Celebrar*. We hope and pray that this gift to each of you will inspire and strengthen our United Methodist commitment to Hispanic ministry.

Bishop, we have two motions, please. We move that the rules be suspended to allow the hymnal to be placed at each delegates desk during the lunch hour. *(applause)*

BISHOP YEAKEL: I think you've got your motion granted.

HUIE: And we also move that you give one of these hymnals to Hillary Rodham Clinton on our behalf. *(applause)*

BISHOP YEAKEL: I'll be pleased to see that's taken care of.

HUIE: And now we call on Bishop Owen.

BISHOP YEAKEL: Bishop Owen, please.

BISHOP RAYMOND OWEN: This expression of our connection is only one of the many reasons I count it a high privilege to be the bishop of the San Antonio area, which consists of the Southwest Texas and Rio Grande conferences. Our cabinets and our councils are working together to explore and strategize how better, together, we can fulfill the plan of the Hispanic ministry. Rio Grande conference overlaps six annual conferences in Texas and in New Mexico. With this gift we now overlap with all of the conferences all over the world. May this hymnal, *Mil Voces Para Celebrar*, be a blessing to you as you connect your local church with Hispanic ministries in your own local communities. Thank you. *(applause)*

BISHOP YEAKEL: Thank you, very much Bishop Owen. All right. I was looking for Sandra Lackore. Is she in the back of the room or up in the front. May I suggest that the Calendar Committee and the Agenda Committee...

Our plans and our agenda for this afternoon were to deal with the fiscal matters, with the major fiscal matter of this morning. GCFA's requesting that they be delayed until tomorrow on their agenda. You'll need to consult over lunchtime, but this at least signals that possibility to you, Sarah, and to the body and if...I think the other thing that should be said is if there are any other items with dollars assigned to them that are lurking out there, that we haven't had before us, we really need to get them on as quickly as possible so that GCFA has the total package to work on. Microphone 3, please.

BECKY HAASE (California-Pacific): Just a moment of personal privilege. At the conclusion of this session, this morning's session, there will be a memorial service being held in room C105 for David Harada, who is a minister of the California-Pacific Annual Conference, and has been a past member of the General Conference. He has died during the time that we have been here, and we would just welcome anyone who would care to join our delegation in that service.

BISHOP YEAKEL: Thank you for that invitation. Now, one more from the secretary.

CAROLYN MARSHALL: During the General Conference we have been appreciating the ministry of music, which has been brought by the choirs, which are shared during worship, and which have again been sharing during the noon hour. Those, as we are now aware, have been held in the perfunctionary area near the ballrooms. Today, we make a change in location for the deaf choir, who ministered to us this morning. They will be sharing again this afternoon at 1:30; however, the location this time will be in this plenary hall.

BISHOP YEAKEL: All right. Thank you. I've asked Bishop Abel Muzorewa, retired bishop from Zimbabwe to speak for us a word of prayer and benediction as we conclude, we will meet at 2 o'clock this afternoon.

*[prayer]*

# Thursday Afternoon April 25, 1996

*Bishop William B. Oden, presiding*

*"Songs For the Poor"*

BISHOP WILLIAM B. ODEN: As the delegates are coming in and taking seats for the afternoon session, I want to call on S.T. Kimbrough, our song leader for a very special moment.

S.T. KIMBROUGH: Our bishops have reminded us of the importance of our service and ministry among the poor, with the program that they are developing for the church. Mrs. Clinton reminded us yesterday of the long-standing interests of Methodists in ministry to the poor. In just a moment as we gather, we're going to sing two stanzas of a hymn that we do not know by Charles Wesley. He wrote a number of hymns that have to do specifically with ministry to the poor that never made it into our hymn books, which is a rather strange commentary on our lives as Methodist Christians. You can find these on a compact disc at Cokesbury, called "Songs For the Poor."

I invite you to join me in singing two stanzas of one of these hymns. The words will be projected, the tune is extremely familiar to many of us. To some, perhaps, not. You know it as traditionally tied to the hymn "Faith of Our Fathers" the tune known as "Saint Catherine." Would you join me and stand as we sing, "The poor as Jesus' bosom friends, the poor he makes his latest care, to all his followers commends and wills us on our hands to bear"? And notice what he says in the last stanza—Charles Wesley invites us to make the poor our friends. So that when we meet them in heaven, we will know that they, indeed, are our friends who have been Jesus' bosom friends. May we sing?

*[song]*

The proceeds from this project go to the Bishops' Appeal for Africa. Join us in celebrating ministry to the poor in the song of our own tradition, Charles Wesley's words.

BISHOP ODEN: Thank you Mr. Kimbrough. Please be seated. I would like to call us to do our time of discernment in a bit of a different way this afternoon. While we are all together, and yet, in each of our hearts, let us ask ourselves in silence what we would like to see happen this afternoon that will be the will of God for this church. Let us do that in silence and I will close in prayer.

*[prayer]*

BISHOP WILLIAM B. ODEN: I would like to begin this afternoon by asking the house if you would be willing to move quickly into our afternoon agenda, which is very heavy, and to hold our privileged motions that you may have until the end of our session so that we might move immediately into what is before us. *(applause)* I would like to call on only one such motion because of the large number of red shirts to the conference's right. So I'm going to ask Betty Whitehurst to share with us a word about those red coats that have invaded us. Betty? Microphone 9.

*Volunteers in Mission*

BETTY C. WHITEHURST (Virginia): I request a moment of personal privilege to introduce a very special group of persons who are visiting us this afternoon. While we have been busy about the Lord's work in our legislative committees and plenary sessions during these two weeks, Volunteers in Mission have completed one Habitat for Humanity house here in Denver and have another house almost completed. *(applause)* Volunteers have also worked at six community service sites. A total of 326 volunteers from 19 states and 11 other countries have worked together on these projects. The representatives from other countries include bishops, presidents, and executive secretaries of national churches, as well as coordinators of Volunteers in Mission. A group of these volunteers is here in the bleachers in the red shirts. I would like to recognize the Rev. John Laughlin who has organized this, he coordinates Volunteers in Missions in the Rocky Mountain Conference, and thank him and all the volunteers for their work. *(applause)*

BISHOP ODEN: Volunteers, we send you out this afternoon to work on our behalf as well. God bless.

*Ballot for Alternate Lay Member of Judicial Council*

We're now ready for the third ballot on the alternate lay members of the Judicial Council. We would like to ask that these names might be put on the screen that we might once again see them. The names are before you, numbers 1 through 13. You will vote for three. One at a time, but vote for three. These are the lay alternates to the Judicial Council. Vote when the light appears. The voting is complete. Now, vote again when the light appears. One more time, vote when the light appears. Thank you very much. We're to wait for a report from the tabulation. We will move on into calendar items and come back to the results. The first committee to report is Global Ministries, and I call upon Carolyn Johnson.

*Interagency Task Force on AIDS*

CAROLYN E. JOHNSON (North Indiana): Thank you, Bishop. This afternoon as we progress through what I hope will be the concluding items for legislative committee group number 6, Global Ministries. The first calendar item is found on the blue book in page 171, and it's Calendar Item 439. This calendar item refers to the Interagency Task Force on AIDS on which you had a presentation early in the General Conference. There is some supporting information that's found in the *Advance DCA*, the red book, on page 744, and specifically this is Petition 21674.

BISHOP ODEN: Does everyone have that? Page 171 in the blue book, Calendar Item 439, *Advance DCA*, page 744.

JOHNSON: The recommendation of the legislative committee on its vote of 107 for, zero against, and zero not voting was to recommend concurrence, and because of the financial implications, that's why it's brought to you for reference to GCFA. And I so move, Bishop.

BISHOP ODEN: The report is before you. Is there discussion?

BISHOP ODEN: I believe we are ready to vote. All in favor of the motion before you, vote when the light appears. Opposed, vote "no." They are almost reprogrammed. Vote when the light appears. [Results: yes, 685; no, 39] You have voted overwhelmingly to support the motion.

*National Committee on Deaf Ministry*

JOHNSON (North Carolina): Thank you. Yes. Our next item is also found on the same page, 171. It's Calendar Item 440. This refers to the National Committee on Deaf Ministries. There is supporting information in your red *DCA*; however, that entire document has been reprinted before you. So if you're on page 171, you will have all the back-up information. This refers to Petition 21346. On a vote of 107 for, zero against and 1 not voting, the committee recommends concurrence, with one amendment. And that amendment you will see at Roman numeral 2, item B. That's in the second column. In bold face you will see where the word "encourage" is recommended to be substituted for the words "adopt a policy that requires." The committee recommends concurrence as amended, with reference to GCFA. And I so move.

BISHOP ODEN: This is before us even though it was unanimous in the committee because of the referral to GCFA. I see a card. Would you go to microphone 6?

BARBARA W. RIDDLE (Florida): Just again a clarification that I think I asked for Monday or Tuesday. That is, is this already in the proposed budget that's being presented to us, or is this in addition? And we've already voted on the other one, but particularly in reference to this.

BISHOP ODEN: Will the chair respond?

CAROLYN JOHNSON: Yes, I can respond as the status of it as of the legislative committee met. If you will recall, last quadrennium when the General Conference voted on a Mission Initiatives Fund, this item was in that fund. And with our pre-mailing this year, we were told both in the Report 16 from GCFA as well as in the *Multiplier Gifts* book that all those items that have previously been in Mission Initiative Funds would, for the 1997-2000 quadrennium, be listed in World Service. Now as we had our consultation with Financial Administration, it was our understanding that this would be an item in the World Service budget. However, you may want someone specifically from Financial Administration or GCFA to comment on that. But it is to be a World Service line item.

BISHOP ODEN: All right. I see no more cards. We're ready to vote. Vote when the light appears. [704 approved] You have overwhelmingly supported the committee's motion.

JOHNSON: Thank you, Bishop. Our next item is found in your blue *DCA* on page 215. That's Calendar Item 575.

BISHOP ODEN: 575 page 215 of the blue *DCA*.

*National Comprehensive Plan for Town and Country*

JOHNSON: And, again, the supporting documentation is found in your red book, page 284. This is Petition 21356, The National Comprehensive Plan For Town and Country. This item was originally placed on the Consent Calendar and was lifted from the Consent Calendar. The committee's recommendation was concurrence with amendment, and that was by the addition of the words "successor agencies." I would so move, Bishop.

BISHOP ODEN: All right. Is this a calendar item that requires referral to GCFA?

JOHNSON: No, it is not.

BISHOP ODEN: OK, thank you. I see a card to the left. Microphone 4.

ED KAIL (Iowa): Thank you, Bishop. I would like to offer an amendment, please.

BISHOP ODEN: All right. That's in order.

KAIL: In Calendar Item 575, as on page 215, in the second "whereas" paragraph after the word "whereas," insert the word "some" and change the word "ministry" to "ministries." And after the word "despair," replace the semicolon with a comma and add the following language: "while other ministries in town and country settings must deal with radical changes caused by population growth, rapid economic development, and conflicts of culture."

BISHOP ODEN: Would you repeat that one more time? The last part.

KAIL: Let me give this to the page to send up to you.

BISHOP ODEN: Fine.

KAIL: The last part would say "while other ministries in town and country settings must deal with radical changes caused by population growth, rapid economic development, and conflicts of culture."

BISHOP ODEN: All right. The Kail amendment is before you. Would anyone like to speak to it?

KAIL: May I speak?

BISHOP ODEN: Please.

KAIL: Delegates to the General Conference, on behalf of friends and colleagues in the United Methodist Rural Fellowship, I want to thank you for indulging this amendment in support of the Town and Country Ministries. I understand that this is noncontroversial. Voting against Town and Country Ministries or ruralness is like voting against motherhood and apple pie. But the issue is not your moral support. The issue is your connectional commitment. At this point, as far as I'm aware, there is only one seminary among our 13 United Methodist seminaries which

has a dedicated position named for Town and Country Ministries. If I'm wrong, I sure would like to know about it.

There are three regional Rural Life Centers operating currently, but all three of those struggle year-by-year, even week-by-week for the financial support to sustain them as a real resource for rural ministry. We have one person in the office of Town and Country Ministries in the National Division, but that person has a multiple portfolio which takes her far beyond Town and Country Ministries. What we're calling for here is development of a national comprehensive plan for Town and Country Ministries.

I'd like to try just a little bit of research right now. Those clergy and lay delegates who would self-identify themselves as being from rural or town and country settings, would you please stand? It's encouraging to see so many of you sisters and brothers who actually did get elected to the General Conference. So often people in rural and town and country settings feel that it's other folks who have the majority voice in setting policy for our church. But now let's add to the district superintendents who have rural or town and country churches and ministries in their district. Would you please stand? This connectional relationship is very vitally important.

BISHOP ODEN: You have less than a minute.

*Urban Network "Holy Boldness" Plan*

KAIL: Thank you. I appreciate the warning. Do you see the potential present if a national comprehensive plan could be developed? We rejoice with the sisters and brothers of the National Urban Network in their development of their plan Holy Boldness. It's been exciting to see how that process of development has created new excitement, new passion, new energy, new commitment. We the advocates for Town and Country Ministries ask for your support and your connectional commitment in developing a similar movement for revival in rural ministries. Thank you.

BISHOP ODEN: All right, thank you. That's a speech for the amendment. Is there a speech against? I see none. Are we ready to vote on the amendment? Vote when the light appears. [Results: yes, 620; no, 129] You have supported the amendment. It now becomes a part of the main motion. Calendar Item 575. Is there any discussion on that calendar item?

I see a card. Go to microphone 9.

FRANK L. DORSEY (Kansas East): I want to speak very much for this proposal because it is so terribly important to this church of ours. We still have more United Methodist churches than post offices. We are linked across this great land. But there has been a time of the devastation of community that is destructive to the life of rural community. And we must be about building community in our rural communities and in our urban communities. Jean Sindab wrote an article and shared it with me before it was published. Jean recently passed away at a great loss for the ecumenical community. She described what was happening in the core of our cities across the land by saying that what was happening to those cores was deindustrialization, disinvestment, and demonization. I told Jean that in my experience, under the current crisis that we continue to experience in rural America, that that was precisely what we were experiencing there too, the devastation of community that is so important to our total church and to this nation.

BISHOP ODEN: Thank you. Is there a speech against? I see none, which signifies we're ready to vote. So we're on Calendar Item 575 on page 215. The motion is before you, vote when the light appears. [778 approved] You have supported the calendar item.

Before we proceed, I need to let you know that there was no election for the Judicial Council lay alternates. And we will go to the next calendar item, Carolyn, but then we're also going to put those persons who are in the electronic box on notice that after that we'll come back for an election time.

*Communities of Shalom Legislation*

JOHNSON: Thank you. If you will remain on page 215, our next calendar item is Calendar Item 576. Again, the supporting documentation is in your red book on page 796. This refers to Petition 21363, "Communities of Shalom." This petition also was originally on the Consent Calendar, and you will recall there was a note from the Calendar Office lifting it off because of its potential financial implications, which have now been discovered to be the fact that, since it is in an existing budget, we will not need to move any reference to you; but it is still before you again. So, on behalf of the committee, I would move concurrence as amended, and you will notice the amendments you will find on page 216 in the bold-faced type. And I so move.

BISHOP ODEN: Calendar Item 576 is before us. Would you like to speak to the item? Microphone 3.

STEFANIE A. GRAY (California-Pacific): I'd like to propose an amendment.

BISHOP ODEN: That is in order.

GRAY: The amendment would follow the sentence, the sixth paragraph down, where it says, "The committee shall be composed of 12 members and two ex officio members...There shall be six...The general secretary of the General Board of..." OK. So right before "The general secretary of the General Board," I'd like to insert the words "at least one of these members will be a young person under the age of 30 that resides in a Community of Shalom."

BISHOP ODEN: The amendment is before you. Make sure the secretary has a copy of that. Carolyn, I assume we'll need to go on then to floor discussion.

JOHNSON: Yes, I think so.

BISHOP ODEN: Would you like to speak to your amendment?

GRAY: Well, I think that the Communities of Shalom I've witnessed in

my city, in Los Angeles, are a very vital part of the renewal of cities and of people's morale, and I also believe strongly that young people within those communities can take a great part in the uplifting of those Communities of Shalom, and so that's why I would propose this amendment.

BISHOP ODEN: OK. The amendment is before you. Is there someone who would like to oppose the amendment, who would like to speak against it? I do not see a card, so we're ready for the amendment that is before us. Vote when the light appears. [726 approved] It does prevail, so the Gray amendment is now part of the calendar item. Are we ready to vote on the calendar item or does anyone wish to speak to it. I see no cards. Vote when the light appears. [818 approved] It does prevail.

JOHNSON: Bishop?

BISHOP ODEN: Yes?

JOHNSON: After the period of balloting, our vice chair will bring the next items.

*No Election of Lay Alternate to Judicial Council*

BISHOP ODEN: Thank you, Carolyn. We now would like to ask that the results of the Judicial Council lay alternatives be put on the screen that we might see them and proceed with that voting. I don't believe I need to read those to you. (Plowman, 285; Sessums, 247; Church, 237; Lett, 231; Bonney, 215; Gordon, 163; Panganiban, 120; Danburam, 92; Kolasa, 86; McClain, 84; Gray, 5) There is no election. Now we're ready to vote, and we ask that the names might once again appear on the screen. And we will vote three times, one time for each person. Vote when the light appears. Vote again when the light appears. Vote again when the light appears. Thank you. Now we're ready to proceed with the calendar item.

*National Consultation on Cooperative Ministries*

HOWARD DAUGHENBAUGH (Central Illinois): Bishop, I would like to address our attention, if we could please, to page 174 in the blue book. Calendar Item 445. In the white book, page 1370, is the supporting material. The petition printed there is Petition 22661. It's in the lower left-hand column, on page 1370. The legislative committee recommends concurrence by a vote of: 108 for, zero against, and zero abstaining. And a referral to GCFA because of the financial implications. I move the adoption of the item.

BISHOP ODEN: The motion is before you to adopt Calendar Item 445. Is there discussion? I see none, which means we're ready to vote. I'm sorry, halfway back on my right. Go to microphone 6.

BARBARA W. RIDDLE (Florida): I am really embarrassed to have to ask this again, but could we, sir, have definition when we're referring for financial implications, so those of us that are needing to vote will know whether this is within the proposed budget, or is this being referred as additional. I would appreciate that, sir.

BISHOP ODEN: I think that's a legitimate request, and would ask the committee to so indicate.

DAUGHENBAUGH: It is my understanding in this case that this is additional. It has been referred to GCFA, and if someone from the council would like to speak to that, that's fine. It will come back to us, it is my understanding, from having talked to one of them, tomorrow, in their presentation.

BISHOP ODEN: All right, far back, go to microphone 13.

EWING WERLEIN (Texas): I would like to ask the presenter what the anticipated financial implications are on this petition number. In hastily reading it, I have been unable to find how much money, how much additional money, is being requested.

DAUGHENBAUGH: That has been a puzzle to us, as well. We do not have the answer to that.

BISHOP ODEN: Does anyone else wish to speak to the motion? Microphone 14. I saw a card waving toward the back. Microphone 9.

JAMES L. BRANSCOME (Virginia): I don't appreciate having to vote on something that has financial implications without knowing what those implications are. I think we should do something with this to find out if we need to defer it or something. But we need to know how much money we're voting on before we vote.

BISHOP ODEN: It's a speech against the motion. Is there a speech for the motion? Yes.

KAIL: Do I understand correctly, we're dealing with Petition 22661 on the white *DCA* 1370?

BISHOP ODEN: That's my understanding.

KAIL: Thank you. This petition rose out of the experience of over 400 people who gathered in Louisville, Ky., this last November for the fourth National Consultation on Cooperative Ministries. Out of that experience and the enthusiasm that came from the urban, and suburban, and rural people who were there exploring new models for ministry, this team of two people were delegated to generate this legislation.

I think, it is our belief, that a good amount of what is being asked for here can be done through the existing channels of the church and general agencies that are there. I'm sorry that I don't have a sense of what dollar figure might be involved in carrying on this kind of development, study, and discussion. But I hope that concern about the dollars will not keep use from affirming the principle. The cooperative ministry—whether it is in a cooperative parish, or many of the other forms that are emerging in the church—I hope that we will want to affirm that development. And if there are portions of this that do seem to call for the investing of new money through other channels than existing agencies, we should be open to deleting those particular references. But the emergence of cooperative ministry is a movement and trend in our church which I think now is really on a roll, and needs to be respected, and now given the guidance of the church.

So I ask you to affirm and support this petition.

BISHOP ODEN: Thank you. That's a speech for the motion. Is there a speech against? To the left, microphone 5.

JIM HOLSINGER (Kentucky): I'd like to ask a quick question. Is it in order to amend this document in order to preclude the use of apportioned funds?

BISHOP ODEN: I see no reason why that motion, or that amendment, would be out of order.

HOLSINGER: Then I would move that we amend the base petition to authorize the use of no apportioned funds so that we can go ahead and approve the petition.

BISHOP ODEN: So there is an amendment. The Holsinger amendment calls for no apportioned funds to accompany this calendar item. Would someone like to speak for or against the amendment that is before us? Far, the middle one here, to microphone 9, white coat.

ARNOLD RHODES (Western Pennsylvania): I rise to speak against the motion, because the resolution that is before us is asking the General Council on Ministry to incorporate into its work the policy of cooperative parish ministry. If you take note, a number of those things that are being recommended are already in place and can be added to the portfolio of the General Council on Ministries.

BISHOP ODEN: All right, that is a speech against the Holsinger amendment. Is there a speech for? Yes. Microphone 1.

PORTER J. WOMELDORFF (Central Illinois): I would like to offer a friendly amendment if Jim Holsinger will accept it, and otherwise, less than friendly amendment. *(laughter)* That is that we add the word, "additional" ahead of "apportioned," and if there's a second, I'll speak to it. Or if he accepts it, I'll speak to it.

BISHOP ODEN: Is there a second? It is seconded? Mr. Holsinger, will you, do you accept that? Microphone 5.

JIM HOLSINGER (Kentucky): I will be happy to accept my friend Porter Womeldorff's friendly amendment. It's what I had in mind.

BISHOP ODEN: All right. So there is no amendment to the amendment because the amendment to the amendment was friendly. We're now back on the Holsinger amendment, and we have had one speech against. Is there a speech for? Yes. Microphone 4.

KAIL: A question, Bishop. Does this matter of apportioned funds, does that preclude the involvement of the General Council on Ministries?

HOWARD DAUGHENBAUGH JR. (Central Illinois): You'll have to ask the presenter. I would think not.

BISHOP ODEN: OK, that is a question. We still need a speech in favor of the Holsinger amendment. Far back, go to microphone 7.

E. MALONE DODSON (North Georgia): I speak in favor of the amendment. That makes two. (laughter)

BISHOP ODEN: Is there a speech opposing the amendment? The person far back, standing.

JAMES H. RUSH (South Georgia): Sir, I make a motion that we table this whole paragraph and petition until the financial business can be worked out for the entire conference.

BISHOP ODEN: Well, the motion to table is in order. It is not debatable. Is there a second? It has been seconded. If you favor tabling the motion, vote when the light appears. And you do not vote to table. [Results: yes, 247; no, 634]

DAUGHENBAUGH: Bishop. Here. Is it in order for me to say that, since this is a friendly amendment, to be friendly and to accept that as a part of the report?

BISHOP ODEN: Well, I believe so.

DAUGHENBAUGH: All right, we'll do that then.

BISHOP ODEN: All right, so the Holsinger amendment is now a part of your report. Is that correct?

DAUGHENBAUGH: That's correct.

BISHOP ODEN: As amended. And now we're ready to vote, I believe. I see no cards. If you would favor— Yes, far back, section C, go to microphone 13, I believe.

EWING WERLEIN JR. (Texas): I want to make sure that I understand the Holsinger amendment that has been accepted. As I understand it, it is an amendment that no additional apportioned funds would be used for this matter. Since we have not apportioned any funds yet, I infer that the amendment must mean no additional apportioned funds other than the $503,500,000 proposed in the GCFA budget on page 285 of the *Advance DCA*. I would like clarification on that to make sure that we understand what no additional apportioned funds means.

DAUGHENBAUGH: My response to that is-. Mr. Holsinger has his card up over there, but my response to that is that, that would mean that it would be in the GCOM funding amounts available to them currently.

BISHOP ODEN: Does that answer your question? All right. Are we ready to vote, then? We will, we're now voting. Would you vote when the light appears? [797 approved]

You have voted affirmative on the calendar item. Thank you. Before we continue with the other calendar items, the vote is now ready on the Judicial Council. We have had two elections, we're going to show the screen and then we're going to continue our voting until the election is completed. So will the Judicial Council lay alternate election results please show on the screen? You have elected Plowman and Sessums.

### *Church Elected Lay Alternate to Judicial Council*

Now let's see the list once more. Vote for one when the light appears. [vote] There is no election. Vote for one when the light appears. There's the list and the light. [vote] You have elected Church. [Church 352]

That completes the total election of the Judicial Council, clergy and lay.

We're now back to calendar items that are before us.

*Proposed Committee on Audit and Review*

DAUGHENBAUGH: The next one I would like to direct your attention to is on page 255 of the blue book. It is Calendar Item 767, Committee on Audit and Review. The supporting material for it is found on page 752 of your red book. It is Petition 20080, beginning in the lower left hand column of page 752 and continuing into the upper right hand column. The committee recommends nonconcurrence by a vote of 88 for nonconcurrence, 8 against, 4 abstaining. You can tell that the essence of the petition is to amend paragraph 1407 of the *Discipline* by calling for a new paragraph 1407.2 which would provide for a Committee on Audit and Review in the General Board of Global Ministries and elected by the General Board of Global Ministries. The committee's rationale for recommending nonconcurrence was based on the fact that we felt there was no need to create another level of auditing responsibility in addition to that which already exists, because the current process is working well and meets the standards recommended by Price Waterhouse, the auditing firm for the General Board. And, so the committee recommends nonconcurrence. And I move that action at this point.

BISHOP ODEN: The recommendation of the committee is nonconcurrence. And, it is before you. We are on Calendar Item 767. Does anyone wish to speak to this calendar item? I see no hands, which means we're ready to vote. Vote when the light appears. I'm sorry. Thank you, go to microphone 2.

JACK SCOTT (Louisville): I speak from the perspective of many years experience in banking and business. Eight years as a BGM director in finance investments have made me very appreciative of sound audit and control systems. I stand for nonconcurrence. The committee structure at GCFA and GBGM is presently effective and meets recommended audit standards noted by auditor Price Waterhouse and the accounting profession. This issue has been reviewed in detail by GBGM directors and has been voted down on two separate occasions. An oversight committee would simply add directors to an already effective structure. Requiring such a committee for all boards and agencies just adds one more structure. Thank you.

BISHOP ODEN: So that is a speech supporting the committee's recommendation. Is there a speech opposing the committee's recommendation of nonconcurrence? I see none. We are ready to vote, voted when the light appears. You have supported the committees recommendation of nonconcurrence. [801 approved] Please continue.

*Bishops' Working Group on Missions*

DAUGHENBAUGH: The next item is on page 255 of the blue book, just continuing down that right hand column on that page to Calendar Item 768, subject of which is reaffirmation of the bishops' working group on mission. The supporting material is found on page 754 in your red book. It is Petition 20220. The committee recommends nonconcurrence by a vote of 93 for nonconcurrence, 8 against, 2 abstaining. This petition, as you can tell, proposes an amendment to paragraph 1411.3 to the *Discipline* by adding a new paragraph 1411.3d. It calls for the GBOGM to place the highest priority - oh, I used an abbreviation!—General Board of Global Ministries—place the highest priority on providing full support for our missionaries from World Service apportionments. Committee's rationale for recommending nonconcurrence is based on the fact that, in our judgment, approval of this petition would tend to reduce the local church's participation in providing financial support of our missionaries through such arrangements as the covenantal relationships and support of Advance Specials. So we recommend nonconcurrence and I move that action.

BISHOP ODEN: Thank you, Mr. Daughenbaugh. The recommendation of nonconcurrence is before the house. Does anyone wish to speak to it? I see no cards. Vote when the light appears. [791 approved] You have supported the committee's recommendation of nonconcurrence. Please continue.

*Special Program on Substance Abuse and Related Violence*

DAUGHENBAUGH: The next item is Calendar Item 769, also on page 255 of the blue book. And the supporting material, is on page 771 of the red book. It is Petition 21342. This is the Special Program on Substance Abuse and Related Violence. I think I may have gotten the wrong...771, I'm sorry.

BISHOP ODEN: Page 771, lower left hand side.

DAUGHENBAUGH: That's correct. Petition 21342. Special Program on Substance Abuse and Related Violence. The legislative committee recommends concurrence by a vote of 106 for concurrence, zero against and 1 abstaining. This petition also contains a dollar figure, as you can see on the right hand column of 771 and it has been referred to GCFA.

The essence of the petition calls for a continuation of the Interagency Task Force on the Special Program on Substance Abuse and Related Violence, which was created by the '92 General Conference. It is the judgment of our committee that given our continuing societal problems in these areas, it is extremely important for the church to continue its involvement and ministry in these areas of human need. So we recommend concurrence. Now, I do not believe in this case that there is any new money involved. This would be a portion of the World Service dollars that would be made available for use in this program.

BISHOP ODEN: All right. Thank you very much. I see a card on microphone 6. Yes?

JAMES HARNISH (Florida): Let me just be clear. You're telling us that this $1,400,000 is included in the proposed budget that GCFA presented to us prior to the General Conference?

DAUGHENBAUGH: That's my understanding.

HARNISH: Because my understanding as we're running, our running total is that we have already added over $8 million on top of the proposed budget that GCFA had sent to us before General Conference. But this is already in there?

DAUGHENBAUGH: That's my understanding.

BISHOP ODEN: If this does pass, it will be referred immediately to GCFA. I see a card, please go to microphone 10.

ROLF LINDELL (Sweden): Bishop, I move an amendment by addition to this petition, and I would like the conference to look at page 771 in the red book. The text of the amendment should be inserted as a new bulleted paragraph following the second bulleted paragraph on page 771 of the *Advanced DCA*. The text goes like this: "Confronting the acute drug and alcohol abuse crisis in northern Europe, the Baltic nations, and the Russian Federation, the General Conference ensures funding of no less than $127,500 per year for the quadrennium, so United Methodist conferences and congregations can undertake a multi-faceted initiative modeled after the special program. This initiative is a direct result of United Methodist training conferences in Sweden, Estonia, and Russia during this past quadrennium. It will focus on equipping local congregations..."

BISHOP ODEN: Just a moment, Rolf. Before you continue. You have finished your motion? Am I now correct that you're entering into a time of speaking on behalf of it?

LINDELL: No.

BISHOP ODEN: You're still continuing the amendment?

LINDELL: I am still reading the amendment.

BISHOP ODEN: Excuse me.

LINDELL: Let me repeat the last sentence. "This initiative is a direct result of United Methodist training conferences in Sweden, Estonia, Russia during this past quadrennium. It will focus on equipping local congregations to educate young people on the spiritual, physical, and sociological benefits of drug and alcohol-free lives, and assisting addicted persons into lives of recovery and deliverance."

BISHOP ODEN: Thank you. Now is there a second to Rolf's motion? It has been seconded. Do you wish to speak to it?

LINDELL: Bishop, I would like the chair to give the floor to one of the Russian delegates, Andrei Kim. And due to the need of interpretation, perhaps extend his time a little. And also give Bishop Minor, from Moscow, some time for information in this issue.

BISHOP ODEN: All right. Since this does include a non-delegate, we will have to have the floor's permission. Do you grant the request that has just been made? If so, raise your hand. If opposed, the same sign. It is granted.

LINDELL: Thank you.

BISHOP ODEN: Bishop Minor and...all right. You may proceed. This is a speech in favor of the amendment.

*Alcoholism in Russia Described*

ANDREI KIM (*translation from Russian*): My dear brothers and sisters, I thank you for the possibility to speak about the problems of my church that are indeed the problems of the whole country of Russia. To which end alcoholism is leading, I would like to illustrate with an example that has been really frightening.

It happened to one of our sisters in Christ. She is a handicapped person. Her legs are paralyzed. One day as her son was at work she was sleeping in her chair and woke up because of her husband, who was stone drunk, was pouring kerosene over her and just about to set her ablaze. She only saved her life because she succeeded to take her crutches and to lash out at him. As she called the police, she was told that they would not deal with drunk persons except if he had beaten or slain her. There are no official government measures to fight these problems nowadays. However, I repeat again that this is an illness and grief of many Russians.

I'm grateful to the Lord and to those people who have been close to these problems, they organized a seminar on alcoholism and drug abuse in St. Petersburg. Because of this initiative, my church has begun a program that helps alcoholics and their family members. We are doing this together with AA and AL-ANON in the Baptist church. For the sake of time I'm not able to talk more explicitly, however, I will be glad to talk to any of you and to answer your questions if we meet in the break time later. Finally, I would like to say that the spiritual rebirth of our country depends on the way we will resolve this problem of alcoholism. Thank you.

BISHOP ODEN: Thank you Mr. Kim and Bishop Minor for translating.

BISHOP RUEDIGER MINOR: May I have a few words, bishop?

BISHOP ODEN: I think that would be in order because of the granting of the request of the body.

BISHOP MINOR: Thank you so much. There is probably no other country in the world where alcohol and the addiction to it are playing such a prominent role in the daily life as it is in Russia. And as we heard yesterday, it even suspended the iron rules of "Lemonade Lucy" in the White House. Therefore, we need to develop a special strategy to address this as the special program for this country has developed such a strategy. Imported strategies forced on the people have failed already. The sighing and longing is great throughout the country and the churches.

First results have already been produced, but we need to continue. As for the budget figures, I know this question will come. They need to be referred to GCFA and conversations have already been underway about in-

creasing the budget. I do not talk about this lightly because I feel torn between my support for this important program and the concern that it might hurt other programs in case that we only redistribute funds. Help us to help our Russian brothers and sisters. As we pray, help us to help each other, Lord.

BISHOP ODEN: Bishop Minor, do you have an approximate figure of those budget estimates.

BISHOP MINOR: As it is in the amendment, $127,500 per year.

BISHOP ODEN: Thank you very much. Now I think it's important that we see where we are. We are on Calendar Item 769 on page 255. We have the Lindell amendment before us, and we have had one speech for the amendment. Before we continue I wonder if the secretary would read the amendment once more so we will have it firmly fixed in our minds. We are still waiting for it.

The amendment calls for a northern Europe initiative in drug and alcohol concerns, especially a Russian initiative, is the essence of the amendment. Now we have had a speech for the amendment. We're ready for a speech against the amendment. Yes sir. Microphone 9.

*Funding for Northern European Drug and Alcohol Initiative Debated*

RONALD SALYER (North Central New York): I have a question, specifically are we adding additionally another $508,000 to the $1,440,000 that's on the budget page?

BISHOP ODEN: We'll let the presenter answer that?

DAUGHENBAUGH: Yes.

BISHOP ODEN: OK, to the right, about half way back. Microphone 7. I'm sorry, 6. Try 6.

JAMES HARNISH (Florida): I'd like to try an amendment, bishop. I move that we amend to include this amount in the $1,400,000 budget amount that is in the petition. And if there is a second, I'll speak to it.

BISHOP ODEN: OK that is an amendment to the amendment.

Which is to include the funding for the Lindell Amendment in the $1,440,000 being requested. Is that correct?

HARNISH: Yes, sir.

BISHOP ODEN: Is there a second? It is seconded. So the Harnish amendment to the amendment is before us. Would someone like to speak to the amendment to the amendment?

HARNISH: May I speak to it? As many of you do, I have two young adult daughters, both of whom received credit cards in college, and my name was also on the credit card. And I discovered that my daughters found a multitude of wonderful things that they were able to use and to enjoy and to appreciate. But the bills all came to my address. And I sense that we are walking down that same path.

There's no question that we are committed to young adult and youth ministries. I come from a church in which the largest single item in our program budget is ministry for young adults and for children. We are committed to rural churches, we are committed to an effective drug and alcohol program, we are committed to the global concern for drug and alcohol abuse. But brothers and sisters, we have already increased the proposed budget by over $8 million in requests that will go to GCFA. I'm a little concerned about the process. The GCFA worked very diligently prior to the conference to recommend to us something of a reasonable goal for our commitments for the quadrennium ahead, and we continue to add to those, and somewhere, the credit card bill comes due and has to be taken home.

And as much as we're committed to the ministries, we also have to be responsible to the whole funding of the whole ministry of the church for the quadrennium. So I would urge you to be committed to this ministry, but to include it in the already proposed funds.

BISHOP ODEN: All right, that is a speech in favor of the Harnish amendment. Far back, standing up. Yes, sir. Microphone 13.

STEPHEN E. DRACHLER (Central Pennsylvania): I would like to offer a substitute for the Harnish amendment, please.

BISHOP ODEN: You're offering a substitute for the amendment to the amendment?

DRACHLER: Yes sir.

BISHOP ODEN: That is in order. Proceed.

DRACHLER: I would move that the funding for the amendment for the Northern Europe Conference's drug initiative be provided, if at all possible, from the contingency fund for the General Board of Global Ministries. If I have a second, I'll speak to it.

BISHOP ODEN: It is seconded. You may speak.

DRACHLER: My rationale is very simple on this. During the past quadrennium, in the Mission Initiatives Fund, which provided the funding for the special program on alcohol, drugs, and related violence, $1.8 million was provided for that special program. The proposal before you, offered by the committee, was $1.44 million. I believe that the full $1.8 million will show up during the upcoming quadrennium and is budgeted in the General Board of Global Ministries budget for that quadrennium. While it may mean that the full $510,000 may not get funded, I think it's only a matter of justice and fairness and of love and mercy for our brothers and sisters across the ocean that we approve this substitute. Thank you.

BISHOP ODEN: All right. The substitute is before us, by Drachler, and we also have had a speech for the substitute. This is a substitute for the Harnish amendment to the amendment. Microphone 3.

PAT STROMAN (Central Texas): Bishop, I move that we suspend the rules in order that we might vote on all that is before the house, because John Miles is not here. *[laughter]*

BISHOP ODEN: All right. It seems like we have a lot of fish to fry out there, anyway. We first need to vote on the motion to suspend the rules. This takes a two-thirds vote. Vote when the light appears. [786 ap-

proved] You have overwhelmingly voted to suspend the rules, and that means we're now ready to vote on what is before us, and we're just going to...I want to get our train on the track; all going the same way and the right way. Yes. Microphone 9.

SUSAN DAVIES (Nebraska): I have a question. Many have been standing up and talking about $8 million being added to the budget. That doesn't compute with some things that I have been writing down that have been talked about in terms of being referred to GCFA. Could we have someone clarify that so that we don't just operate under the assumption that that's just growing by leaps and bounds?

BISHOP ODEN: All right. I'm not sure who can answer that. Mr....Yes, microphone 9. Do you have an answer to that question?

TRACY MERRICK (Western Pennsylvania): I'm a member of GCFA. I've been meeting, as many of us have, on GCFA the last day or so. I don't know that I can give you a specific total because it seems to be changing rapidly. We'll be prepared to report on this tomorrow. The preliminary numbers are not $8 million, but I'd be a little reluctant to tell you right now what it is unless we have a little further material in front of us.

BISHOP ODEN: OK, thank you. Now, nothing is before us except to vote on all that is before us. So unless you have a question or a point of order, then you are out of order. Yes, ma'am? Microphone 4.

MAREYJOYCE GREEN (East Ohio): A question. Does what we're voting on now maintain the intent of the original amendment that was made by the person from Sweden?

BISHOP ODEN: We will simply have to take our motions in order. We will begin with the Drachler substitute. If that prevails, then that will replace the Harnish amendment to the amendment. If it does not, we will be on the Harnish amendment to the amendment. We will vote on it, and then, if it prevails, it will be amended to the Lindell amendment. Yes? Microphone 4.

GREEN: Question. Does this, if we, suppose we say yes to what we are voting on now, does that retain the spirit and intent of the prior amendment?

BISHOP ODEN: Yes, I think so. And in what way it does that will depend on our voting. We're now ready to vote. Question or a parliamentary inquiry or point of order is all that's in order. Yes? Microphone 7.

SUSAN HASSINGER (Eastern Pennsylvania): A question for information on the substitute. What would be the impact on General Board of Global Ministries if this were done?

BISHOP ODEN: Was it—repeat your question.

HASSINGER: Well, if I heard the substitute correctly, the request was for the funds to be taken from the total GBGM budget, and I'm not sure what proportion, what impact that would have on GBGM?

BISHOP ODEN: It's my understanding that the funds were, according to the substitute, to come from the contingency fund of GBGM, General Board of Global Ministries.

HASSINGER: And is there any sense of what percentage of the contingency that would be?

BISHOP ODEN: I'm not certain who could answer that question. I don't...there's a card. Can you answer the question directly, sir? No? I don't think we have an answer to that question. I think we are going to have to go ahead and vote. Question or parliamentary inquiry or point of order. Microphone 4.

LEON L. PALAGANAS (Central Luzon): Bishop, I just want to present a clarification on the proposed budget because in my computation here I am only adding $105,101, and the total budget here on sub-budget is $205,000. I just want to know whether the grant is $100 or $100,000.

BISHOP ODEN: I'm sorry, what was the question?

PALAGANAS: Should I repeat, Bishop?

BISHOP ODEN: We're working on it.

PALAGANAS: On page 771 and the proposed budget, the total amount here on sub-total is $205,000, but the amount of grant here is $100. Does it mean...?

BISHOP ODEN: $100,000.

DAUGHENBAUGH: I think, yes, $100,000.

PALAGANAS: Oh, this is $100,000.

BISHOP ODEN: Yes. OK, we're ready to vote? Microphone 9.

RON BRETSCH (North Central New York): Thank you, Bishop. Point of parliamentary inquiry. Under the rules on the previous question, does Mr. Daughenbaugh, now at the podium, have an opportunity to address?

BISHOP ODEN: Yes, he does. I'm going to clear the floor and then turn to our presenter. Unless there is a point of order or a question. Microphone 14. Yes, microphone 9.

ZEDNA HAVERSTOCK (Central Pennsylvania): I was a member of the legislative committee that dealt with this, Bishop, and one of the actions that we took was to, in our...

BISHOP ODEN: OK, do you have a question or a parliamentary inquiry?

HAVERSTOCK: I'm hoping it's a point of clarification on the funding.

ODEN: I believe we are ready to vote. OK, now, let me see if, I believe that we first vote on the substitute, and then we'll go from there, and then before we vote on the main motion, then you will have a chance to speak. OK. Sir, you will be able to speak on each point as we move.

DAUGHENBAUGH: All right.

BISHOP ODEN: If you so desire. We're now ready to vote for the substitute. So if you favor the Drachler substitute, you will vote "yes;" if not, you will vote "no." Vote when the light appears. [Results: yes, 457; no, 423] OK, the Drachler substitute does prevail and replaces the Harnish amendment to the amendment. So the substitute now becomes the amendment to the Lindell amendment.

Now, we're ready to vote on the Lindell amendment. I wonder if it should be read first. We're going to ask the secretary to read it.

CAROLYN MARSHALL: "Confronting the acute drug and alcohol abuse crisis in northern Europe, the Baltic nations, and the Russian Federation, the General Conference insures funding of no less than $127,500 per year for the quadrennium, so United Methodist conferences and congregations can undertake a multifaceted initiative modeled after the special program. This initiative is a direct result of the United Methodist training conferences in Sweden, Estonia, and Russia during this past quadrennium. It will focus on equipping local congregations to educate young people on the spiritual, physical, and sociological benefits of drug- and alcohol-free lives, and assisting addicted persons into lives of recovery and deliverance."

BISHOP ODEN: Now could you read the substitute which is now a part of that amendment?

MARSHALL: That is to direct the General Board of Global Ministries to provide funding for northern European drug initiative from the General Board of Global Ministries contingency funds.

BISHOP ODEN: Now I believe that the presenter does have a right to speak to this, but from the floor, no one has the right of floor access. If this is a parliamentary inquiry or point of order, it is in order.

BECKY HAASE (California-Pacific): Point of order, that the substitute was voted. But I believe, don't we still have to vote whether that would amend the original amendment?

BISHOP ODEN: Let's do that to make sure. If you favor the substitute, to amend the first amendment, will you raise your hand? If you oppose it? It passes. Now we're ready for Mr. Daughenbaugh.

HOWARD L. DAUGHENBAUGH JR (Central Illinois): I first have a question, if I might ask it. And the question is, I thought in the amendment that we passed, there were the words, "if possible" included in that.

BISHOP ODEN: Will the secretary respond?

MARSHALL: They're not on this sheet.

BISHOP ODEN: They're not on the sheet.

DAUGHENBAUGH: All right. I thought I heard the maker of that motion include those words in it, that's why I wanted to ask. This particular item has not been before the legislative committee, so it's impossible for me to speak for the committee in reference to it. I think it may be safe to say that the jist of the amendment would be something that we would have great support for; the financing of it is another question. And I think that approval of this would simply motivate us to do that much better with our World Service apportionments, and also, if the Mission Initiatives Fund is continued, where these monies were available last year, then that would be yet another source of funding for it.

BISHOP ODEN: All right, we're ready now to vote on the Lindell amendment as amended by substitute. If you would favor this amendment, vote "yes" when the light appears; if not, vote "no." [653 approved] You do favor it. It passes by 72 percent.

We now have the Lindell amendment, which is attached to Calendar Item 769 on page 255. And we are under orders of the house to now vote on Calendar Item 769. Vote when the light appears. [812 approved] It passes by 88.6 percent. You have endorsed, you have voted Calendar Item 769. I believe you deserve a recess. It is time. Be back in 15 minutes.

*(music)*

Thank you, S.T. [Kimbrough] Please be seated. Will the delegates take their seats. We are ready to begin the second part of the afternoon. We had a very busy early afternoon and have a hard hour ahead of us, with a lot of legislation. I remind you that by midnight tomorrow, we clear out. And we have a lot of things to do before then. So if we can have the cooperation of the house, we will be able to move ahead. There's so much that's before us. I'm going to start by doing a little bit of clean up. We need to call on Steve Drachler. Microphone 13. Steve.

STEVE DRACHLER (Central Pennsylvania): Thank you, Bishop. I'd like to make a correction for the record on the nomenclature that I used to describe the fund. It should be, sir, the World Service Fund. Thank you. Sir, it should be the contingency fund of the World Service Fund administered by GCOM.

BISHOP ODEN: I've just been informed that it's the World Service Contingency Fund administered by GCOM. Now, what I'd like to do is to see if the house would allow that correction by consensus. If you will so allow, please raise your hand. If you would not. It is allowed. Now, we're going to call on Mr. Daughenbaugh for a continuation of the calendar items.

### *Teens at Risk*

HOWARD L. DAUGHENBAUGH JR (Central Illinois): Thank you. I have only one more to present. That is on pages 255 and 256 of your blue book. It is Calendar Item 770. The supporting information is found on page 763 of your red book. It is Petition 20219, title of which is "Teens at Risk." The legislative committee recommends concurrence as amended, and those amendments are noted on page 256 of your blue book. And the vote of the committee was 96 for, 10 against, and 1 abstention. I move support of the action of the committee.

BISHOP ODEN: All right. Calendar Item 770 is before us and is now on the floor. Yes. Microphone 2.

RICHARD S. PARKER (New York): Bishop, it's my understanding that the other day we voted that all calendar items with no more than 10 dissenting votes be moved to the Consent Calendar. And I believe that was to have taken place today. If that

is the case, then this calendar item and others that we've acted on today could indeed be moved to the Consent Calendar. And if that's not clear, I'll make that motion.

BISHOP ODEN: OK. To be clear, why don't you just go ahead and make the motion.

PARKER: I do so move, Bishop.

BISHOP ODEN: Does everyone understand the motion? Repeat it. Just a moment. I'm not sure that's in order. We have a motion on the floor. Give me a moment. OK. I think we're clear. First, your motion is not in order. Second, that motion has previously been made but it was not made before this matter appeared, so we're going to have to go ahead and take it as presented. Thank you very much. Microphone 2.

JASON A. PAULSMEYER (Missouri East): Bishop, I would like to propose an amendment, quite possibly a friendly amendment, to this petition that we would change the word 'teen' everywhere it appears to...change it to the word 'youth.' And if I can have a second, I'll speak to it.

BISHOP ODEN: Is there a second. You may speak.

PAULSMEYER: It's pretty simple. It's an editorial change to make the language in this petition more consistent with the *Book of Discipline* and other resolutions.

DAUGHENBAUGH: We would accept that readily.

BISHOP ODEN: It is accepted as a friendly amendment. Now the motion is before us; does anyone wish to speak to it. All right. Microphone 2.

KELLY A. CLEM (North Alabama): This may also be a proposal for a friendly amendment. The second paragraph, beginning with "whereas, an individual," I would just amend that we change the word, delete the word 'homosexual' and replace that with 'sexual.'

BISHOP ODEN: I'm sorry, replace it with..'sexual?'

CLEM: Delete the word 'homosexual' and replace that with 'sexual.'

DAUGHENBAUGH: We would accept that as well.

BISHOP ODEN: Thank you. Say, we're perking. I see no more cards. We're ready to vote. If you favor this amendment, vote "yes" when the light comes on; if not, vote "no." [645 approved] You passed the Calendar Item 770. Thank you very much, Mr. Daughenbaugh. Carolyn?

CAROLYN E. JOHNSON (North Indiana): Yes, the next calendar item is found in your blue book on page 205. This is Calendar Item 490. And the supporting documentation is in the red edition of the *Advanced DCA*, page 756. This is Petition 21331. This was one of several restructuring petitions related to the 1400 paragraph in the *Book of Discipline*, and there was a unanimous vote by the legislative committee to concur as amended. However, this was lifted from the Consent Calendar, and that's why it's before you. So I would move concurrence with the amendment that you see on page 205.

BISHOP ODEN: OK, this was passed unanimously by committee but was called from the Consent Calendar. We're on 490. Does anyone wish to speak to it? Yes? Microphone 5.

AL GWINN (Kentucky): Thank you, Bishop. I'm moving by addition to paragraph 413, number 6, item "g." It's found on page 758.

BISHOP ODEN: Just a moment. We're now in the red *DCA*? Page 758. Is that correct?

### *Inequalities in Compensation Packages*

GWINN: Yes. Numerical number 6, item "g." It will include the following words: "Insuring that there exist no inequalities in compensation packages beyond placement consideration for commissioned long-term missionaries." So that the entire sentence of item "g" would read: "To administer a diverse program of renmueration and benefits for personnel service, insuring that there exist no inequalities in compensation packages beyond placement consideration for commissioned long-term missionaries."

BISHOP ODEN: All right.

GWINN: And if I could receive a second, I'll speak to it.

BISHOP ODEN: Is there a second? There is, you may speak.

GWINN: I want to certainly affirm our insight that we are no longer a geographical section of communities, but we are one global community. We will no longer speak of "national" and "foreign" missions, or of "home" and "overseas" missions, but will speak of one mission, our mission, the global mission.

In this new day we'll see not only missionaries being sent, but missionaries being received by us all. And I strongly commend our Board of Global Ministries staff and directors for their vision and for their leadership in leading us in this way. But since under the old structure of a National Division and a World Division commissioned long-term missionaries receive different salaries and different benefit packages, it would seem that our new vision and structure would call for a new equality for all of those who serve our church as missionaries in this new global community. Thank you.

BISHOP ODEN: Thank you very much. The Gwinn amendment is before us on Calendar Item 490. We have had one speech for. Is there a speech against? Yes? Microphone 4.

MARION MUTHIAH (Dakotas): While I am surely supportive of the intent of this, I think that those who are not closely related to how many different salary scales and so on we do have for different personnel in different places within the outreach ministry of our church, I just don't want this to be limiting. And so I'm reluctant. I do not want to support something that locks us into a salary scheme that we must abide by. There are many that are willing to go as volunteers even though they're long-term missionaries, after a certain period of time. There are so many ramifications these days that, while I am in favor of the essence of it, I would oppose it because I don't want to lock us into something very restrictive.

BISHOP ODEN: Thank you. Is there a speech for the amendment? Microphone 8.

*Pay Differences Between National and World Divisions*

JIM W. MORRIS (Red Bird Missionary): There are, at the present, some significant and long-standing inequities in relation to compensation and benefits issues between the World and the National Divisions. And those things need to be addressed. I would favor the Gwinn amendment because it would give us the opportunity to address those items.

BISHOP ODEN: OK, thank you very much. Is there a speech against? Yes?

NANCY CUCKLER (East Ohio): Bishop, compensation for missionaries has a long history, and at this moment I would like to move that the subject of compensation for missionaries be referred to the General Board of Global Ministries. That subject, in reality, is not the responsibility of the General Conference.

BISHOP ODEN: All right, the motion is for reference to the General Board of Global Ministries; is it seconded? This is debatable. So if there is anyone who would like to speak to it. Yes, sir; microphone 9.

RONALD BRETSCH (North Central New York): Thank you, Bishop. I speak in favor of the motion to refer. While there are differences, some of those differences are also based on years of service or longevity, which certainly we would want to take into account. There are differences in costs of living around the world; some of those differences in costs of living are acute, are very extreme. And as the General Board of Global Ministries moves into a new structure, the historic differences, which may have caused some hardships between the World and National Divisions, will be ameliorated by our new structure, where the two divisions will have been combined. I think the motion to refer is very much appropriate in order to deal with the several variables in a new structure.

BISHOP ODEN: Thank you. Is there a speech against referral? Yes? Microphone 8.

EMERY A. PERCELL (Northern Illinois): To refer would refer the whole document, and so I speak against the referral.

BISHOP ODEN: Let me check with the maker of the motion. Was the motion to refer only the item on 6.g. or the entire document? Microphone 3.

NANCY CUCKLER (East Ohio): The attempt of the motion was to refer only the subject of compensation for missionaries.

BISHOP ODEN: I believe that is in order, and that was the understanding of the chair. So we're now ready to vote on reference, if you would vote for or against, vote when the light comes on. [631 approved] You did vote reference to the item of missionary compensation that returns the regular 6.g. to the document that is now before us. We're on Calendar Item 490 and it...the motion to support the calendar item is before us. Yes.

VICTOR GOLDSCHMIDT (North Indiana): A very simple amendment to bring Christ into the document in two different locations. Line four, left column page 756; that is line four, on the bold print, adding "Christian" prior to mission. So it reads, "United Methodists in Christian mission" And jumping to 757, line one, left column, adding "Christian" again, "which the church is called to Christian ministry."

BISHOP ODEN: All right.

CAROLYN JOHNSON: That's fine. Yeah, that's fine, we can accept that.

BISHOP ODEN: You accept?

JOHNSON: Yes.

BISHOP ODEN: Thank you, Mr. Goldschmidt. Those friendly amendments have also been friendly to our chair. So they are accepted. Microphone 9.

*Church Growth, Church Development Debated*

ALFRED C. RHONEMUS (West Ohio): This is probably just a friendly amendment. In the first, number one on page 756, I would like to substitute the word, "congregational development" rather than "church growth." Both there and at the end of that paragraph. I move, so move.

BISHOP ODEN: All right, we're on page 756, number one, "the responsibilities of evangelism and congregation development" instead of "church growth." Now where's the second?

RHONEMUS: At the bottom of that, where it says, "the responsibilities of evangelization and church growth" would read "congregational development." Substituting those words.

BISHOP ODEN: Right, so in the title and in the last sentence of the paragraph. Is there is a second? It has been seconded. Discussion?

JOHNSON: Bishop, the only concern I would raise is that we do have phraseology currently about congregational development that is of a little different nature substantively. And I would be concerned that there might be a confusion for those people who think of congregational development, particularly as new building of churches and those kind of things. Other than that, there would be no problem. So it would be...

BISHOP ODEN: All right, the amendment is before us, it's been seconded. If anyone would like to speak for or against it, they may. Otherwise, we'll just vote on it and see where we are. Didn't work. *[laughter]* Yes. Microphone 2.

REBECCA C. YOUNGBLOOD (Mississippi): No it didn't work. We discussed this in the full committee, and my argument for retaining the words "church growth" is that church growth does refer to more than simply the development of congregations, and especially in the global context and the opportunity to develop faith communities etc. I would argue to retain those words.

BISHOP ODEN : This is a speech against the Rhonemus amendment. Is there one for? I see none. We're ready to vote. Vote when the light appears. [Results: yes, 222; no, 657] You do not

concur with the Rhonemus amendment.

We're back on the main motion of Calendar Item 490. Are we ready to vote? I see no cards. If you would favor Calendar Item 490, vote "yes" when the light appears; if not, vote "no." [874 approved] And it prevails. Carolyn, thank you very much.

*Membership of the Conference Board of Global Ministries*

JOHNSON: Our next item is found in your blue *DCA* on page 256, and this is Calendar Item 771. "Membership of the Conference Board of Global Ministry." It refers to page 750 in your red book, and is Petition 20453. This is a recommended change to the *Book of Discipline* in the 731 paragraphs.

I would, before I move it, I would like to give a little background. The committee operated, as do most of the committees, and on topics that were similar subjects, perfected one item and then voted non concurrence on the others...tried to blend the items as best they could. So this is one of those items for which the motion was nonconcurrence. And at the time it was moved, we were still under the five limit restriction for the Consent Calendar. So that's why it's not on the Consent Calendar. So with that background, I would move nonconcurrence on Calendar Item 771.

BISHOP ODEN: The motion of nonconcurrence for 771 on page 256 is before us. Vote when the light appears. If you vote "yes," you're voting for nonconcurrence with the committee. [858 approved] And you support the committee.

JOHNSON: Bishop, this does conclude our report, but, I would like to thank all of the chairpersons and the recorders and the sub-committee chairpersons, and particularly to thank all those people who sent petitions. Because even though they made our hours long and gave us lots of paper, it really was a nice, celebrative witness that people are concerned, and they care, and they are committed to the witness of mission for our church. And I thank you and the General Conference.

BISHOP ODEN: Thank you Carolyn. *[applause]* We now turn to independent commissions. Judge Carl Stewart.

*A Call for Truth, Fairness, and Accuracy*

CARL E. STEWART (Louisiana): Thank you Bishop Oden. I'd like for you to turn your attention to Calendar Item 778 found on page 257 of the *Daily Christian Advocate*, and it will pertain to Petition 21380.

That petition is found on page 927. The petition comes to us from United Methodist Communications. The petition is entitled, "A Call for Truth, Fairness, and Accuracy." The petition addresses a strong concern that the reporting of information about The United Methodist Church and its policies and actions be truthful, fair, and accurate. Recognizing that criticism of the church from within and without is a part of our reality, the petition encourages constructive criticism that is spiritually driven and intended to be reconciling. The committee amended the language in the petition about criticism in order to phrase it in a less judgmental way yet retain the intent of the authors. With that explanation, the committtee would recommend concurrence as amended.

BISHOP ODEN: It is before you, Calendar Item 778 on page 257. Does anyone wish to speak to the motion? I see no cards. It is before us. Vote when the light appears. [856 approved] You affirm the committee.

STEWART: Thank you. We will...

BISHOP ODEN: Before you continue, Judge, I see a card in the back. We're on calendar items. Nothing else is in order unless you wish to speak to a calendar item. Go to...

MARY ALICE MASSEY (Florida): Bishop, would a motion, an enabling motion be in order?

BISHOP ODEN: Try it.

MASSEY: I move to set aside the standing rules in order to limit debate to two speeches for, two against, with a two minute time limit on the remainder of the calendar items, except for the ones dealing with the General Council on Finance and Administration items. If I have a second, I'll speak to it.

BISHOP ODEN: Second? There is.

MASSEY: It is a great concern of mine that we have approximately 100 items on the calendar still to deal with. In order to be fair, so that all these items may at least get some amount of attention, we need to limit our debate. And so I hope that you will favor this motion.

BISHOP ODEN: All right. We now have before us a motion to suspend the rules, and it was seconded. Yes. This motion takes a simple majority, as rule 90 calls for. Yes.

JAMES M. LAWSON (California-Pacific): I'd like to amend the amendment by deleting the word "except" and the words that follow it.

BISHOP ODEN: As I understand it, the exception of GCFA called for in the motion is what you are asking be deleted. All right, let's put the question. First, if you would favor...Wait a minute. Yes, I think we can proceed. If you would, if you would vote, if you favor the Lawson amendment to, not to except GCFA in the motion, would you vote "yes" when the light appears? If not, vote "no." [Results: yes,448; no,447]

Now we're ready for the main motion to suspend, and it is before us. It requires a simple majority. If you favor the motion as amended, vote "yes" when the light appears; if not, vote "no." We are now under house rule of two speeches for each motion, or each amendment, and two minutes per speech. Yes. Proceed. Microphone 8. No, I'm sorry. The person, the person—no. There was a person in front of you that I called on first. I guess not. Go ahead to the microphone. Microphone 8.

LUCILLE V. VANZANT (Oklahoma): Bishop, I, too, feel the squeeze of time on all that is before us. Therefore, I also ask for a suspension of the rules, so that we may take up 30 min-

utes early this evening and go 30 minutes later in tonight's session. Thank you.

BISHOP ODEN: You have heard the motion to extend the time 30 minutes past five o'clock adjournment and begin 30 minutes early. If you would favor that, raise your hand. If not, raise your hand. It does not carry. Now to the podium and continue with Judge Stewart.

STEWART: Thank you. We will next consider Calendar Item 783. It is found on page 258 of your *Daily Christian Advocate*.

BISHOP ODEN: Just a moment. I got the motion wrong. I'm going to assume the house still sustains the chair. Let's move on.

*Amenability of General Commission on Communications*

STEWART: All right. We will consider Calendar Item 783. It's found on page 258 of the *Daily Christian Advocate*, and it pertains to Petition 20637, which is found on page 908 in your red book. The petition is entitled "Amenability of General Commission on Communications." The petition would amend the second sentence of paragraph 1904 of the *Discipline*, which is found on pages 621 and 622. The petition as proposed would change the accountability on program matters for the General Commission on Communications from the General Council on Ministries to the Council of Bishops. The committee amended the petition to provide for the dual accountability on program matters of the General Council on Ministries and the Council of Bishops. With regard to the rationale of the committee, I would call on Stan England, who was the secretary of the sub-committee, and ask him to share that with you.

BISHOP ODEN: All right. Stan?

STAN B. ENGLAND (North Georgia): As the committee met and discussed this, we felt that the Council of Bishops should take an active role in the evaluation of the General Commission on Communication. The commission has an awesome responsibility working with the general agencies to speak and publicize for the church. We realize that the bishops have representation on the General Commission on Communication, but we know that for action to take place there must be a clear line of works and words. The evaluation process does not mean spending more money or taking control of, but to call our Council of Bishops in with the accountability process with the council along with the Council on Ministries. That was the rationale of the committee.

BISHOP ODEN: The motion is before you. And we have had a speech for. Is there a speech against? I see none. Oh, I'm sorry. To the left, house left. Microphone 3.

SAMUEL WYNN (North Carolina): I would oppose this motion for several reasons, one being that we are in the process of trying to hold all agencies accountable. And secondly, does the Council of Bishops have in place an evaluation process to carry something like this out?

BISHOP ODEN: Are you asking?

WYNN: Yes.

BISHOP ODEN: Yes. I do not believe we have in place such a procedure.

SAMUEL WYNN (North Carolina): And, if we pass this motion, what would the council have to do to put something of that nature in place?

BISHOP ODEN: I cannot answer that, I'm sorry.

WYNN: I would move that we not approve this amendment for those reasons.

BISHOP ODEN: All right. Microphone 9.

STEPHEN C. MOTT (New England): I oppose this motion. I think it is...

BISHOP ODEN: Just a moment. We just had a speech against. I need to call for a speech in favor before you proceed. Is there a speech in favor of this motion? I see none. You may proceed.

MOTT: I'd urge a vote against this motion. I think it upsets the very important balance of power between the bishops and the General Conference. I don't think the Council of Bishops should be evaluating the General Commission of the General Conference.

BISHOP ODEN: Thank you. I want to ask again for a speech that favors the motion. Yes. We have two speeches against, and this will be the second speech for. All right. That's in order.

JAMES M. LAWSON JR. (California-Pacific): I'd like to...I move an amendment to page 759, the top of the left hand column. And that would be to delete the words "and Council of Bishops." The four words "and Council of Bishops" would be deleted from that second sentence.

BISHOP ODEN: Sir, do you mean page 259?

LAWSON: Yes, 259.

BISHOP ODEN: And again, your motion is?

LAWSON: To amend the second sentence of paragraph 1904 by deleting the following words: "and Council of Bishops." So that the sentence would read, "The General Council on Ministries in program matters."

BISHOP ODEN: All right. Is there a second? It has been seconded. Would you like to speak to it?

LAWSON: Yes, very quickly. I think that the General Council of Bishops, the General Council needs to understand that one of the ways in which the Council of Bishops does, indeed, carry on its work of evaluation of accountability and oversight is because, on every board and agency of the church, a group of bishops are assigned.

BISHOP ODEN: Excuse me just a moment. If we do remove "and Council of Bishops," does not that return the language to its present disciplinary form?

LAWSON: Yes, it does, it does.

BISHOP ODEN: Then, I think, if you vote "no," I believe that amendment is out of order. If you vote "no" it accomplishes the same thing.

LAWSON: Good. Thank you.

BISHOP ODEN: All right. To the microphone 4.

ZANE SCOTT (Holston): I'd like to speak for the committee's recommendation. I was a member of that committee. The words "Council of Bishops" appeared in the context of a number of the petitions that we have before us, always in a substituting mode, as they did originally in this petition, substituting them for the General Council on Ministries. In every instance, we struck, as a committee, struck that out and down, in favor of review by the General Council of Ministries.

It saved this one, and we saved this one because we felt in the matters of communication and speaking for the church in those particularly delicate matters, we felt that the Council of Bishops could bring to us expertise and a valuable contribution in evaluation. So, in this one instance, we added the language rather than substituting the language.

BISHOP ODEN: All right, we now have two speeches for the motion and two speeches against. And we'll call on Judge Stewart for the final word, and then we'll vote.

CARL E. STEWART (Louisiana): Bishop, under the rules, I opted to have the chair designate someone else to speak to it under the provision that is in the rules, and that is why I have designated someone.

BISHOP ODEN: Fine.

STAN B. ENGLAND (North Georgia): I think that the point has been taken. We have not concurred on some of the others to enhance some of the petitions that came to us asking that the Council of Bishops be included. And there has been much consideration towards doing away with the Council on Ministries. We felt that this would be a good process to make sure that there was something in place. And, secondarily, that it would be a good way for the communications to be able to enhance itself by working with these two bodies.

BISHOP ODEN: The motion is before us. We are on Calendar Item 783. Is there a question? Microphone 4.

DON MENDENHALL (Iowa): The question is, will this apply to the annual conference level in terms of evaluating communication offices within an annual conference?

STEWART: The petition is addressed to the general commission, not to the annual conference commission.

MENDENHALL: What will be the spin back into the annual conference from your estimation?

STEWART: Well, the middle language of the paragraph addresses only the general level of the church, and that is all.

BISHOP ODEN: Now, we're ready to vote? Vote when the light appears. [Results: yes, 404; no, 478] You do not favor the motion. It is not concurred. It fails.

### *Organization of General Commission on Christian Unity and Inter-Religious Concerns*

STEWART: All right, we will next consider Calendar 784 found on page 259 of the *Daily Christian Advocate*, and it is Petition 20551, found on page 910 in the red book. This petition pertains to the organization of the General Commission on Christian Unity and Inter-Religious Concerns. The petition would amend the first sentence of paragraph 2005.6 of the *Discipline* found on page 631 of the *Discipline*.

The current language provides for the commission to nominate its general secretary, who then is elected by the General Commission on Ministries. The General Council of Ministries, I'm sorry. The amendment would allow the commission to nominate and elect its own general secretary. The committee deems the amendment to be unnecessary. Paragraph 813 of the *Discipline* provides the general secretaries of program agencies to be elected by the General Council on Ministries. This method has not only proven to be workable, but it allows for accountability of the general secretaries to the whole church, and for that reason the committee recommends nonconcurrence.

BISHOP ODEN: All right. the motion is before us, and we record one speech in favor of it by the chair. Is there a speech opposing the motion? I think we're ready to vote. If you would vote, vote now when the light appears. [816 approved] You favor the motion; it is sustained. Judge Stewart.

CARL STEWART (Louisiana): Next, consider Calendar 1695, found on page 388 of the *Daily Christian Advocate*, and it's Petition 23076. And that petition is before you on the same page in the *DCA*. Petition 23076 is a substitute for two petitions that were referred to the committee on the same subject. Those petitions are Petition 22035 found on page 1394 of your white book, and Petition 21015 found on page 1390 of the white book.

Both of those petitions call for the creation of a general commission on alcohol and drugs. The committee nonconcurred with 22035 and 21015, and that nonconcurrence was ratified on the Consent Calendar numbers 704 and 705, found on page 229. The committee recognized the serious health, safety, and human welfare issues related to the subject of use and misuse of alcohol and drugs. Nonetheless, the committee did not conclude that creating a new commission related solely to those issues was warranted.

Petition 23076, which is before you, strongly urges the General Board of Church and Society to create a standing committee on alcohol and drugs. The committee rationale is that while creating a new general church level commission is not warranted, a more intentional approach towards addressing the concerns of the petitions that were submitted is warranted, due to the continued escalation of drug and alcohol use and abuse throughout the world. The creation of a standing committee within an existing general board, which has already accepted the responsibility to advocate and educate in this area, will be in the best interest of the church.

Creation of this standing committee will insure that the vital health,

safety, and spirituality concerns regarding drugs and alcohol will always be given the church's greatest attention and action. The petition as amended does not contemplate the expenditure of any funds beyond those already appropriated to the General Board of Church and Society. With that, I would move the adoption of the committee's recommendation, which is a deletion of the two whole petitions and a substitution of the one before you.

BISHOP ODEN: Calendar Item 1695 is before you. Does anyone wish to speak to it? I see no cards; we're ready to vote. Vote when the light appears. [865 approved] The calendar item passes by 96 percent.

### *Demeaning Use of Native American Names*

STEWART; Thank you. We're now considering Calendar Item 710. This was a calendar item that was earlier on the Consent Calendar and was pulled from the Consent Calendar; that's why it's before you. It's to be found on page 230 of the *Daily Christian Advocate*, and it's Petition 20895, found on page 920 of the red book, and Petition 22427, found on page 1395 of the white book.

The petitions read concerning names demeaning to Native Americans. The committee voted nonconcurrence on 20895 and 22427 in favor of Petition 20030, which says, in pertinent part, that it is demeaning to Native Americans and other members of our society to depict Native Americans as violent and aggressive people. Because you have approved Calendar Item 590 on page 219 of the *Daily Christian Advocate* Consent Calendar, the committee recommends nonconcurrence on Calendar Item 710. Bishop, I would move the adoption of the committee recommendation.

BISHOP ODEN: Thank you, Judge. That seems clear enough. Anyone desire to speak to it? I see no cards. If you favor the committee's recommendation of nonconcurrence, vote when the light appears. And you do concur. Thank you very much, Judge Stewart.

STEWART: Thank you, Bishop. That's it for me.

BISHOP ODEN: All right. Are we ready to move on now to Church and Society? *[applause]* Don Pike, chair of the Committee on Church and Society.

DON M. PIKE (Central Texas): Bishop Oden, we have a very easy subject to deal with at this time: that of abortion. *[laughter]* And as I look at the time remaining, we're going to try to finesse this thing. I'm beginning to feel like a man in a desert with a cup of water. I want to preserve every minute that we possibly have. In order to help the conference to understand the process that we used in the committee, I'd like to call on Beth Capen, who is the chairperson of the subcommittee, to share with you the process that we used. And then we'll try to deal with the petitions that I think we can deal with rather easily. And then we can deal with the heavier and heavier ones as we get to the calendar.

BISHOP ODEN: Don, hold just a moment. The floor is not open for business, only for matters of...if you have a point of order or point of inquiry or information. Yes. Microphone 14.

MARY ANN GALLOWAY (West Ohio): I'd just like to ask that when they present the petitions, they would present which book they're talking about, then the numbers, the page number, and then the petition number, in that order. That really helps. I can't compute backwards.

BISHOP ODEN: Thank you. We will ask the committee chairs to so respond. Blue book first, and then the *Advance DCA*, and then calendar item.

BETH CAPEN (New York): Hello, I was the chairperson of the sub-committee that dealt with the issues that will be before us this afternoon. Specifically, our sub-committee dealt with a variety of things, but about half of our petitions dealt with issues of abortion or related to abortion. We recognize, both in the sub-committee and in the larger committee, that we are at very different places in our opinions, in our beliefs, really went across the spectrum. We recognized that it was very important to hear each other and for us to express what it was that we believed.

To that end, we had a process whereby after reviewing the preface to the Social Principles, in the introductory paragraph to "The Nurturing Community," which is where these issues are addressed in the Social Principles. We then, at that point, went around and each one of us, in turn, explained our beliefs and our feelings regarding abortion, the issues related to abortion, and specifically, we also discussed the language as it currently appears in the Social Principles.

This was done with a lot of prayer, with a lot of consideration, and most importantly, with a very deep appreciation for where each one of us comes from and what we believe. It was within that context, and with those prayers, that we then made the decisions that's come before you, and that Don Pike will now be bringing our attention to.

ODEN: Thank you very much, Beth.

### *Rights of the Unborn*

DON M. PIKE (Central Texas): All right, you'll have to be patient with me. I have mine organized in a different way, so let me try to convert this thing. If you'd first turn in your white *DCA* to page 1226 at the very top of the left hand column, you'll see Petition 22585, entitled, "Rights of the Unborn."

Now if you will turn in your blue *DCA* to page 386, Calendar Item 1679, left hand column, middle of the page leading with Petition 22585. The committee voted 61 to 18, 11 not voting, for nonconcurrence. And, I would urge you as a conference to support that action, because we have another petition on exactly the same subject that we'll be dealing with later that

has both a majority and a minority report. So Bishop, we would hope the conference would sustain us as we can deal with it later.

BISHOP ODEN: OK, thank you. So Calendar Item 1679 is before us, and is there discussion? Way in the back. Microphone 13.

MORRIS MATTHIS (Texas): Would it be possible for us to look at the majority/minority report and deal with that first, and then return to the one that is before us now?

PIKE: If you want to take that procedure, I need to pull back on it, because there is no time for us to really debate this given the time remaining. I was just trying to clean off a calendar item that's going to be given more opportunity for debate later. You'll find the majority/minority report calendar 1982, on page 477 and 478. If you want to look, you'll see it's exactly the same thing, "Rights of the Unborn," and there is a majority and a minority report.

BISHOP ODEN: So we have before us 1679, which the committee is recommending nonconcurrence in order to clear this calendar item and move on to the other two petitions that will be before us later. Is there further discussion? I see none. So, if you favor the committee's recommendation of nonconcurrence, vote "yes," if not vote "no." Vote when the light appears. [809 approved] You agree with the committee.

PIKE: In your white *DCA*, if you will turn to page 1236, Petition 22587. That is on page 478, Calendar Item 1983. The committee recommends by a vote of 62 to 20 for nonconcurrence, for basically the same reason, we have it all in the other paragraph.

BISHOP ODEN: I think everyone has it, but it is a bit complicated. Don, once more, repeat those pages and calendar items.

PIKE: All right. In the white *DCA*, page 1236, Petition 22587. You see it's submitted by the administrative board, Saint Paul UMC, Gulf Breeze, Fla. Calendar Item 1983, Petition 22587 on page 478, by a vote of 62 to 23, the committee votes nonconcurrence.

BISHOP ODEN: All right, this is before us, is there discussion? Vote when the light appears. [800 approved] You have supported the committee by 87 percent. Don.

PIKE: All right, in your red *DCA* on page 123, Petition 20923, right hand column, very top of the page. In your blue book, page 478 Calendar Item 1984, left hand column, very bottom of the page. Titled, "The Social Community." By a vote of 49 to 30, with 6 not voting, the committee recommends nonconcurrence.

BISHOP ODEN: Calendar Item 1984 is before you with the committee's recommendation of nonconcurrence. In the back. Microphone 6.

BARBARA W. RIDDLE (Florida): It's not that I don't support the committee. It's not that I don't trust the committee's work. I continue to be uncomfortable with dealing with business and items before we've dealt with the substance of the entire concern that's before us. And I know time is of the essence, but I would have to vote nonconcurrence. I would not support the committee's vote of nonconcurrence, because we really haven't had the opportunity to fully hear what the committee's going to be presenting to us today on this very important matter. And so because of integrity here, I would not support the committee's nonconcurrence.

BISHOP ODEN: That's a vote against the committee's recommendation. Is there a speech for the committee's recommendation? I see none. I'm assuming we're ready to vote. So vote when the light appears. [Results: yes, 697; no, 222] You do support the committee.

DON PIKE (Central Texas): Thank you, Bishop Oden. I guess the prudent thing would be to begin the discussion, and let me direct our attention to the petition that is entitled, "Rights of the Unborn." Look in your white *DCA*.

BISHOP ODEN: I would like to make a suggestion, that we find the petitions and pages and then hold the debate until the beginning of the evening session. And we do have some announcements, but let's take time and get the pages and calendar items in mind that will be before us tonight. So, go ahead, Don, with the pages and calendar items.

PIKE: Oh, I'm sorry. I misunderstood you. You simply want what we're going to be dealing with first. All right. Tonight, we'll start off with, in your white *DCA*, page 1226, petition entitled, "Rights of the Unborn." It's Petition 22584. You'll find that petition in the left hand column, middle of the page. You see the text there. All right.

Then turn in your blue *DCA*, if you'll look on page 477, Calendar Item 1982, at the very bottom of the right hand column,"Rights of the Unborn." You'll notice that the committee voted 50 to 35 against concurrence. There is a minority report on page 478. That, in turn, will be the subject of our discussion. Now, bishop, am I understanding that this is where you want me to stop?

BISHOP ODEN: That is correct. Thank you very much. We'll pick up there at the evening session's beginning. We do have just a few minutes for announcements and there are...let's just see where we go here, if we can move up to the time of adjournment. I see a card in the back. Go to microphone 6. I'm sorry, the person in the blue jacket. It looks blue from here, without a lot of hair.

CHARLES "DENNY" WHITE (Western North Carolina): It appears, sir, that in this matter, we are back where we have been before with a minority report in response to a committee proposal of nonconcurrence. In view of that, I have a procedural motion.

BISHOP ODEN: I'm sorry. I'm going to ask you to bring that up at the beginning of the evening session.

WHITE: It doesn't relate to this specifically. It's actually your request to the Rules Committee for the 2000 Conference to do something to help us out.

BISHOP ODEN: All right. Let's try it.

WHITE: Bishop, I move that in its preparation for the 2000 General Conference, the Committee on Plan of Organization and Rules be directed to propose such revisions and amplifications of our rules as may be necessary to clarify, in print, the circumstances in which a minority report may be filed; and in particular, whether the filing and printing of a minority report to a legislative committee recommendation of nonconcurrence is to be permitted.

BISHOP ODEN: All right, that's a motion to refer to the Rules Committee for the General Conference of 2000. If you would support that motion of referral, raise your hand. If not. It is supported. All right. The person standing. In the tan jacket. Full head of hair. *[laughter]*

*Prohibition of General Agencies Funding "Favors" at General Conference*

CHARLES W. COURTOY (Florida): I thank you. I also have a matter related to the General Conference for the year 2000. I move that all general agencies be prohibited from spending apportionment funds on favors such as buttons, calendars, clocks, and the promotional materials for distribution to the delegates to the General Conference for the year 2000. They shall be limited to distribution of interpretative materials, which address issues and subjects assigned to their areas of responsibility. If I get a second, I'd like to speak to it.

I have been amazed at the escalation of the amount of promotional materials that has come at this General Conference. It seems to me that there are more materials than we've ever had in the way of buttons and promotional materials. The crowning promotional packet came this afternoon entitled, "The National Hispanic Ministries Challenge Fund," in which there was a clock and other materials. I, for one, object to using our ministry and World Service funds in order to try to influence this kind of vote for a particular plan. So I urge us to instruct, tonight, the General Conference of the year 2000 to prohibit this kind of materials.

BISHOP ODEN: Sir, that is a matter of reference to the Commission on the General Conference. Is that what we're about?

COURTOY: That would be OK.

BISHOP ODEN: All right. The motion of reference is before you. If you would favor it, raise your hand. If you oppose, raise your hand. It is referred. Now we're at the point of having time for announcements. And we call on our secretary.

CAROLYN MARSHALL: The first announcement has to do with airport shuttles for those of you planning to utilize those in order to get to the airport. Another announcement saying that people who need to, will need to sign up for those. Sign up is at the information booth. If you want a shuttle from your hotel, this will enable the committee to have enough shuttles available.

Also, all chairs of legislative committees are asked to meet with Sarah Miller in the front of the platform immediately upon adjournment.

And then a clarification of the meeting this evening of the Inter-Jurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy. It will meet after adjournment of the evening session in room A209. The question also has come as to who is on that committee. Those are the persons whom we elected this morning. They are, for the most part, those who are listed on pages 80 and 81 in the red book, the *Advance DCA*, and on page 31 in the blue book, as well a correction on page 289 in the blue book.

BISHOP ODEN: All right. As we close out, I need to confess I am in deep trouble. I've been requested for a personal privilege from the lay chair of the Louisiana delegation. We simply do not have time for it. She is requesting that the bishops consider changing the phrase, "children in poverty" to "children in need." And Anita Crump, I will see that this gets to the bishops. I now would like to call on a very favorite "Louisiana-type bishop" to give our benediction, Bishop W.T. Handy. Let us stand.

*[prayer]*

# Thursday Evening April 25, 1996

*Bishop C.P. Minnick, Jr., presiding*

*(music by S.T. Kimbrough)*

BISHOP C.P. MINNICK JR.: Sisters and brothers, let us please now find our places and take our seats. We are ready to move into our time of prayer in preparation for the events of the evening. Please will you take your seats now? Please be seated. We are ready to begin.

This General Conference of 1996 will live for many years in my memory, not because it is the last General Conference before my retirement, which is four months, four days, four hours and 57 minutes away. But it shall remain always in my memory because it, more than any other General Conference, has been clothed in the mantle of prayer. We have begun every session with a time of prayerful reflection with a prayer partner or partners. And I hope you're aware of the fact, and I'm sure most of you are, that for the past nine days for 24 hours a day, the Council of Bishops, together with delegates and reserve delegates and guests, have been involved in a prayer vigil around the clock each day. As a result of our life of prayer together, we have felt the power and presence of God with us in a very special way.

Right now let's turn again to a time of prayer. Find a prayer partner or partners. And as we begin this time, let's sing together as a prayer of invocation and as words of commitment, the *Spirit Song*. It's on page 347. *The Spirit Song*. You may remain seated while we sing prayerfully.

ST KIMBROUGH: And in an attitude of prayer, we may imagine ourselves as the church, without the instrument of an organ or a piano for ten centuries, gathering as a people, preparing itself in prayer with the concert of our voices.

*(singing)*

BISHOP MINNICK: Now will you, with your prayer partner or partners, enter into a time of prayerful reflection? Let us join now together in praying the prayer that Jesus taught the disciples of old to pray.

*(The Lord's Prayer)*

Well, as we begin our work tonight, I will turn again to Fitzgerald Reist and Sarah Miller to set the direction for us.

Sister Sarah Miller will tell us the direction in which we are moving tonight.

SARAH S. MILLER (Wyoming): We'll begin this evening by trying to complete the items on abortion that we did not complete this afternoon. We'll go directly from that to finishing up the remaining items on homosexuality. We'll have several different legislative committees coming and bringing their items that relate to that subject. At the completion of that work, we hope to move on to remaining items from the Legislative Committee on Discipleship.

BISHOP MINNICK: All right, thank you. So we'll turn first to Don Pike, chair of Church and Society, to lead us again in the legislative items that he has.

DON M. PIKE (Central Texas): Thank you, Bishop. We resume where we were, as the bishop said, before we adjourned and I expressed to the body their willingness to trust the committee. I think you will discover that all that we dealt with in terms of the previous actions will indeed be encapsulated in what we're about to do in order to give you an opportunity to discuss.

Let me invite you, if you would please, to turn in your white *DCA* to page 1226. We will be dealing with Petition 22584. You will find it in the left-hand column, middle of the page. It is calendar item, found on page 477; Calendar Item 1982. Right-hand column, the very bottom of the page, dealing with rights of the unborn. You'll notice that the legislative committee voted on concurrence by a vote of 50, 35, to zero; there is a minority report which you will find on the following page, 478. Bishop, would it be appropriate at this time; do we begin with the minority report? Is that correct, Sir?

BISHOP MINNICK: Yes. You will remember from this afternoon, it was noted that we have no process in our Rules of Order for a minority report being brought to an item that is nonconcurred-with by the legislative committee. So we will address this by first hearing the minority report.

PIKE: All right, Bishop. Elizabeth Wright will address the minority report and then Beth Capen will be prepared to respond to the majority report. Elizabeth?

BISHOP MINNICK: All right.

*Minority Report on Rights of the Unborn*

ELIZABETH A. WRIGHT (Virginia): Thank you, Don. I would ask you to please, as Don has requested, to turn to Calendar Item 1982; begins the bottom of page 478. Bishops, colleagues, I rise to present the minority report. Add a new subparagraph after 72C and re-letter all the following sentences: "While the full rights of women must always be respected, unborn children are acknowledged to be human beings in their own right. Although there is no consensus as to when human life begins, unborn children are deserving of treatment that is due those who are made in the image of God. Thus we support the development of adoption agencies, counseling services for expectant mothers, care services, centers for unwed mothers designed to protect the sacred worth of the unborn child."

I served on the Human Sexuality Subcommittee which prayerfully examined the disciplinary statement on abortion. Beth Capen described that process to you this afternoon and it was an experience that none of us in the committee will ever forget. It was truly a beautiful time together. The statement is a fair and thoughtful statement which describes with

power and compassion the tragic conflict of life with life. I stand with my sisters and brothers of the legislative team on the abortion statement, which has been accepted through the Consent Calendar.

Now, it is appropriate after affirming the rights of a woman over her own body to bring our disciplinary statement full circle to consider the rights of the unborn child. In dealing with this issue, the critical question is: "When is a human being a human being?" As we discussed this in our subcommittee, it became obvious that we were not all of one mind about when life truly begins.

Using magnificent biblical imagery, one of the group spoke passionately of God blowing the very breath of life into a human being. "It is then, at birth, that life begins!" said that person. Others spoke of the beating heart as the beginning of life. Another talked about the emergence of brainwaves as being the definitive sign of life. Said yet another, "The medical profession does not presume the question. They say it is a theological issue." It was then that someone in our subcommittee spoke the words of God to Jeremiah: "Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you. Before you were born, I sanctified you."

We began our discussion with Biblical imagery; we ended with scripture. And still, there is not agreement. There is no absolute on when life truly begins. If you have ever thought about when an embryo or a fetus becomes a human being, a human being deserving treatment due those made in the image of God; if you have never thought about it, think about it now! Study about it; pray about it. Come to some conclusion about it in your own heart and mind. For it is a great moral and theological question of our day.

If we believe that at any point during human pregnancy the unborn child becomes a true human being, then it becomes a theological imperative to consider what might be the rights of the unborn child. Such consideration of the unborn is not in contradiction to our disciplinary position on abortion. Indeed, it affirms and dignifies that position, that which we have already approved. It seems entirely appropriate for this General Conference to go on record to encourage the development of adoption agencies, counseling and support services for expectant mothers, care services for unwed mothers to protect the wellbeing and the sacred worth of the unborn as well as the mother. I encourage you to vote in favor of the minority report. Thank you.

BISHOP MINNICK: We're going to treat this as an amendment by substitution to the nonconcurrence of the legislative committee. So, we're ready now for you to address this minority report substitute. Is there someone who will speak for it? All right, in the back here. Microphone 9.

SHARON L. DUGER (North Central New York): As a woman, as a mother, as a mother of three stillborns, I need to tell you that at 13 weeks after conception, I had a sonogram and I saw a child sucking its thumb. When does life begin? This is the question. I think life began when God created human beings and when God stated that what we must do is procreate. Now we're not in that kind of culture now, but we must look to the Biblical scriptures for answers. We must look to our own hearts, and we must pray and find what God would have us do when we look at the—what you would call a fetus—what I would call a human being waiting to be. This is in favor of this amendment or motion.

BISHOP MINNICK: All right, is there someone who will speak against the amendment? Yes, I see a card here in the back. Microphone 7.

CHARLES PEARCE (Florida): I have an amendment at this moment, Bishop, if I may.

BISHOP MINNICK: All right.

PEARCE: I move that everything under rights of the unborn be deleted with the exception of the following, "We support the development of adoption agencies, counseling services for expectant mothers, and centers for unwed mothers." If I have a second, I'll speak to it.

BISHOP MINNICK: It's seconded. You may speak.

PEARCE: Thank you, sir. As a father of four adopted children, we need to pay more attention to the mother that wants to have her child. And I think, I don't believe I'll take the whole three minutes, but I would like to tell you that Terrell Sessums had a grandson today, three hours ago. Thank you.

BISHOP MINNICK: Congratulations. Let me remind you that by your action this afternoon, we are limiting our speeches to two for and two against each, to two minutes only. Is there someone who would speak against the amendment? All right, over here. Microphone 7.

### *Issues of Child Abuse*

ROB BASZNER (North Indiana): I would speak against this amendment. It is my belief that this minority report in its fullness is not only essential to affirming the love for unborn children, but also crucial to affirming the love for young children in our country. Yesterday the first lady spoke to us on our mission as a church to solve problems facing young children all over the globe, especially child abuse and child abandonment. I believe there is a direct connection between our love and treatment of the unborn and love and treatment of young children. If we deny love and respect to unborn children, how can parents be expected to love and treat their young children with respect? Abortion has instilled the attitude in our society that children are not valuable unless they are planned and wanted.

BISHOP MINNICK: All right, is there a speech for the amendment? Over here on the front, yes? Microphone 4.

EARL R. RENSHAW (Southern Illinois): This is a question. I heard our first speaker say a few moments ago that the basic statement on abortion is on the Consent Calendar and has been

approved. I would like to know where that appears in our *DCA*?

BISHOP MINNICK: All right.

ELIZABETH WRIGHT (Virginia): It appears, Bishop, if I may.

BISHOP MINNICK: Yes, please.

WRIGHT: It appears on the Consent Calendar, page 305, number 809. Thank you.

BISHOP MINNICK: All right, is there a speech for? That was just a question. All right. In the back here. Go to microphone 13, if you will.

BARBARA LEMMEL (Troy): I speak against this amend...no, I take that back.

BISHOP MINNICK: All right, you're speaking for it.

LEMMEL: I speak for this amendment because I believe that what has been deleted by this amendment is already covered under 71H, which speaks about the sanctity of unborn human life and also about the reluctance to approve abortion and the considerations necessary in the circumstances of the life of the mother. I also would like to say in response to the previous statement about child abuse that wanted children are more rarely abused than unwanted children.

BISHOP MINNICK: All right, we've had two speeches for and one against. Is there someone who would like to speak against the amendment? All right, right here. Microphone 3, please.

PENNEY SCHWAB (Kansas West): While I affirm the intent of the maker of the motion of the amendment, I really believe that we can only address this issue as we come to it from our emotions. The minority report, as unamended, speaks to what our Discipline now affirms, the tragic necessity, or the tragic conflict of life on life. It also gives a very clear statement of compassion to those who have lost a child through stillbirth, for those who have experienced infertility, and I think it just provides the very best balance in a situation where we are certainly not of one mind on this issue any more than we are on some others.

BISHOP MINNICK: All right, thank you. Now there have been two speeches for and two against and it's time to vote on this amendment. Do you need it read to you again? It's on page 478 as you know, to delete everything in the paragraph except the one, two, three, four...the last five sentences and the last word of the sentence before that, so that it reads, "we support the development," etc. All right, it's before you now for the vote. Please vote when the light appears.

BISHOP MINNICK: The amendment is lost, 584 votes to 281. All right, we are back to the minority report. We have had one speech for and one against. Is there someone who would speak for the report? All right. Over here. Microphone 5.

*Beginning of Life Addressed*

CHRISTIAN ALSTED (Denmark): I speak for this Minority Report because I think this is not only a petition about abortion. In my country, we have an Ethical Council elected by the Parliament. And this Council has stated that life begins at conception. In my country, we also have free abortion, and the Ethical Council has not given their statement to stop abortion, but they had given their statement to protect the embryo against experimenting like genetic manipulation. I think the minority report gives us an important foundation to speak against genetic experiments, because its states that life begins before birth.

BISHOP MINNICK: Thank you. We've had two speeches for, one against. Is there someone who will speak against? Back, way in the back. Microphone 14, yes.

ROBERT HOSHIBATA (Pacific Northwest): I speak against the minority report at this time, because I believe in my heart that all the situations that we would need to deal with are covered under the current language in the *Discipline*, as well as the amended version of Paragraph 72C in question. I have been involved with persons who have come to me, as their pastor, asking for counsel and guidance and a word of faith as they have faced an unwanted pregnancy. In the anguish of that consultation, the words currently in the *Discipline* have served me well. I believe that the current problem, or the reason why we are having this debate, is a struggle over the language and the discussion whether a life begins at a conception or somewhere else along the way. I firmly believe, as a father of three children, that conception marks the beginning of life. However, struggling over that question of the terminology between unborn human life and unborn children will not help us in any way to determine the right answer for a person in crisis. I urge our voting against the minority report, deferring instead to the current language as amended by our Church and Society committee.

BISHOP MINNICK: All right. We've had two speeches for and two against. We'll turn now to see if there is a further statement from the Chair of the Minority Report, and then we'll hear from the Legislative Committee Chair.

WRIGHT: As I mentioned to you earlier, in the subcommittee, as we discussed abortion, there was not only consensus, but we were of one mind on the disciplinary statement as it exists. Now in your Consent Calendar, you will see that there is an amendment that we made. But certainly we would agree with each of you about the validity of the abortion statement that is already in the *Discipline*. I would like to say that the focus in the abortion statement in the Consent Calendar, the focus is primarily on the rights of women and the care of the mother. Whereas the minority report focuses more on the unborn child, and I heard someone say something about balance, and perhaps that is what this might afford. Bishop Minnick, under the rules, I would like to call on Jessica Moffatt of the Oklahoma Delegation

to begin our summation, if I may please.

BISHOP MINNICK: I believe that would not be in order since we have already had the -.

WRIGHT: No? Then if I may make the closing remarks then.

BISHOP MINNICK: You may.

WRIGHT: Obviously, as we have talked together tonight, there is diversity in our church among people of good faith. And that diversity reaches into this very issue. This minority report is not designed to negate our denomination's long held and respected stand on abortion; and I quote once more "the tragic conflict of life with life", but rather, this is to affirm the rights of the unborn from whatever time, from whatever point you believe that human life truly begins.

Whether you believe life is breathed into a baby at the moment of birth, or if you believe that life in the image of God begins sometime during the gestation period, I trust you agree it is incumbent upon The United Methodist Church to provide for the life and welfare of the unborn as well as the pregnant woman. I invite you to support the minority report.

BISHOP MINNICK: Thank you, we turn now to the legislative committee chair.

BETH CAPEN (New York): The paragraph 71h, that is the paragraph regarding abortion, was unanimously supported. The legislative committee, in regard to the rights of the unborn, by a majority, did reject this language. There were a number of reasons. However, I believe that, and I hope I'm representing this fairly, I believe that one of the primary reasons why some people rejected this, was because there was a belief that was covered under the language that is currently provided for in 71h, and also within the Social Principles is an additional paragraph regarding adoption. Another sentiment that I heard expressed, and that indeed is my own personal sentiment, is that there is some difficulty regarding the language that is presented in the paragraph entitled, "Rights of the Unborn," as it undermines the spirit of the language, which we agree is good language, in paragraph 71h.

One of the arguments of the minority is that it recognizes the conflict of life with life, and indeed, that language is currently in the legislation which we have already approved here. Also recognized in the paragraph 71h, which has been adopted, as amended, is the following: "Our belief in the sanctity of unborn human life makes us reluctant to approve abortion, but we are equally bound to respect the sacredness of the life and well-being of the mother for whom devastating damage may result from an unacceptable pregnancy. In continuity with past Christian teaching, we recognize tragic conflicts of life with life that may justify abortion, and in such cases, support the legal option of abortion under proper medical procedures. We cannot affirm abortion as an acceptable means of birth control, and we unconditionally reject it as a means of gender selection. We call all Christians to a searching and prayerful inquiry into the sorts of conditions that may warrant abortion." And this is the new language: "We commit our church to continue to provide nurturing ministries to those who terminate a pregnancy, to those in the midst of a crisis pregnancy, and to those who give birth." We urge you to vote no on the vote that you are about to take regarding the minority report. Thank you.

*Votes Taken on Abortion Legislation*

BISHOP MINNICK: Now the minority report under Calendar Item 1982 is before you for your vote, please vote when the light appears. The minority report does not prevail. It lost by a vote of 399 for 497 against.

BISHOP MINNICK:Now we're back to the matter of nonconcurrence on Calendar Item 1982. Let us vote on this when the light appears. To complete this legislative process, please, will the booth give us vote here, the voting process. All right, please vote when the light appears. You have supported the committee's recommendation of nonconcurrence by a vote of 619 to 281.

*Membership in Religious Coalition for Reproductive Rights*

DON M. PIKE (Central Texas): Bishop Minnick, the next item that we would address you will find in your white *DCA* if you would please turn to page 1236. It is Petition 22621, you'll find that at the very bottom of the right hand column, entitled, "Membership in Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice." It is Calendar Item found on page 478, Calendar Item 1985. The committee voted 46 for, 27 against, 4 not voting, for nonconcurrence; and you will note there is a minority report. Mike Lowry will represent that minority report and Beth Capen will, in turn, share the thoughts of the legislative committee.

BISHOP MINNICK: All right, the minority report is before you as an amendment by substitution to the recommendation of nonconcurrence. Yes. Point of order, microphone 7.

CHUCK E. HEFLEY (North Indiana): The minority report is the exact wording of the paragraph, after amended, that we voted on. So, according to our rules, it cannot be submitted as a minority report.

BISHOP MINNICK: Let us check that out. I believe the point of order is well taken, and so this would not be in order at this time. So the committee's recommendation for nonconcurrence is before you. Are you ready to vote? I see in the back here, microphone 7.

GARNETT WILDER (North Georgia): We seem to be having continued difficultly because we didn't cover this in our rules at the beginning. I stood to make a motion to address this situation, but was deferred by the chair. I want to try a motion at this time. I move a suspension of the rules as they apply to the minority reports in order that minority reports may be considered without legislative impairment or encumbrance.

BISHOP MINNICK: All right, that is before us and has been seconded.

That is a suspension of the rules, and this takes a two-thirds majority to approve. Are you clear on what- ? All right, if you will suspend the rules, will you lift a hand? Well, no, let's vote with the machine. If you will suspend the rules, vote when the light appears. You did not suspend the rules. [Results: yes, 249; no, 553] So, we will proceed. And the committee's recommendation for nonconcurrence is before you. Please vote when the light appears. You have supported the committee's recommendations. And we'll move on to the next item.[Results: yes, 537 ; no, 269]

PIKE: All right, Bishop, that concludes all of the- .

BISHOP MINNICK: Yes. Microphone 3.

WILLIAM D. PEEPLES (Louisiana): I'm not sure what we just voted on. It clicked through too fast. I'm not sure where we are on that.

BISHOP MINNICK: I apologize for that. It was Calendar Item 1985. The legislative committee recommended nonconcurrence.

PEEPLES: And we supported nonconcurrence?

BISHOP MINNICK: Yes. Let me apologize, All right?

PIKE: All right, Bishop, that concludes all of the items that deal with the subject of abortion. And I believe, according to the calendar that we are pursuing this evening, we now turn to multi-committee petitions relative to homosexuality, is that correct?

BISHOP MINNICK: That's correct. All right.

PIKE: So I would need to ask that those, I guess, representing the other committees would begin to make their way up here. And also there is a minority report, Charles Pearce, that some of you signed. Whoever is speaking for that minority report needs to come to the platform. We would begin in your red *DCA* on page 142. In your red *DCA* on page 142.

It is Petition 21473; 21473. You'll find it on the right-hand side of the page at the very bottom of the column. This is calendar item found on page 386; page 386. And it is Calendar Number 1678. You will find it on the left-hand side of the page at the very top. By a vote of 47 to 15, 12 not voting, the committee recommends concurrence as amended. You can see the difference in the two documents; you can compare the conclusion in the red *DCA* with the final wording in your blue *DCA*. The committee recommends concurrence 47, 15, 12.

BISHOP MINNICK: All right, this is Calendar Item 1678 is before you. The committee recommends concurrence. Is there discussion on this item? All right, you will vote when the light appears. [Results: yes, 617; no, 209] The committee's recommendation of nonconcurrence is sustained by a vote of 617 to 209. Concurrence, I'm sorry.

*Rights of Former Homosexuals*

PIKE: It is concurrence, yes, sir. All right, the next item, if you would turn in your white *DCA* to page 1218; white *DCA*, page 1218. It is Petition 22311; Petition 22311. You'll find it in the bottom right-hand column, supporting the rights of former homosexuals. It is calendared on page 477. Calendar Item 1981. You will find it right in the middle of the page, center column, Calendar 1981. The committee recommends concurrence as amended; 59 for, 8 against, 6 not voting. You'll notice we have a majority report and a minority report. Charles Pearce will be presenting the minority report; and Dale Weatherspoon and I will be handling the legislative committee's report.

BISHOP MINNICK: All right. First, we shall move to present both. You have further things you want to say about the committee's report?

PIKE: No, we'll wait till the last, Bishop.

BISHOP MINNICK: All right, we'll turn now and have the minority report presented.

CHARLES PEARCE (Florida): Bishop, and very fair Conference, I really wasn't expecting this right at the time. Over the last few years we have noticed that in our society name changes. Going to African-Americans—from Black to African-Americans; from Indians to Native Americans. And we want people to be called what they want to be called. And I stand before you today, urging you to support the minority report, which the transforming congregations, who have been meeting you in the afternoon to give you their newsletter, they requested that they not be called former homosexuals, but they want to be called—let me read my last story, anyway.

To not support this minority report denies the testimony of former homosexuals, such as Ron Dennis. Ron spent 34 years as a homosexual. He knew he was a homosexual as a child. He marched in Gay Pride parades, and he is a homosexual no more because he came to Jesus Christ while in the gay church. Afterwards, he read in the Bible that homosexuality was wrong, and this spoke to his heart. He left the gay lifestyle. He found a new church. His life was transformed. In a ministry, Ron has helped others to leave homosexuality. It is wrong to deny that Ron was a homosexual, as this amendment seeks to do. He was a homosexual; he is one no more. Therefore, it's only proper to call him a former homosexual, not a supposed homosexual.

The amendment is saying that he and others were never really homosexuals. And to deny this is to play a word game which refuses to rejoice in the freedom that Christ has brought to former homosexuals. Join me in seeking justice. Join me in seeking equality and openness to all persons and groups, and allow Ron to be called a former homosexual. Thank you.

BISHOP MINNICK: All right, we'll move now to perfect the majority report. Any amendments you might want to make to it, so please come and present it as you will.

PIKE: We'll simply let it stand as it is, Bishop, and we'll make a comment at the very end. We can perfect it with the body.

BISHOP MINNICK: All right. Are there amendments that you would like to make? Now, not speeches for or against

at this time, just amendments. All right, right here, microphone number 8.

JEREMY VETTER (Nebraska): I would like to amend the majority report.

BISHOP MINNICK: All right, what is your amendment?

VETTER: I would like to amend by substituting a new sentence for the last sentence which appears in the minority report. This sentence will read...

BISHOP MINNICK: We're perfecting the majority report.

VETTER: Yes, I'd like to replace the last sentence in the majority report with the following sentence: "We also commit ourselves to social witness against the coercion and marginalization of former homosexuals."

BISHOP MINNICK: All right. Is it seconded? It is seconded. All right. Are there other amendments?

VETTER: Can I speak in favor of my amendment?

BISHOP MINNICK: Yes, you may.

VETTER: We haven't voted on it yet, correct?

BISHOP MINNICK: That's right.

VETTER: OK. I was the one in the Committee on Church and Society who made the original amendment. In some discussions with people since then, I have learned that the language that I originally thought was sensitive to both sides, is not sensitive to many in the transforming congregations group. But, yet I think the statement needs to be placed in a separate statement, because former homosexuals face different kinds of pressures in society than do homosexuals. That's why I put it at the end, and that's why I made it that language which the minority report is advocating. I think that this amendment addresses the main concern of the minority report, but yet does it in a way that is sensitive to the important rights that are protected for homosexuals in this paragraph of the *Discipline*. I urge you to support this amendment and the majority report.

BISHOP MINNICK: All right, that's a speech for. Is there a speech against it? I see no speeches against it. Another speech for it here? Microphone 3.

*Call to Let People Describe Themselves*

DAVID A. BANKS (North Carolina) I don't want to be presumptuous of those who signed the minority report, but I would support the amendment that Jeremy has put forward. I think indeed it does satisfy the desire of the minority report. It calls those who consider themselves homosexual what they prefer to be called.

It calls those who consider themselves former homosexuals what they prefer to be called. And, I think it has the best title of the two reports. And I would recommend, personally, that we accept the amendment and then approve the majority report.

BISHOP MINNICK: All right. There have been two speeches for. Are there any against the amendment. Right here, microphone 3.

BECKY HAASE (California-Pacific): I would oppose this amendment, because I think as the last speaker said, this makes it like the minority report. I think it does not give us the choice of using the language which is here which I think is very appropriate. The fact that people formerly understood themselves homosexual can suggest that maybe there was a change or maybe there was not a change and I just think it is important for us to leave the language as it stands in the majority report.

BISHOP MINNICK: Thank you. All right. We've had two speeches for and one against. Does anyone else wish to speak against the amendment? I see no one asking for the floor. I believe you are ready to vote. So you will vote on the amendment when the light appears. [Results: yes, 522; no, 363] The amendment is approved.

BISHOP MINNICK: So we will proceed now to further perfect the majority report. Any other amendments to it? Microphone 14.

WARNER BROWN JR. (California-Nevada): Parliamentary inquiry. I need the help of the chair. It would appear that the minority report is merely a reverse of the majority report. Earlier in our proceedings, we have had situations where minority reports with similar intent have been ruled out of order. I request your assistance in understanding the difference in this situation.

BISHOP MINNICK: Well at this point, I will simply rule that we are in order and will proceed to address these majority, minority reports and let the body act as it will on them. Microphone 13.

ALYS RICHARDS (North Texas): The voting box on my particular table is no longer functioning. Could we please have it fixed. It is section B, row 18.

BISHOP MINNICK: Will someone please take care of that. Thank you. We are still perfecting the majority report, item 1981. Are there any other amendments? Yes? Microphone 10.

JOEL GARRETT (Western Pennsylvania): As I read paragraph 71H, it speaks to the guaranteeing of basic human rights and civil rights. To enlighten me as I prepare to vote, can I have some examples of how human rights, those basic human rights, and civil liberties are being denied to people who are former homosexuals or who...

BISHOP MINNICK: Do you have an amendment to make at this point?

GARRETT: No mine is a question, I need some information.

BISHOP MINNICK: Let us proceed to perfect the document. Then we will vote later and have any debate that you might want to have. Over here.

DAVID RICHARDSON (California-Pacific): With just the amendment that we made, both of these are the exact word for word now. I compared them word for word. The last speaker made me look at them. I don't see that there is a word difference; not even an "and."

BISHOP MINNICK: We are perfecting the two and you will make the decision as to which you would sup-

port. Over here. Microphone 1. Microphone 2. Yes?

JINNY GORDON (Central Illinois): Bishop, in light of what we just passed, I would like to go back to the original language that was struck where they took out "former homosexuals." It's down in the last paragraph, about six lines down.

BISHOP MINNICK: Yes.

GORDON: "And former homosexual persons" was struck. I would like to reinstate that in place of "homosexual persons."

BISHOP MINNICK: All right. The motion is to put in again the deleted words "and former homosexual persons." Is there a second to that? It is seconded. All right. Would you...

GORDON: May I speak to it?

BISHOP MINNICK: Yes.

*Transforming Power of Christ*

GORDON: This has been a hard issue for all of us. All of us are trying to be fair. I feel very strongly that those who have found a new life in Christ have found a transforming power in their life, and I think to deny that Christ can change lives is really a serious mistake. I hope you'll support this amendment.

BISHOP MINNICK: All right, the amendment is before you. Is there someone who will speak against it? All right, I'll go all the way to microphone 13, here.

BILL BARNEY (Troy): Our committee decision on this really tried to be sensitive to the concerns of those who understand themselves to be, or are former homosexuals. And one of the things that I would speak against this amendment for, is that the writing in this very important part of the Social Principles which we adopted four years ago does apply only to homosexual persons. The issues here—shared material resources, pensions, guardian relationships, mutual powers of attorney and so on—are simply not issues for someone who is a former homosexual. They do not need to have their rights protected against violations regarding these issues. So it is very important that we keep the language clean in this paragraph and add the sentence at the end to provide for the former homosexual persons among us and let the homosexual rights be protected, as we did in this very momentous moment four years ago.

BISHOP MINNICK: All right, that is a speech against. Is there a speech for? Over here, microphone 5.

JUNE P. GOLDMAN (Iowa): Bishop, excuse me, I do need a point of clarification. I thought that when we just voted and passed the amendment that was made, that we took care of this concern. Perhaps I lost it someplace. The young man who made the amendment, crossed out, I thought, the words "who supposed themselves to be former, supposed themselves to be homosexual," I thought that we, by passing that amendment, restored the intent of having the concept that we were protecting those who are both homosexual and former homosexuals. Could you tell me what we did when we passed that amendment?

BISHOP MINNICK: The maker of this motion feels like that these words need to be added for his satisfaction. So, it is up to the body to decide whether or not to include them again. Is there some speech against this? Yes. Microphone 8.

MICHAEL WEAVER (Virginia): Since the issue of the rights of homosexual or former homosexual persons is at issue, I would request that you read the amendment that was just passed.

BISHOP MINNICK: Yes, you have it. We'll let the secretary read that.

CAROLYN MARSHALL: (unintelligible)

BISHOP MINNICK: All right. Is there someone who would speak against the amendment that is before us, which is to reinstate the words "and former homosexual persons" which had been deleted. All right. Over here. Microphone 4.

*Nature of Change Addressed*

MERLIN J. ACKERSON (Iowa): I think the way the secretary just read the amendment, it takes care of the concern of the delegate who made this last amendment. But I rise also—by the way, I rise to support the majority report as it's now amended because of a deep concern. And that concern is that I think we do talk about former homosexuals. By the way, if there are persons of this nature, that's who they are and I'll accept that. But I think the implication too often is that people who are gay and lesbian can change if they want to or if they go through certain procedures, prayer and so forth. Now that may be true for some, but I think to imply that for all is a bit dangerous because the testimony of many of my gay and lesbian friends and acquaintances is that this is who they are. This not something they can change. It may be true for some, but for many, it is not true.

BISHOP MINNICK: All right, I have two speeches for and two against, although some who have said they were speaking for or against, have spoken in ways that to me were not clear, but as to which side they were on. Are you ready to vote on this amendment? Point of clarification, microphone 4.

LOIS BROWN ROGERS (Peninsula-Delaware): Thank you, Bishop. On that last amendment, she said to reinstate, in the sentence that was half-way down the paragraph, "former homosexual persons."

BISHOP MINNICK: Yes.

ROGERS: Did she also mean to reinstate "rights of homosexual and former homosexual persons" in the title?

BISHOP MINNICK: That was not in the amendment that was offered.

ROGERS: Thank you.

BISHOP MINNICK: All right, you understand, do you, the amendment that is before us, which is to restore the words that were deleted, the words, "and former homosexual persons." If you support that, will you, well, whether or not you support it, vote your feelings when the light appears. The amendment is not supported. [Results: yes, 422; no, 475] All right, are there other amendments to

be made to the majority report which we are perfecting? Over here, microphone 5, the second row, if you will.

AL GWINN (Kentucky): Thank you, Bishop. I move we suspend rule 36, and vote on all that is before us.

BISHOP MINNICK: All right. You hear the motion. It takes, of course, two-thirds majority to suspend the rules, in order to vote on all that's before us. If you will suspend the rules, would you lift the hand? Opposed? You have clearly suspended the rules. All right, if you will, this is a bit redundant, but perhaps it ought to be done. If you will now call for the previous question, please indicate that desire when the light appears. All right, you are ready to conclude that. [854 approved] That's, right. Are you ready? Well - I would like to ask first the minority, if they're ready to accept this majority report as amended.

DON PIKE: Bishop, Charles Pearce went back to his seat, if you...

BISHOP MINNICK: Charles, are you? All right. Charles Pearce is ready to accept this, representing the minority, is willing to accept this majority report as amended. All right, Don we're ready for your speech.

PIKE: All right. Really, the central issue, as you look at it, is to decide whether or not you call the person who was once practicing homosexuality and now who is not, are you going to call them a "former homosexual person," or are you going to call them "one who formerly understood themselves to be a homosexual person?" And we'll leave it up to the body to decide which they prefer. That's, that's the issue between the two reports. Quite frankly, I think they are congruent.

BISHOP MINNICK: All right. The majority report is before you. All right, is there a question or point of order here? Microphone 8.

JOSEPH D. HUSTON (West Michigan): Is the majority report now identical to the minority report?

BISHOP MINNICK: Basically, yes.

HUSTON: Is everyone clear on that, that the majority report now is identical to the minority report?

BISHOP MINNICK: But the minority has accepted the majority report as is.

HUSTON: Thank you.

BISHOP MINNICK: As amended.

HUSTON: Then may I ask for the majority report, as it is amended right now, to be read for us so that we can all be clear?

BISHOP MINNICK: All right. The whole thing needs to be read, the majority report as amended. We'll ask the secretary to do that and then we will vote.

CAROLYN MARSHALL: "Certain basic human rights and civil liberties are due to all persons. We are committed to supporting those rights and liberties for homosexual persons. We see a clear issue. Moreover, we support efforts to stop violence and other forms of coercion against gays and lesbians. We also commit ourselves to social witness against the coercion and marginalization of former homosexuals."

*Legislation on Rights of Homosexuals and Former Homosexuals Approved*

BISHOP MINNICK: All right, it's before you. Vote when the light appears.

And you have supported the committee. You have affirmed it. [739 approved] All right.

DON PIKE: Bishop Minnick, at this particular time one of the efforts that is being made, that I would share with the plenary is tonight to deal with all the issues related to the issue of homosexuality that are vested in each of the legislative committees. Those that have other items to present, they are legal, because their's have been in the *DCA* long enough. I need to know the will of the body in that we have two more items that were printed in today's *DCA*. As I understand the protocol of the General Conference, we would have to suspend the rules in order for us to be able to consider them tonight. Let me invite you as you would deliberate that in your mind to turn to page 583 in your blue *DCA*. You will find Calendar Items 2402 and 2403. Now let me tell you where to find them in your other *DCA's*. For 2402, it's in the white *DCA* page 1212. It is Petition 22493. It is at the very bottom of the right hand column. The heading is "Ceremonies That Celebrate Homosexual Union." That would be one that we would consider if you so desire. The other is found on page 1213, just across. Petition—by the way let me tell you that the committee on Ceremonies that Celebrate Homosexual Unions voted concurrence 29, 25 and 5. The one on 1213 is Petition 22301. The vote was nonconcurrence 59, 37 to 18. But if we're to deal with those tonight, it would require a suspension of the rules and to test the will of the body, I would move that we suspend the rules in order to be able to deal with these two issues.

BISHOP MINNICK: All right. It will take a two-thirds vote to suspend the rules. If you are willing to do that in order to consider these two items, will you vote when the light appears? [ 829 approved] You are ready to consider these two items. You have suspended the rules.

PIKE: All right, Bishop Minnick, let's begin then in the white *DCA* on page 1212. Calendar Item 2402 as found, as I suggested to you, on 583. Petition 22493. The committee recommended concurrence 29, 25 and 5. Dale Weatherspoon was chairman of that subcommittee and he will be prepared to speak to that.

BISHOP MINNICK: All right. Brother Weatherspoon.

*Ceremonies that Celebrate Homosexual Unions*

DALE WEATHERSPOON (Cal-Nevada): In our sub-area, and also in the legislative area, one of the questions that we had was whether we should have received this petition or whether it should have gone to the Board of Ordained Ministries. But we acted on this petition and the vote, 29 to 25, felt that ceremonies should not be conducted by ministers in our churches.

BISHOP MINNICK: All right. This is before you. Is there a speech against it? Right here, microphone 3.

SALLY DYCK (E. Ohio): And in my church there is a custom of asking myself, the pastor, to come and bless a home when a family moves. It would just be my question of, that it's OK to bless an inanimate object like a home, a house, and what goes on there, and not two person who have decided to only have relations with each other. And also, what constitutes a ceremony? I don't think that this legislation indicates what is a ceremony. Does it involve what might be affirmed in the course of counseling or perhaps a gathering around a table? It does not address that and furthermore, it also doesn't seem to be consistent with social principles. It seems to be more a matter of ministerial and pastoral relationships, so I would speak against it, because it raises too many questions.

BISHOP MINNICK: All right. Is there a speech for? Yes, over here, microphone 5.

JACKSON BREWER (Kentucky): This week we have affirmed the social principles concerning the relationship of homosexuality to the Christian lifestyle. And it seems to me that this petition is an enhancement of those social principle stand. This issue is of great concern to lay people in our local churches particularly as I notice that this one comes from the Newport Grace Church of which I happen to be the District Superintendent. And so I feel strongly that I want to speak to say that I support this action.

BISHOP MINNICK: All right. Is there a speech against? All the way back, microphone 14.

ELAINE STANOVSKY (Pacific Northwest): Is the motion to refer in order?

BISHOP MINNICK: Yes, it would be in order.

STANOVSKY: I move that we refer this to the Board of Ordained Ministry — Board of Higher Education in Ministry.

BISHOP MINNICK: Is there a second to that?

STANOVSKY: Can I speak to that?

BISHOP MINNICK: Yes, you may.

STANOVSKY: It seems to me that this is an item that's all tangled up with questions of authority and responsibility and accountability of ordained ministers, and ought to be looked at in the context of the broader considerations in that regard.

BISHOP MINNICK: All right, the motion to refer is before you. Is there someone speak against the referral? Right here, microphone 2.

J. ERIC MCKINNEY (Central Texas): I'd simply ask this conference to be honest about where we are, and deal with this tonight. To refer, simply delays the possibility of making a decision as a General Conference. I'd ask that we move on and vote against referral.

BISHOP MINNICK: All right. Is there anyone else to speak for referral? Over there at microphone 7, microphone 7. I could not see it for that person standing.

*Explanation of*
*Nature of Social Principles*

PHILLIP WOGAMAN (Baltimore-Washington): Bishop, I speak in favor of referral partly because of the substance that is at stake here. Perhaps even more because of the form. The statement of Social Principles is not a juridical document. And yet what we are contemplating now is a juridical action. The Social Principles are teaching tools. They express the teaching of the church on many subjects. I doubt there's anybody in this room who fully agrees with everything in all of the Social Principles. And yet they hold principles before us to guide our thinking and to direct our hearts in the direction that our church as a whole has approved. To begin to think of the Social Principles as a juridical document, one that is enforceable as a direct aspect of the polity of the church, distorts all of the relationships in the *Discipline*. The motion of referral, on the other hand, is to set this question before the right body in the church with the understanding that it can bring to us some suggestions about the best way to handle what is, at best, a very tangled, complex, difficult and sometimes heart-wrenching, human pastoral problem. Thank you.

BISHOP MINNICK: Now let me ask the maker of the motion, I understood her to refer it to the Committee on Ministry to report back to us tomorrow. Please, microphone 14.

ELAINE STANOVSKY (Pacific Northwest): My motion was to report to the Board of Higher Education and Ministry.

BISHOP MINNICK: All right. Thank you. We have had two speeches for and one against. Is there anyone who would speak against referral? Let me go back here to microphone 8. Yes.

HERCHEL SHEETS (North Georgia): This is a matter that has to do not just with the ministers of our church but it has to do with the whole church. And it is something that should be decided by this body and not referred to the Board of Higher Education and Ministry.

BISHOP MINNICK: All right, you've had two speeches for and two against. The motion is to refer. You will vote when the light appears. You have not referred it, so we're back to the item 2402. We've had two speeches against it and one for. Does someone speak for it? Anyone else? Yes, microphone 10. We need a French translator, please.

FRENCH TRANSLATOR: Can you hear me?

BISHOP MINNICK: Yes.

FRENCH TRANSLATOR: I would like to speak in French first. (translating) My name is Akasa Umembudi, and I come from Central Zaire.

AKASA UMEMBUDI (Central Zaire): (translation) We've had some difficulties with these amendments because some of them are not very well translated. But on this particular question which is under discussion now, we're having a little difficulty understanding the orientation, the direction that you're taking. Are we trying to regulate the homosexual life or

are we going to be faithful to what we said yesterday? Are we going to also try to regulate the lives of people who kill their friends? And also to regulate the partnerships of prostitutes? I thought that we said that this practice was a sin. We know what we are supposed to do with sinners. If the sinner repents, he is in the family with everyone else. But if he doesn't understand that he's in sin, that he is living in sin, we have to help him to see that and help him to make peace with God. This debate keeps going on. Today we are talking about marriage between homosexuals, tomorrow its going to be engagements between homosexuals and the debate just keeps going on. Thank you.

BISHOP MINNICK: All right, we've had two speeches for and two speeches against. All right, what is your point of order? Microphone 9. Yes, microphone 9.

PHILLIP AMERSON (South Indiana): Bishop Minnick, with all due respect, I believe there was only one speech against.

BISHOP MINNICK: No, I inadvertently began with a speech against rather than one for. Normally I do the other order, but we've had two on either side now.

AMERSON: I understood that you took the speech to refer as a speech against.

BISHOP MINNICK: No, I did not. No. All right, we're ready to vote now. We've had two speeches on either side. Yes, point of order right here.

CARL SCHENCK (Missouri East): Thank you for recognizing me, Bishop. I rise to request a ruling of the chair as to the appropriateness of this language having to do with professional ministerial conduct and matters related to property in the use in our local churches. I rise to ask the chair to rule whether or not such legislation is appropriately in the Social Principles.

BISHOP MINNICK: Now you'll have to, you'll have to clarify for me, I'm not...we're dealing with 2402. Now does...

CARL SCHENCK (Missouri East): That's correct, sir. It is an amendment by addition to...

BISHOP MINNICK: No, no, the committee recommends concurrence and that's what we're dealing with, 2402.

CARL SCHENCK: That's...am I not in order for the chair to rule whether or not language regarding the use of local church property and the professional conduct of clergy is appropriately in the Social Principles? It is, I believe, out of order in the Social Principles.

BISHOP MINNICK: I believe the body has a right to decide, and if there is then objection, you may appeal to the Judicial Council, so we will proceed with this, the vote now. It is item 2402. The committee recommends concurrence. Please vote when the light appears. [Results: yes, 553; no, 321] You have supported the committee. All right, back here, microphone 9.

### *Appeal of Chair Ruling to Judicial Council*

C. JOSEPH SPRAGUE (West Ohio): I would like to appeal the ruling of the chair. I do not believe that there were two speeches against, there was only the one by the Rev. Sally Dyck, and none other.

BISHOP MINNICK: All right, my notes indicated that there were two on either side. If you will support the chair, will you lift the hand. If you disagree with the chair...I am supported. Let's move to the next item.

PIKE: All right, bishop.

BISHOP MINNICK: Please, go ahead.

PIKE: With a great deal of....

BISHOP MINNICK: Yes, yes, over here. Microphone 1.

JEFFREY R. SPELMAN (Northern New Jersey): I would like to move that what we have just done be referred to the Judicial Council based on what this gentleman has just said—whether it's appropriate, the action we took, is appropriate for the Social Principles.

BISHOP MINNICK: All right, it's in order. I guess we just....Is there anyone who would oppose that recommendation? We're ready to debate this if there's opposition to it. If you will refer this to the Judicial Council, please vote when the light appears. [Results: yes, 546; no, 363] You have appealed it to the Judicial Council. That's fine. All right.

PIKE: With a great deal of...

BISHOP MINNICK: Yes. Microphone 3.

DON MESSER (Rocky Mountain): Bishop Minnick, it would be helpful on these very controversial decisions if we would continue to use the voting machines on all issues. There's great pressure when we have to vote against you and your distinguished leadership by hand, and I think it would be better for all if we would continue in a wired form. Thank you.

BISHOP MINNICK: I apologize for that, Don. I will do that henceforth, All right?

PIKE: All right, Bishop.

BISHOP MINNICK: Twenty-four, three.

PIKE: All right, with a great deal of relief, I come to my last petition on this particular subject *(laughter)*. The white *DCA*, page 1213, just across the page, top left hand column, Petition 22301. It is calendar item on 583, right below where we were just talking, Calendar Item 2403. By a vote of 37 for, 18 against, 4 not voting, the committee recommended nonconcurrence.

BISHOP MINNICK: All right, it is before you. The committee recommending non-concurrence. Is there someone who would speak for the...over here on the right. Microphone 7.

### *Pastor Tells of Conducting Same Gender Covenant Services*

GREGORY R. DELL (Northern Illinois): As a person, a pastor for 25 years, who has celebrated covenant services with a half a dozen couples of the same gender, I rise for your support and understanding of faithfulness

to those who search for a way to, in the faith, affirm their connection to Jesus Christ, to one another, and the community of faith. The persons with whom I have done such celebrations recognize by my counsel that they may not be married, not in the state of Illinois, and not in the eyes of the church. But that the love and commitment of persons who recognize the power of relationships lived in weakness and strength before the grace and judgment of Jesus Christ, needs to have room in the church. I urge you, sisters and brothers, even in the context of the action which we just took, to enable us who serve those who have in some ways been marginalized by the church, please enable us to continue a ministry of grace and accountability to these who search and celebrate love and who search for and celebrate their Christian, biblical faithfulness.

BISHOP MINNICK: All right, that was a speech against...for. That was a speech for; now we need one against. That's right. All right. We need a speech against. All right, I'll do better here. We need one for; that was a speech against. So we need one for. Over here, microphone 5. Speech for.

JUNE P. GOLDMAN (Iowa): I would uphold the committee's recommendation of nonconcurrence. I have a nephew who is gay. I have a niece who is lesbian. I have several friends who are gay and lesbian. We have discussed many issues that confront and concern the church. I have been in their homes and have been welcome; they are always welcome and have often been in my home. And as we have discussed this issue with love, this is what they have said to me. They have said, "I love my church, and so I beg you, June, to convey the message that I don't want my church to compromise itself just to accommodate my lifestyle." I think this is a tremendous sense of grace and understanding from persons who are gay and lesbian, who feel a deep love for their church and for all that it represents to them. And so they have asked not to let the church compromise itself simply to accommodate their choice of a lifestyle. I would vote in favor of the committee's recommendation of nonconcurrence.

BISHOP MINNICK: All right, we need someone who would speak against nonconcurrence. Microphone 6. Someone had the card. Yes, microphone 6.

KABAMBA MUNYANGWE (North Shaba): (through an interpreter) Your Excellency, Bishop, members of the General Conference, I come in the humility of faith which we have in Jesus Christ. I don't think this problem can divide the body of the Christ that we are. I know that the problem of homosexuality is a social problem. And when a problem is a social problem, it becomes a problem of the entire society. We are a connectional church. This problem no longer concerns the church in the United States. It concerns everyone. That is why it is being submitted to this supreme body.

But I would like to draw the attention to all members of the conference; but the church, which is the body of Christ, has its principles, which must be respected. We love those who are homosexuals as human beings. We have great respect for them because they are people like we are. But we are against the practice of homosexuality because it is against human dignity. I don't want to go into biblical details because the Bible is not clear on this issue. I believe this is above all a cultural problem. To my knowledge, I know that in all the cultures of the world this practice has never been tolerated. If it has been practiced in some place, it was perhaps only occasionally.

I invite you, my brothers and my sisters, to continue working for the love of Christ to the gospel and to win souls to Christ. Let us stay away from all which can break Christ's heart. And finally, I would like to invite the church to continue to teach. I believe that this discussion of homosexuality can make us a failure in terms of education and teaching. That will show that we have failed as teachers. I believe that, starting with the parents who are responsible, it's necessary to...

BISHOP MINNICK: I'm sorry, your time is up.

My tally shows two speeches for nonconcurrence and one against nonconcurrence. Is there anyone else who would speak against nonconcurrence? Over here. All right, microphone 2.

GEORGE D. MCCLAIN (New York): The other night, actually Saturday night, I was a part of arranging for a presentation of a choral program by the Denver Area Gay and Lesbian Chorale called Harmony. About half the audience was members of the support community for that group and others were delegates and friends of the General Conference. Immediately following that event, a woman who had been in tears in the row right behind me came up to me and said, "I'm not a United Methodist, but I'm going to be. I grew up a Southern Baptist, and there's been no place for me and my partner in our church. Could you tell me where the nearest United Methodist Church is?" I would pray that this General Conference would allow those of us who feel called to reach out in this evangelical way to gay men and lesbians and allow them, anoint their relationships, to have this evangelical outreach and not prohibit this. Thank you.

BISHOP MINNICK: All right, we've had two speeches for and two speeches against the committee's recommendation of nonconcurrence. The time has come for the vote. Question? Point of order? Yes? Microphone 9.

JACK PLOWMAN (Western Pennsylvania): Bishop, I rise to a point of order. It would seem to me that what is being proposed here in agenda item 71 is contrary to the *Book of Discipline*. I think it would be out of order for us to adopt a provision that is contrary to the *Book of Discipline*. Specifically, paragraph...

BISHOP MINNICK: This is a speech, and your point of order?

PLOWMAN: No, sir. I'm just explaining why I think it is out of order. If the chair doesn't want to hear why

I think it is out of order, of course, I'll be seated.

BISHOP MINNICK: No, go ahead.

PLOWMAN: I would think the chair would want to hear why it's out of order.

BISHOP MINNICK: Yes, please. Please go ahead.

*Appeal to Book of Discipline*

PLOWMAN: I think it is out of order, sir, because paragraph 402.1 of the *Book of Discipline* clearly states that the practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching. Paragraph 2623 of the *Book of Discipline* makes it a chargeable offense for a pastor to conduct himself in a manner incompatible with Christian teaching. So what we're being asked to do is to adopt a provision to change the Social Principles which would be contrary to *Book of Discipline*. That was my reason for asking the chair to rule that this is out of order.

BISHOP MINNICK: I guess I'll rule again, as I did before, that the body may do what it will, and then you may appeal it to the Judicial Council if this is your desire. There are two speeches that have been made for and against. We're ready to vote on 2403. The committee recommends nonconcurrence. Please vote when the light appears. [Results: yes, 598; no, 304] You have supported the committee's recommendation of nonconcurrence.

DON PIKE: Bishop, that completes the report of the Committee of Church and Society, and I would yield to Paul Ervin.

BISHOP MINNICK: All right. I have an urgent note here. "Last night we went three plus hours without a break. Would you help us take a brief break sometime soon?" *[laughter]* So we will take a ten minute break, please. Come back at nine o'clock.

S.T. KIMBROUGH: As you return to your seats, maybe it's appropriate for us to sing a "Kyrie Eleison," Lord, Have Mercy." And you can join in the three parts.

*(song)*

BISHOP MINNICK: All right, let us be in order, please. Will you take your seats? Let us be in order, and I'll turn now to Paul Ervin for Discipleship.

PAUL ERVIN, JR. (North Georgia): Thank you, Bishop. We have two items that are in the same subject area. Calendar Item 756, which is in the blue book at page 234, is the first item. Page 234. Presenting the two petitions we will cover is Duane Sarazin from the Minnesota Conference. He chaired our Doctrine Committee. Duane.

BISHOP MINNICK: All right. Will you please, please take your places?

*Creation of Same Sex Commitment Ceremonies*

DUANE V. SARAZIN (Minnesota): Bishop Minnick, Christian friends of the General Conference, if you would please turn in your blue *DCA* to page 234, there you will find Calendar Item 756, and it is located in the third column on that page, down towards the bottom. In your white *DCA*, you will find the petition in its entirety on page 1298; 1298, the first column, down at the bottom. It is item 22408. That's 22408. And it is entitled, "Creation of Commitment Ceremonies for Same Sex Couples within The United Methodist Church."

Our committee voted nonconcurrence with this petition. There was spirited, but loving, conversation and debate within our legislative committee. It was a prayerful and soul-searching time. The primary reason for the vote of nonconcurrence was because our church has not changed its stand on the Social Principles, and, therefore, it would be inappropriate to ask our church, as this petition does, to create such a liturgy. The vote was 89 in favor of nonconcurrence, 13 against, and 3 abstentions.

BISHOP MINNICK: All right, item 756 on page 234 is before you. The committee recommends nonconcurrence. Is there someone who would speak for, or are you ready to vote? Yes? Microphone 13. Or Microphone 8.

JOE KILPATRICK (North Georgia): I was simply going to make a motion that we suspend the rules and go ahead and vote.

BISHOP MINNICK: All right. If you are ready to suspend the rules and vote, indicate that when the light appears.

You are ready to suspend the rules and vote. If you will support the committee...Did you...do you want to speak before we vote? If you will support the committee's recommendation of nonconcurrence, please indicate so when the light appears. You have supported the committee. [Results: yes, 628; no, 190]

SARAZIN: Bishop, the next item is to be found in the blue *DCA*, page 387; 387.

BISHOP MINNICK: Page 387.

SARAZIN: In the middle column, up towards the top, it is Calendar Item 1682 and Petition 22212. Page 387, Calendar Item 1682, and it is entitled, "Service of Worship for the Celebration of Persons' Mutual Support and Commitment." You can find the petition in its entirety in the white *DCA*, page 1291. Page 1291.

BISHOP MINNICK: All right, item...

SARAZIN: Excuse me. This service is essentially the same as the one just mentioned, some different wording. The committee voted nonconcurrence, 66 in favor of nonconcurrence, 15 against, and 5 abstentions.

BISHOP MINNICK: Item 1682, the recommendation for nonconcurrence is before you. Is there discussion? All right, microphone 5. Are you speaking for or against nonconcurrence?

BISHOP LINDSEY DAVIS (Kentucky): I move that we suspend the rules and vote.

BISHOP MINNICK: All right. If you will suspend the rules and vote, indicate so when the light appears. All right, you are ready to suspend the rules. If you will support the committee's recommendation of nonconcurrence, please indicate so when the

light appears. You have supported the committee. [Results: yes, 655; no, 203] All right, David Severe, General Judicial.

ALFRED JOHNSON (Eastern Pennsylvania): I chair the subcommittee on judicial matters in the legislative section on General and Judicial Administration. I call the attention to the body to Calendar Item 1997.

BISHOP MINNICK: What page?

JOHNSON: In the blue *DCA*, page 482. Calendar Item 1997, the blue *DCA*, page 482, entitled, "Chargeable Offenses."

BISHOP MINNICK: Page 482, item number...Give me the item number.

JOHNSON: Page 482, Calendar Item 1997; 1997.

BISHOP MINNICK: All right, thank you.

*Chargeable Offences for Pastors*

JOHNSON: This item will deal with three petitions as listed. If you want the text for the petition, probably the best text will be found in the red book, page 1093; Petition 20722. Text can be found on page 1093, Petition 20722. The other petitions all have similar or the same language. These petitions ask the General Conference to amend paragraph 2623.1 of the *Book of Discipline* by adding to the list of chargeable offenses for pastors who participate in leadership of same-sex covenant services uniting gay and lesbian persons. Both the sub-group on judicial matters and the legislative section on General and Judicial Administration, by a majority vote of 44 for, 23 against, and 3 abstaining, voted nonconcurrence.

First, let me share with you briefly. We were privileged not only to have persons of great experience and expertise within our sub-group, but also the grateful presence of General Council of GCFA, and also a member of the Judicial Council, whose presence certainly embellished and informed our decisions. Secondly, we were guided by several principles, one of which was not to add to the *Book of Discipline* items that appear to be self-evident or already and adequately cared for under other paragraphs within the *Book of Discipline*. I must say we received at least ten requests to add to chargeable offenses of other matters.

Finally and especially, proceeding from this second point, we felt there is more than adequate paragraphs within the *Book of Discipline*, including actions taken yesterday on 71.F, actions taken today on the new 71C, the action taken just proceeding here also referring to 402.2, but specifically in paragraph 2623.1b, which states, "Ministerial practices that are declared by the United Methodist Church incompatible with Christian teaching," as well as 2623.1e, which declares "Disobedience to the order of the *Discipline* of The United Methodist Church" as a chargeable offense, adequately and effectively covers this particular petition. (unintelligible) ...discussions in the section. Therefore, we of majority opinion conclude that nonconcurrence is indeed the appropriate response to this petition. We urge your support for our decision.

BISHOP MINNICK: 1997 is before you; are you ready to vote? Do so when the light appears. You have supported the committee's recommendation of non-concurrence. [730 approved] All right, is that it? All right, we'll turn to ministry. Sandra Lutz.

*Committee on Ordained Ministry and Human Sexuality*

SANDRA W. LUTZ (East Ohio): The petition we bring before you you will find in the blue *DCA* at the top of page 384. This is Calendar Item 1668. And I know, before you tell me that it appears on a Consent Calendar. It's been removed from there, however, and that reference appears on page 484. But since that doesn't give you any information, stay there on page 384. And this references paragraph 402.2, and you will find that the original petition in the red *DCA*, page 1048, that's 1048, referencing paragraph 402.2, and it's Petition 21158. And the subject is "Human Sexuality," and Cecile Adams will speak to you on that.

L. CECILE ADAMS (Detroit): Bishop, I believe I need to refer to another Consent Item in order to provide information for the body to have before the item which has been removed from the Consent Calendar can be considered.

BISHOP MINNICK: All right.

ADAMS: I would ask you to turn to Calendar Item 1013, which begins on page 328 in the blue book, Calendar Item 1013. And then I would ask you to turn in the red book to page 992, paragraph 304. In the subcommittee and in the legislative committee we considered the Ministry Study as the base for all of our decisions. In looking at all the petitions related to human sexuality and to the phrase, "fidelity in marriage and celibacy in singleness," we used the paragraph 304, which you find on page 992. Consent Calendar A04, item 1013, reflects the amendments which we made to paragraph 304 and the particular wording of 304.3. You will find on page 329 a continuation of 1013, and you will see that in 304.3 we added a footnote and the wording for the footnote. I do have an editorial change to make in the footnote. The phrase, "self-avowed practicing homosexual" is to be in quotation marks. The footnote describes self-avowed practicing homosexual.

When both the subcommittee and the legislative committee adopted paragraph 304 as you find it amended on page 329, all other references to the language which is included in 304 were put on a Consent Calendar and voted by both the subcommittee and the legislative committee as nonconcurrence. That is where we are. It is my understanding that the item removed from the Consent Calendar refers to the original language of a petition which you will find on 1047. And I understand there is someone, there are some ones who wish to speak to that.

BISHOP MINNICK: All right, now we are on page 1047. Is this what you...?

ADAMS: Yes. If you want to follow the language which will come up in the discussion, you will want to look at page 1047 in the red book, which contains the language which will be referred to in the discussion. I would encourage you, though, to keep your hand also at page 992 so that you can begin to understand the differences we are dealing with.

BISHOP MINNICK: Yes. Point of Order. Microphone 7.

PHILIP R. GRANGER (North Indiana): Bishop, the petition that technically is in front of us deals with 402.2. I would like a ruling from the chair. I believe that section of the *Discipline* has been superseded by the new paragraph 304. Any action that we take tonight on 402.2, will that be translated into paragraph 304?

BISHOP MINNICK: All right. I do not believe so. We have already adopted the Ministry Study.

GRANGER: Excuse me, Bishop. I was taking care of the clerical secretary's office. Would you repeat, please?

BISHOP MINNICK: I said I do not believe so, inasmuch as we have already adopted the Ministry Study.

GRANGER: Then, Bishop, would this item be out of order for this evening?

ADAMS: Bishop, in the action that was taken by placing 1013 on the Consent Calendar and the approval of that Consent Calendar, all that is in 402.2 is found now in 304.3.

BISHOP MINNICK: All right. I think then we are in order, are we not? I would think that we are in order.

GRANGER: Bishop, does that mean that we're voting a potential amendment to 304?

BISHOP MINNICK: Yes. Yes, we are.

GRANGER: Thank you.

ADAMS: We have some people who are asking for recognition.

BISHOP MINNICK: All right. Microphone 1.

LARRY GOODPASTOR (Mississippi): We lifted this particular petition because we felt it was important to add the words, "proven with a clear and convincing evidence," which you will find in that line on page 1048 in the red *DCA*. As the chair of the Board of Ordained Ministry, I have discovered over the last four years the importance of proceeding cautiously and not engaging or relying in hearsay evidence. We have also been told and instructed by the Judicial Council and others to provide definitions. The definition that is in this particular petition that is not in the new paragraph is the section, "proven with clear and convincing evidence." This particular phrase would certainly enhance and strengthen and give to our boards and others some better guidelines for working out the decisions that we have to make. It is up to each board to determine whether the evidence is clear and convincing, but it will help us to provide the definition for the practicing part of that phrase.

BISHOP MINNICK: All right. That is a speech for. Is there a speech against. Right here. Microphone 3.

GERALD O. TRIGG (Rocky Mountain Conference): Are we still in the process, Bishop, and I need to ask, of perfecting even the wording of this 402 recommendation? And is a motion to perfect in order?

BISHOP MINNICK: Yes, it is in order, a motion to perfect.

TRIGG: Then I would move that in the preliminary sentence there, that states, "Since the practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching" as the introduction, that we delete the word Christian and substitute the word Scriptural. If I have a second, I'll speak to that.

All right. Is there a second? It is seconded.

*In Harmony With "Our Theological Task"*

GERALD TRIGG: I think if we made this move we would discover a statement that would be in harmony with our doctrinal position in "Our Theological Task," which lifts the primacy of Scripture. It would also accurately acknowledge, that as the 1992 study on homosexuality acknowledges, that whenever the practice of homosexuality is mentioned in Scriptures, it's viewed negatively. But, on the positive side, the statement would accurately acknowledge that not all Christians teach the condemnation of homosexuality. Witness the votes that we have been taking here. The change of wording, milder though it is, would be very important. We would cease to be so judgmental regarding those Christians who disagree on the subject and would more accurately, honestly suggest where we are as a church. And because it is more accurate and more compassionate, it would enable us, in the words of the bishops' statements to the General Conference, express a new spirit of honesty and openness and enable us to speak the truth as we discern it in love.

BISHOP MINNICK, JR.: All right. Thank you. The amendment is before you. That is a speech for it. Is there a speech against it? Yes? Microphone 9.

*Question of Clear and Convincing Evidence*

SHAWN HARTMAN (Central Pennsylvania): First, I have a question on "proven with clear and convincing evidence." Who would present that evidence, and would it be the Board of Ordained Ministry that would then...

BISHOP MINNICK, JR.: We are not on that right now. We're on the substitute, the amendment to substitute the word "Scriptural" for the word "Christian." That's all we're talking about right now.

HARTMAN: Would the answer to the question, then, make for, or against, the amendment?

BISHOP MINNICK, JR.: Well, we may come back to that later, but right now it's for the substitute of the word if you want to speak about that. All right, microphone 9. This will be a speech against.

RONALD BRETSCH (North Central New York): I would speak against the motion to substitute. Although I am no theologian, I do think that there is a difference between "scriptural" and "Christian." For me as a Christian, the Old Testament is included in my theology, but it is made more complete by the gospels in the New Testament. I would think that we could all agree on that more than we could on what is Christian. Christian teaching has taken place during the past 1,996 years, and on that we do disagree. I would think that the statement would be more in touch with reality of where we are as a denomination if the word "Christian" were retained instead of "scripture."

BISHOP MINNICK, JR.: All right. Is there a speech for? I saw a card...All right. Over here. Microphone 5.

AL GWINN (Kentucky): Moving suspension of Rule 36 in order that we can vote on all that's before us.

BISHOP MINNICK, JR.: All right. Is there a second to it? If you will suspend the rules so that we can vote on all that's before us, will you vote when the light appears? All right, you're ready to vote. Yes, please, microphone 7.

JOY MOORE (West Michigan): Is it in order that the question that the young man asked, as we entered this amendment, be answered? I think I might be able to address it for him.

BISHOP MINNICK: All right. Let's hear the question, again. Microphone 9.

SHAWN HARTMAN (Central Pennsylvania): My question is, who would present the evidence that would be needed, and also is it the Board of Ordained Ministry that will then make final decision?

MOORE: I was on the legislative committee. I believe we thought that we were taking care of the issue without the line, "clear and convincing evidence." The Council of Bishops and the Board of Higher Ed have given counsel that the addition of the phrase, "proven by clear and convincing evidence" allows for the evidence to be used and sets the standard which is consistent with the standard for evidence in trial procedures. Paragraph 2626, "the burden of proof for a vote to convict shall be clear and convincing evidence. As in any complaint, it is up to the Board of Ordained Ministry to determine if the evidence presented is clear and convincing on a case-by-case-basis." Thank you.

BISHOP MINNICK: All right. Thank you, and I believe now we're ready to vote. We're voting first on the amendment to substitute the word "scriptural" for the word "Christian." Please vote when the light appears. [Results: yes, 339; no, 564] You have not approved that amendment. Now we come to the substitution. Will you please repeat now what it is you'd like for us to substitute?

ADAMS: I'd like to ask Larry Goodpastor who moved that, or who brought that before us, to speak to that, please.

BISHOP MINNICK: All right. Larry Goodpastor, microphone 1.

LARRY GOODPASTOR (Mississippi): I'm not sure I moved anything. We're just responding to the petition that is before us. In essence, what this particular petition would do would be to add to what we have already passed on the Consent Calendar: the phrase, "or prove with a clear and convincing evidence."

BISHOP MINNICK: All right. That's a motion to insert that in 304. Please vote when the light appears. [Results: yes, 667; no, 214] All right, you have approved that substitution. And now, we're ready to vote on the entire matter before us. Yes, you please get to speak.

ADAMS: Bishop, the amendment, or the substitution has been approved. The subcommittee felt very strongly that the language that was covered in the petitions as presented was sufficient.

BISHOP MINNICK: All right. Will you please vote, now when the light appears? Yes? There. Microphone 3.

*Questions of Parliamentary Process*

BECKY HAASE (California-Pacific): Bishop, this is extremely confusing, and again, we have a situation where we have a motion, as I understand it, a motion of nonconcurrence and we have an amendment. And I just would like clarification, if we vote yes, we are supporting the motion, the recommendation of nonconcurrence? And not the amendment. Is that correct?

BISHOP MINNICK: Is this what you're asking?

ADAMS: It is my understanding that voting yes would be a vote for paragraph 304.3 as amended.

BISHOP MINNICK: No, no that—it would be the opposite way to that.

ADAMS: It would be to support the recommendation of the committee, then?

BISHOP MINNICK: Yes, yes. If you vote yes, you'll be voting nonconcurrence. If you vote no, you'll be voting for it as amended. Yes? Back at microphone 14.

MARY ANN GALLOWAY (West Ohio): I'd like to know exactly what I'm voting on, please.

BISHOP MINNICK: All right. Will you please?

ADAMS: It is my understanding that if you vote yes, you vote nonconcurrence with Consent Calendar Item 1668, and you vote concurrence for Calendar Item 1013 as amended and printed on pages 328 and 329. If you vote no, you are voting for paragraph 304 as amended with the words, "with clear and convincing evidence."

BISHOP MINNICK: All right, microphone 12. Microphone 12, please. Ended up going to 7 instead of 12, All right.

VERGIL L. DAUGHTERY (South Georgia): Mr. Chairman,...I am completely confused. I move to separate the question in order that we might know exactly what we're voting on.

BISHOP MINNICK: All right, is there any objection to separating the question? All right, please state the first part.

ADAMS: I need some help from you, bishop, at this point because I'm not sure what separating the question does.

BISHOP MINNICK: Well, in section...., you have two items before us. Give us the first.

ADAMS: The first would be to support the recommendation of the committee in terms of nonconcurrence with Calendar Item 1668. Is that right?

BISHOP MINNICK: All right. Let's vote on that. Nonconcurrence with item 1668 is the recommendation of the committee. Please vote when the light appears. [Results: yes, 566; no, 193] All right, you have supported nonconcurrence. What is the second item there now?

ADAMS: The second item would be on Consent Calendar A04 to support concurrence as amended on pages 328 and 329 in the blue *DCA*.

BISHOP MINNICK: All right, that's before you. Please vote when the light appears. Microphone 6.

JAMES A. HARNISH (Florida): We still are not sure on which language we're reading. Could you have the secretary read to us the, what it is that we're voting on?

BISHOP MINNICK: Please, yes. All right. Do you have that? Do we need to...do you have...Is there a motion from Larry Goodpastor? This is what she is asking for. Larry, microphone 1. Microphone 1.

LARRY GOODPASTOR: The paragraph 304.2 has been amended... point 3 has been amended by our action earlier to insert the words "or prove with a clear and convincing evidence" after the word self-avowed, so that it would read "self-avowed or to prove with a clear and convincing evidence practicing." That's the motion, that's the action that we took a few moments ago.

BISHOP MINNICK: All right. All right, there was a question over here, I believe. Microphone...All right. This is before you then as amended. Yes, microphone...let me go back to microphone 8, if you don't mind.

SUSAN W. RUACH (South Indiana): Am I not correct in thinking that the item on page 329, numbered, Calendar Item 1013 on the Consent Calendar, was already voted on and therefore we can't amend it without reconsideration. Is that correct?

ADAMS: That is my understanding.

RUACH: So then what we did was amend a paragraph in connection with the other, with that other item, which we have just nonconcurred with. So it seems to me we finished it. *(applause)*

BISHOP MINNICK: Yes, please, microphone 5.

JIM HOLSINGER (Kentucky): Bishop, we are in a position that is extremely difficult, as we all know. The issue here is that 304 and 402, one is replacing the other due to the fact of the ministerial study. And so we have entered 402.2 on the calendar lifted item, but you ruled at the beginning when we asked the, when the question was asked, that that would amend 304.2 or 3, whichever one it is. And the result of that is that we have amended by our action of 75 to 25, 304, and now we need to simply vote to concur or nonconcur with that final motion.

BISHOP MINNICK: You're point is well taken. We will vote on the item as amended. All right? Will you vote when the light appears? Yes? I guess...All right, come on. Microphone 3.

BECKY HAASE (California Pacific): I think the point was made, Bishop, that the calendar item that has been amended had previously been voted on. And it would seem that we would need a motion to reconsider, reconsider that item if we're going to amend it. I'm just asking what is the calendar item we are now voting on, and hasn't it already been voted on?

ADAMS: The calendar item, which would be amended by your action, would be 1013 on pages 328 and 329. That was approved as a part of Consent Calendar A04 in action yesterday, I believe.

BISHOP MINNICK: One moment. I believe we're at the point where the whole matter is before us for our decision as a body, and the point of, let's see the point of order here, yes...microphone 4.

DON W. MENDENHALL (Iowa): I would move to table for the reason to allow the committee to re-evaluate its presentation of these items and to confer with the presiding officer when that is completed and have it be the first item on tomorrow's agenda.

BISHOP MINNICK: All right. The motion to table is before you. It is not debatable. If you will table, will you lift, will you vote when the light appears? [Results: yes, 587; no, 334] And you have voted to table and the committee will come back tomorrow. All right, Cashar Evans. Yes, point of order, over here.

EARL RENSHAW (Southern Illinois): Does not a tabling have to be two-thirds? That was 63.7%.

BISHOP MINNICK: No, it does not have to be two-thirds, just a majority. All right, Cashar Evans. Yes, microphone 13.

WILLIAM T. MCCLENDON (South Carolina): Bishop, I would respectfully submit that that motion to table was out of order because it should have been a motion to postpone to a definite time. And perhaps the delegates weren't aware.

BISHOP MINNICK: The motion may be made at any time to take it from the table.

MCCLENDON: I move to take it from the table.

BISHOP MINNICK: I believe it's not in order at this moment. *(laughter)*

All right, we'll turn to brother Cashar Evans here.

CASHAR EVANS (North Carolina): Calendar Item 18. Let's start again. Calendar Item 1989, page 479 of the blue book.

BISHOP MINNICK: 479, item 1989.

EVANS: It refers to a petition on page 1313 in the white book. That Petition 22240. It's in the first column. It's the second one down.

BISHOP MINNICK: All right.

EVANS: The action of the committee voted not to change the paragraph by a vote of 70,23, and 0; concurrence. There is a minority report, Bishop Minnick.

BISHOP MINNICK: All right. Let us, is there anything you want to say further about the majority report?

EVANS: No, Sir.

BISHOP MINNICK: All right, let's go to the minority report. Frank Trotter.

*Committee on Ministry*
*Minority Report on Homosexuality*

FRANK TROTTER (Baltimore-Washington): Thank you, Bishop. Tonight sort of reminds me of that joke about the longest conversation in recorded history in the *Guinness Book of World Records*. It lasted ten days and thirteen hours and forty-six minutes, that happened when an Amway salesman rang the doorbell of a Jehovah's Witness. I think, tonight, all of us are Amway salesmen and Jehovah's Witnesses. I want to apologize to you for not wearing a tie. I thought I was going to talk to you tomorrow morning. For those of you out there from Holston Conference who know my mother, please don't tell her I look like this.

Yesterday we reaffirmed our Social Principles on homosexuality by a vote of 60% to 40%. Sixty percent thought we should stay where we are; forty percent believe we should change. Yet, I would guess that most of us will go home knowing that this issue is not laid to rest. What do you do when a family disagrees about serious issues? What do you do when members feel strongly and fervently and on opposite sides of the fence? When I was assigned to the Financial and Administration Legislative Committee, we began to debate 906.12, and we had strongly different opinions about whether the language should stay or be deleted. And we began to talk with one another. We had an excellent conversation, much as Church and Society did on abortion. There were no hard feelings, there were no angry words. There was honest sharing. And finally we looked around and found a substitute motion that was written by the Wisconsin Conference. You have it in front of you tonight as the minority report. These words are from the Wisconsin Conference. And those of us tried to substitute these words to become the majority report. When we took a vote, low and behold, the vote of substitution was 48 to 45. We were only three votes apart within the Financial Administration [legislative committee].

What do you do when we're that close? We feel, in the minority, that the words before you do not violate the Social Principles which we have reaffirmed. We do believe that these words begin to build a bridge. That is what we have been saying that we are here to do: to build a bridge between those of us on different sides of strong issues. This morning Bishop Bolton began the first words of the discussion following our vote yesterday. And whether you agree with what he said or not, he took us a step farther in the discussion. And bravely he reached out and said words of apology to a colleague whom he felt he had offended, in front of God and everybody. If a bishop can build a bridge, cannot we build a bridge as well? And start to talk with one another, even while reaffirming that our Social Principles are in the same place. I encourage you to join us in building a bridge over a very hard issue. Thank you.

BISHOP MINNICK: The minority report is before you. Is there discussion? Amendments? Yes, microphone 5.

LINDSEY DAVIS (Kentucky): I'd like to speak against the minority report.

BISHOP MINNICK: All right.

DAVIS: There's no present limit, I believe, on dialogue or study or research on homosexuality within our church. In fact, there's much material excellently produced by the Church today on human sexuality. Certainly, this General Conference has had much dialogue on the subject. The addition proposed by the minority proposal is unnecessary, in my view; it's unnecessary verbiage which we do not need to add to the *Discipline*. Thank you.

BISHOP MINNICK: All right. Is there any for? Microphone 10.

RAELYNN SCHLIEF BEVERIDGE (West Ohio): Easter Sunday I received word that the daughter-in-law of one my,- and I'm speaking for the minority report, the daughter-in-law of one my elderly members committed suicide. She was caught between a lesbian daughter who was wanting acceptance of her lifestyle, and her husband, who held to some very firm Christian understandings of that being an unacceptable lifestyle. I think it's time that the Church offered a word of grace and even put money toward some kind of educational resources and studies that would help us build bridges and offer one another a hand of reconciling ministry where we can learn and listen, and so that those of us who hold so fast to our Christian teachings, find ways to reach out to loved ones, so that persons caught in the middle, innocently, don't take their own lives.

BISHOP MINNICK: All right, is there a speech against? I see a card in the back. Microphone 13.

*Funding to Promote*
*Practice of Homosexuality*

EWING WERLEIN JR (Texas): Bishop, I would speak in favor of the resolution that came from the committee and against the substitution for the minority report. This is not just a matter of adding language to permit discussion. I quite agree with the earlier speaker, that there's no limitation and no restriction upon our discussions in the church. The printed part of 907.12 is not before you in the blue *DCA*, but if you turn to your *Discipline*, you'll find that the minority report has a much more significant effect upon this paragraph. It is in the words that it drops, the words that it omits, and those words are the prohibition upon giving United Methodist funds "to any gay caucus or group or otherwise use such funds." Those are the words that are significant and are significantly omitted from the minority report. I believe the church should

not be prepared to retract its statement in view of our Social Principles, and I would urge defeat of the minority report.

BISHOP MINNICK: We've had two speeches against, and one for. Does anyone else want to speak for it? Microphone 8.

THOMAS R. BOLLER (Yellowstone): Bishop, my friends, this church has nurtured and loved me and made me who I am. This church, with its stands, has also destroyed my family. My step-father was a United Methodist clergy person, now deceased. His birth son, my step-brother, went to his father in the latter years of his father's life, and told him that he was gay. His father walked out of the room and never spoke to him again. His father was being faithful to the position that the church that he served told him he should have, and let his son go. I serve that same church as a clergy person, and have a different position. I respect his right to stand where he stood. I trust you'll respect my right where I stand. We are on that divide of not being able to agree on the issue. But as United Methodists, our theology is based on the quadrilateral: Scripture, tradition, experience, and reason. And my experience tells me that this is a destructive way to treat families and to treat individuals. My reason tells me that if we do not keep talking, if we do not keep studying, if we do not keep learning, and providing ourselves resources to do just that, we will surely divide families again and again and again.

BISHOP MINNICK: All right, we've had two speeches for and two against. We'll turn now to the representative of the minority report. Question? Yes. Microphone 9.

TOM WATSON (Nebraska): I have a question that is kind of important to me before I vote on this. In the reading of the minority report, after the words, "the acceptance of homosexuality" there are three dots. The way I read that, that doesn't omit language. The language that would normally be in there is still contained. Is that correct?

FRANK TROTTER (Baltimore-Washington): That is correct.

WATSON: All right. The brother that talked before indicated that that language was omitted, and that substantially changes how this minority report affects this.

BISHOP MINNICK: All right. You may speak.

TROTTER: Thank you for the opportunity to speak tonight. If I really had my honest way, I would delete the language of 906.12 altogether. And when we had our first vote in the sub-subcommittee, the vote was 14 to 12; it was that close. But, then we begin to talk about how can we compromise. What is a reasonable compromise between the 60 percent and the 40 percent? We think we present you with a reasonable compromise as crafted by the Wisconsin Conference. We believe it protects the Social Principles as reaffirmed by the General Conference, and we believe it allows for discussion which families ought to do. I encourage you to build the bridge. Thank you.

BISHOP MINNICK: All right. The minority report is before you. Yes? Microphone 13.

EWING WERLEIN, JR. (Texas): Bishop, there's been a misstatement made in the response to previous question, I believe. If you look at page 479, in the minority report, the three dots follow the words, "to promote the acceptance of homosexuality" then the three dots to indicate that words are not being omitted. If you look at section 907 of the *Discipline*, paragraph 12, I beg your pardon, 906, I said the wrong paragraph. At 906, the language reads, "that the Council shall be responsible for ensuring that no board, agency, committee, commission or council shall give United Methodist funds." Then it says, "to any gay caucus or group, or otherwise use such funds," and then it picks up again "to promote the acceptance of homosexuality." Thus, as you can see, on page 479 in the minority report, the words...there should be the showing of the omission of those words between the words "funds" in line 5 and the words, "to promote". That's where those words have been dropped, and those words were dropped also in the Wisconsin Conference delegation resolution that this minority group picked up. And, I believe that my statement was quite accurate, Bishop, and fellow delegates.

BISHOP MINNICK: All right. Do you want to-. Yes, please.

TROTTER: Help me out, Ewing. Tell me the page where the Wisconsin. I came up without my books. Help me out, Ewing. Where is that? Where is the.

BISHOP MINNICK: All right.

TROTTER: Is it on page 368 of the red book? Is that where it is, Shawn? I want it to appear, I'm sorry that I don't have my book here, I want it to appear, Ewing, as the Wisconsin recommendation is, we used the exactly the Wisconsin recommendation as our substitute motion. And, the language should reflect whatever it is the Wisconsin Delegation has assimilated. And, that is our minority report.

BISHOP MINNICK: All right. The minority report is-. Is it a point of order? Yes. Go to microphone 9.

RHONDA V. COLBY (Virginia): Can you have the brother help us by reading to us the minority report, just the whole paragraph. It is short, and that would be helpful.

BISHOP MINNICK: All right. Would you do that please? Read the minority report so that they may hear it in its entirety.

TROTTER: I want to apologize for the confusion. This is not intentional and I'm not trying to hide any agenda. I am really, really not.

BISHOP MINNICK: Just read, if you will, read the minority report on which we are voting here.

TROTTER: "The Council shall be responsible for ensuring that no board, agency, committee, commission or council shall give United Methodist funds to promote the acceptance of homosexuality." And I don't have the reference to where the Wisconsin document is. 368?

BISHOP MINNICK: Microphone 13. Brother Werlein, do you have that to read?

WERLEIN: Yes, Bishop, I have that now. It's in your red *DCA*, page 368 on the right hand column, at the bottom. And you'll notice

BISHOP MINNICK: All right. He has it now.

WERLEIN: And, you'll notice, the fund, the words are stricken, which read, "to any gay caucus or group, or otherwise use such funds." That's the critical point that I have tried to make and which is represented in the Wisconsin Resolution.

TROTTER: Ewing is correct.

BISHOP MINNICK: All right. Will you read it as it should be heard and voted on.

TROTTER: Ewing, I apologize to you for the misunderstanding there. "The Council shall be responsible for ensuring that no board, agency, committee, commission or council shall give United Methodist funds to promote the acceptance of homosexuality." And then, the language continues, "This restriction shall not limit the Church's ministry in response to the HIV epidemic, nor shall this restriction limit the Church's research, study, and discussion of any issues of human sexuality."

*Vote on Committee of Ministry Report on Homosexuality*

BISHOP MINNICK: All right. That report is before you. Will you please vote when the light appears. [Response: yes, 395; no, 497]. So, we'll vote now on the committee recommendation for concurrence, Item 1989. Please vote when the light appears. You have supported the committee's recommendation for concurrence. All right. Thank you, Brother Cashar. We'll turn now to the Committee on Presiding Offices. Brother Rex Bevins.

REX BEVINS: Bishop and members of the conference, the presiding officers for Friday, April 26th are as follows: Friday morning - Bishop Dan Solomon of the Oklahoma area; Friday afternoon, Bishop Judith Craig of the Ohio West area; Friday evening, Bishop Woodrow Hearn of the Houston area.

BISHOP MINNICK: All right. Committee on Agenda and Calendar report, Sarah Miller.

SARAH S. MILLER: Thank you, Bishop. Tomorrow we will again talk about homosexuality. We'll deal with the budget. We'll talk about Local Church calender items, and all remaining calendar items. Let me say a word about adjournment tomorrow. We need to vacate this convention center by 1:00 A.M. Saturday morning, and that means we need to have everything out, computers and everything out. So, our production people tell us we really need to adjourn by 10, so they can unhook all the equipment and get it out. Now we still have a great deal to do. I know some of you are anxious about it. I feel duty-bound to let you know that there is a growing movement to refer any unfinished business to the Wyoming Conference. *(laughter)* It's fine with us. But, if you have a problem with it, you may want to take on Friday's agenda with an even greater urgency. Thank you.

BISHOP MINNICK: All right. Thank you. Brother David Severe needs to bring us one short additional item tonight.

DAVID SEVERE (Oklahoma): Thank you, Bishop. Members of the Conference, for a couple, three days there have been some people waiting very anxiously for a piece of legislation that our committee dealt with. It is found in the white book, page 1338. It is a resolution proclaiming a "Quadrennium of the Worker." It passed our committee after we took the dollars out of it. It had originally asked for some dollars. We said that we did not think that that was possible, and they worked that up so that they could still have the emphasis but there would be no conference, no church dollars, would go into that. However, we made the error of not getting that dollar stricken, so it did not appear on the Consent Calendar, though it passed our legislative committee overwhelmingly - 74 for, 4 against and 2 abstentions. I would like to bring that to you and my recommendation would be that we hear what we have done, that we remove that dollar by our vote to accept this. There are no dollars attached to it. And I would move its adoption. It's in concurrence with the committee.

BISHOP MINNICK: All right. Are you ready to vote on this? I believe you are.

SEVERE: Would you like to have those numbers again? It is Calendar Item 1995. page 480, excuse me; page 480 in the *DCA*. Calendar Item 1995, Petition 22709. It's found on page 1338 of the *DCA* number 2, the white book. It was voted concurrence, and as I stated, we failed just as a clerical error to take the dollar sign off, and therefore the clerk could do nothing but put it on the calendar. It would have appeared a day or two ago on the Consent Calendar without that problem. It's been on the calendar item, and we haven't been able to get to the floor to bring it to you.

BISHOP MINNICK: All right. Are you ready to vote on this? If you will approve it, indicate when the light appears. [764 approved] You have approved it.

SEVERE: Thank you very much.

BISHOP MINNICK: Now, let me recognize Pete Weaver for a very important announcement. Special privilege. Yes, microphone 9.

PETER WEAVER (Western Penn.): Thank you, Bishop. As we have been debating, babies have been born. And as someone said, every baby who is born comes with a promise that God is not yet discouraged with us. And so I would like the General Conference to join the Western Pennsylvania delegation in congratulating Bishop George and Carolyn Bashore on the birth of their grandson late this afternoon: Jonathan Hagge.

BISHOP MINNICK: Thank you for that. *[applause]* I recognize the secretary for announcements.

CAROLYN MARSHALL: The secretaries of the legislative committees are invited to meet tomorrow morning at 7:30 a.m. in room C204. Then

to simply make an announcement for the several of you who have sent up notes about there not having been enough water today, I want to explain just for your understanding that more water was ordered than was delivered, and we were informed by the caterer that there was no way that a group of this size would consume as much water as we had ordered, and so the caterer won. We are promising you that will be increased significantly tomorrow, and think we have that all taken care of at this point. Ever onward to perfection. One final note. It's been mentioned several times today, but the Interjurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy will meet tonight immediately following the adjournment of this meeting in room A209. A209 for the Interjurisdictional Committee on Episcapacy.

BISHOP MINNICK: Well, I felt so good when Rex Bevins asked me to preside tonight, but it was not nearly as much fun as I thought it was going to be. *[laughter]* I can see, though, that you had a wonderful time. But again, I'm retiring in four months, four days, one hour, and 40 minutes. *[laughter]* So for everything that's in my heart and mind, stand and join me in singing "Praise God From Whom All Blessing Flow."

*(song)*

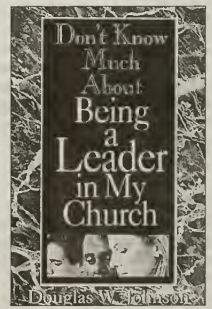
Go in the peace of Christ; go with it each one of you. Amen.


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DCA-355-6

# Friday Morning
# April 26, 1996

*Bishop Dan E. Solomon, presiding*

BISHOP DAN E. SOLOMON: Sisters and brothers, will you please take your place now? Will you please be seated as quickly as possible? Would you join with me in expressing gratitude to the choir from Latvia as they have come to sing in our midst. *(applause)* I'm asking you, please, to be seated as quickly as possible. We have a very heavy agenda for the day. I'm going to ask us to go immediately into a time of prayer and discernment. Will you please hear these words as they are being read from the second chapter of Philippians. Even as we're coming, someone has shared a word with me that the growth of the church continues in Latvia. The information I was previously given that there are three churches has already doubled since we've been here. It is now six churches, praise God. Will you hear these words?

*(Scripture reading)*

Will you simply find someone and share a brief moment of prayer with them as we proceed. May we conclude this prayer time with just hearing again the words, "Breathe on us, breath of God. Fill us with life anew that we may be this day those who in word and deed honor you. Amen."

You may be seated. Let me share with the house the procedure that we'll be using this morning. I want to remind us delegates that we have a very significant day ahead of us. And I want to begin by giving special thanks and inviting you to do the same, to Kathleen Forsberg, who has served as our organist and who will not be with us past this hour. And also to Johnetta Johnson-Page, who has been our pianist and will soon be returning to Atlanta. Won't you join with me in expressing gratitude to these persons. *(applause)*

Thank you very much. I must—excuse me, the holding of a card is sufficient for getting the chair's attention. I'll come to you in a moment. Now, may I proceed, please? A long time ago in a small rural church, I learned to sing a gospel hymn as a teenager, the truth of which has become freshly apparent to me this morning. It has a verse in it that goes, "Work, for the night is coming." We have gathered here to work this day. I must apologize to you in advance, that my allergies have kicked up aggressively, and my voice is a little scratchy, but I shall be responsive to the promptings of the Spirit and work with you, and we'll do our work. We have so much work yet to do this day, and I'm going to ask for your cooperation in doing that. I would like for us to address the calendar items and move through the morning and take motions of privilege and announcements as we come to the end of the time. However, if there's a matter of such critical urgency that it cannot wait until near the end of our session, then I'll try to be considerate as we approach that. Yes? Would you please go to microphone 8.

*New UM Churches Started This Week*

WILLIAM K. QUICK (Detroit): *(unintelligible)* to the church in Latvia, and as you have indicated, there are now six churches. And, Bishop, these are among the connecting congregations of world Methodist evangelism. And since we have been in session here, since the 16th, four new United Methodist congregations have been started, including two new ones in a country where there has been no United Methodist witness, in Macedonia. I'm tremendously grateful to world Methodist evangelism, to the Board of Global Ministries, to the staff of the board, and to all who are helping to open up churches and a witness for United Methodism, not only in countries of the former Soviet Union, but in Africa as well. And we express our appreciation. And I'm especially grateful to announce that this choir will be singing in the connecting congregation in Detroit on Sunday. Thank you, sir, and thanks to the music team that invited them here.

BISHOP SOLOMON: You're very welcome, and we rejoice in all that you have shared with us as it reflects the work of God in this place and, indeed, around the world. Consent Calendar, Sarah Miller, followed by Fitzgerald Reist.

FITZGERALD REIST (Coordinator of the Calendar, Central Pennsylvania): The list of items removed from Consent Calendar appears in today's *DCA* on page 671. The items which were added verbally yesterday are found as corrections on page 665 of today's *DCA*. Consent Calendar A06 appears on page 543 of yesterday's *DCA*. Calendar Item 2001 was removed from Consent Calendar A06. Calendar Items 1900 and 1957 were added.

*Consent Calendar A06 Approved*

BISHOP SOLOMON: All right. This Consent Calendar A06 is before us. If you will vote when the light appears. [730 approved] All right, it is sustained. We turn now to the next item. Yes, would you state your point of order by going to microphone 1, please.

J. LAVON WILSON (Central Illinois): Bishop, my point of order is I have a question on clarification of two Calendar Items on two different Consent Calendars of two different days. In the blue book on page 309 and 310, item 851, number 6*c*, Native American Awareness Sunday in the general approve regarding church-wide Special Sundays with offering was approved April 24. I notice that in the Consent Agenda today on page 545, Calendar Item 2014, general approve regarding church-wide Special Sundays with offering, D point on Native American. My concern is that the Calendar Item 851 has an added line starting with the "providing supplementary scholarships," etc. My question is, which Calendar Item takes priority, the last Calendar Item which is today, or the Calendar Item on April

24. The policy of the Board of Higher Education and Ministry is to give scholarships per student. I just needed that clarification so that we did not have a conflict in the board.

BISHOP SOLOMON: All right we'll turn to the Calendar Committee for a response.

SARAH S. MILLER: Bishop, we'll research this and get back.

BISHOP SOLOMON: With your permission this item will come back before us as we have a response.

MILLER: Thank you so much, Bishop.

BISHOP SOLOMON: You bet. All right. Now then, will you place before us the next Consent Calendar.

*Consent Calendar B06 Adopted*

REIST: Consent Calendar B06 appears on page 557 of yesterday's *DCA*. There are no changes.

MILLER: Bishop, I move its adoption.

BISHOP SOLOMON: It is before us, please vote when the light appears. [794 approved] It is approved.

REIST: Consent Calendar C06 is found on page 565 of yesterday's *DCA*. Calendar Item 220l was removed from Consent Calendar C06.

*Consent Calendar C06 Approved*

MILLER: Bishop, I move the adoption of Consent Calendar C06, with the exception of the one noted.

BISHOP SOLOMON: It is properly before us, please vote when the light appears. It is approved. [791 approved]

REIST: I recommend suspension of the rules to act upon Consent Calendars A07, B07 and C07 after 4 p.m. This would allow the normal amount of time for delegates to request removal of items from the Consent Calendar.

MILLER: Bishop, for the agenda for this morning...

BISHOP SOLOMON: Do you wish to make that motion as a delegate?

MILLER: Yes I do.

BISHOP SOLOMON: That motion is before us, the house understands the motion, I believe. Will you please vote when the light appears. [770 approved] The motion is approved, and you would have to act before four this afternoon to remove items from the Consent Calendar. Before three. Thank you for the correction.

MILLER: May I say something about...

BISHOP SOLOMON: Yes, please. Sarah Miller.

MILLER: For the agenda this morning, we'll be looking at the budget, followed by items related to the local church. We have decided to move the items on homosexuality that were tabled last evening to the first items on the agenda this evening.

BISHOP SOLOMON: Thank you very much. Let me share a word now of the items. I would like us all to have some clarity as to the road map that we are going to be following. And then as we proceed down it, I believe we'll be more comfortable in the approach we're taking. We're receiving this morning the report from GCFA. It comes directly to the floor of the General Conference. We're also receiving the report of the Legislative Committee on Financial Administration. The procedure that we'll be following is to hear the report of GCFA in its entirety. That will be followed by the report of the Legislative Committee on Financial Administration in its entirety, the purpose for which is to allow you as the house have the full picture before you before we proceed to try to perfect the budget for the general church.

Following the two presentations, then we will go back and take the items listed in the particular and specific reports. GCFA's report will be presented first. It will then be followed by a presentation from the legislative committee on Financial Administration. Having those two presentations on a specific report before us, we will then proceed, with the approach being taken that the Legislative Committee will have the right of first amendment should they choose to make it, in regard to the report of GCFA. These alternative proposals then will be before us. And it was the judgment of the chair that both the presenter for GCFA and the presenter for the alternative proposals, if those develop, will have the right of last speech before votes are taken on either amendments or on the report in its specific section of its entirety.

The reason I have tried to outline in this manner the approach that we're going to take is to assure you as a body that there will be ample presentation here from the podium as it relates to the nuances of both of these reports. In no wise is that intended to diminish your conviction as to an amendment that you would like to make. But be aware that the speeches that will be given here will gather up much of the concerns that I believe are already in our minds. And indeed, if we need to have extensive debate, realize that much of the time that debate is going to be about one figure as over against another. We may want to talk about why that needs to happen. But ultimately, it's going to come down to a choice of one figure over another in many instances. I hope you as a house will be aware that this is the procedure we will follow and you'll respond appropriately so we can move through the report as expeditiously as possible. We turn now to the presenters for the General Council on Finance and Administration. We'll hear from them at this time. Bishop Edwin Boulton will be making the introduction of the report.

*Introduction of Lackore*
*As General Secretary and Treasurer*

BISHOP EDWIN C. BOULTON: Bishop Solomon and dear friends in Christ, the first presentation I make is a matter of personal privilege. You, because of your knowledge of the conduct and the doings of the church, are aware that we have a new General Secretary and Treasurer of our denomination who took office effectively the first day of January of 1996,

but who in actuality was in office the first of December of the previous calendar year. Those of us in the GCFA have had the privilege of working with this person, and it is my happy privilege, brother chair, at this time to present to you Sandra Kelly Lackore, who is our new general secretary and treasurer of the denomination, and ask that you greet her as I know you would wish to do. *(applause)*

SANDRA KELLY LACKORE: Thank you, Bishop. It is an honor and a privilege to hold the office to which I have been elected. And I hope to do so to bring credit to the church and the information to you that you so desire. My desire is to serve you, and my staff will do that in whatever way you direct. Thank you very much. *(applause)*

BISHOP BOULTON: As the President of the General Council on Finance and Administration, I am pleased to present the council's report to the General Conference. In a moment, I will be presenting the members of the council who will make brief introductions and officially bring to you each of the several reports that will come.

*New GCFA Processes*

In the way of background, as Bishop Solomon has already laid the groundwork for our procedure this morning, I would like you to know that the process that has been followed within GCFA is significantly different than has been the case in our recent history. We spent the better part of two years with our council members visiting and listening to the concerns of the entire church as somehow was caught up and represented in 17 annual conferences. The bottom line recommendation that we have decided upon, have published, have brought to you, and have sought to define and will seek further to define this day, is that report which has euphemistically been called a 0-0-2-2 budget. Beyond that, we, of course, followed the process described in the *Book of Discipline*, whereby we heard the visions for mission and ministry from our general agencies and people from all over the church. The General Council on Ministries participated with us in the process. I would briefly note that 28 persons, both lay and clergy, spent two and a half weeks in a process of information gathering, discernment, and decision-making around the World Service requests. Thus, the budget recommendations you have before you are the outcome of a listening process that heard both the visionary hopes and dreams of people linked somehow to what is perceived to be the limits in available resources.

*0-0-2-2 Budget*

One of the decisive factors in the council's decision to have no increase in total apportionments for the first two years of the quadrennium was the conviction that, given the opportunity, the local churches and annual conferences would respond to this budget with an increased devotion and an increased resulting percentage of payment on the askings that we place before them. Another finding from our listening process was that our members want to support our connectional ministry. And so, if you vote in the final analysis as we hope you will to stay within the 0-0-2-2 budget, our shared responsibility will be to go back to our churches and annual conferences and to work fervently to increase the percentage of payment on all that which we believe forwards the ministry of our Lord Christ.

*GCFA Presenters Introduced*

Permit me now to introduce to you the persons who will be presenting the several reports this morning. They are Ellen Brubaker, a clergy member, the West Michigan Conference; Shirley Parris, a lay delegate, New York Conference; William White of the Wisconsin Annual Conference; Sally Brown Geis of the Rocky Mountain Conference; Zedna Haverstock, lay delegate, Central Pennsylvania Conference; Stanley Sager, lay delegate New Mexico Conference; and Tracy Merrick, lay delegate, Western Pennsylvania Conference. Two of these persons are not delegates to this General Conference. Bishop Solomon, I therefore ask the permission of this body that these two persons be granted the privilege of appearing at this dais. They are William White and Sally Brown Geis.

BISHOP SOLOMON: Is there objection from the house? Hearing none, that permission is granted.

BISHOP BOULTON: Thank you. We now proceed, sir.

ELLEN A. BRUBAKER (West Michigan): Good morning. The World Service Fund report is found in the red *DCA*, pages 286-290. As you find the page, I would like first of all to call your attention to the first sentences in the introduction. "When United Methodist congregations pay their apportioned askings, they participate in God's work around the world and right in their own parish. The World Service Fund is the heart of our church's ministry together." In the light of these two sentences, I bring you greetings from my brothers and sisters in my home congregation, the Aldersgate United Methodist Church in Grand Rapids, Michigan. This is a congregation that has indeed, throughout its history, paid 100 percent of its apportionments. I would also add that I come from a conference that paid 100 percent of its apportionments last year and in many years. *(applause)*

Just to say, why do we do that at Aldersgate? Because we believe and are inspired by what is in this report. We cannot go and be everywhere and do everything hands-on, but through faithful ministry of resources we are able to connect all around the world in ministry. And we are also able to connect with each of you who come from so many places and so many faithful congregations.

I would like secondly to call your attention to the general observations that are made in this report, particu-

larly the sentence near the bottom of the first column which reminds us that, because of what our good president has said, our attempt to inspire you through coming in with a 0-0-2-2 budget, you need to be aware that there are many vital ministries which will not happen as effectively as they might in this next quadrennium. I want to say a word. I was a part of the varied team that listened and looked at the programs and budgets of all the boards and agencies. I've done that twice now, and I am inspired by what our boards and agencies are doing in ministry with the limitations of their own budgets and the downsizing that they have done. They are faithful, they are visionary, and so there's pain this year in presenting this budget to you. Nevertheless, as you look at the rest of the ministry described in report number 1, I commend it to you with pride and with excitement and with a passion for the world-wide ministry of our beloved church. Thank you.

BISHOP SOLOMON: All right. We go to report number 2.

*Ministerial Education Fund*

SHIRLEY PARRIS (New York): Thank you, Bishop Solomon. The GCFA report number 2, the Ministerial Education Fund, is found on page 291 of your *Advance DCA*. And I draw your attention to the preamble of this report, which was established in 1968 and with which we are all familiar. We know the value of the Ministerial Education Fund, and we recognize that it is only by meeting our apportionments in full that the work which is under the portfolio of the Ministerial Education Fund can really be done effectively. In accordance with paragraph 921.1, this report with its recommendations is being brought to you this morning for your prayerful consideration and support.

BISHOP SOLOMON: Thank you. Do we continue?

*Black College Fund*

PARRIS: Yes. The next report that I bring to you follows on page 293, and it is the report of the Black College Fund. And again I draw your attention to the remarks and the layout of this report. And as Ellen said before, it was a painful process having to cut into the budget of the programs which are so desperately needed in our church; but realizing the pain in our local churches, we responded to your thoughts and your directives, really, and we bring our report to you and our recommendations for funding in the hope that you will follow our direction and that you will support the report. This fund, as you know, was started in 1972 and continues to be a source of great pride in our United Methodist Church.

BISHOP SOLOMON: All right. We'll proceed.

*Africa University Fund*

PARRIS: And finally, report number 4, which is on page 294, the Africa University Fund, one of the pearls in United Methodist history. I bring this report to you again with its recommendations for continued support, and I ask you that in all three reports you look not just at the numbers, but at the work that these reports cover, and I commend this and the other two reports for your support and your caring. Thank you, Bishop.

BISHOP SOLOMON: Thank you. We turn now to Sally Brown Geis.

*Episcopal Fund*

SALLY BROWN GEIS: Bishop, delegates, I bring the Episcopal Fund report, which is report number 5, found pages 297 through 303 in the red book, the *Advance DCA*. I suppose it is redundant to remind delegates to the General Conference who are well versed in the bureaucracy of the church, that the bishops are not overtly a part of the annual conference budgets. All of the support for the bishops and their offices comes from the Episcopal Fund. The items of note in this year's report are reductions in the yearly episcopal residence support payments and in the yearly payments for the episcopal office support. You have heard my colleagues explaining how hard we worked to get down to the 0-0-2-2 as a total budget figure. As one of the members of the Episcopal Service Fund said when we cut the office support, "I hope this doesn't, in fact, turn into an involuntary tithe by the secretaries who serve our bishops." Because their support comes in that part of our fund. The episcopal resident maximum of amounts have been reduced to the 1995 level, and will remain flat during the quadrennium. The office allowances increases are much less than increased budgets in the past two quardrennia. But these cuts were made to reduce the Episcopal Fund budgets over the next four years. And as you know, the general funds have been drastically restrained to keep within the bottom line. We have made every attempt to hold increases down in the Episcopal Fund as well. We hope we have not limited the bishops from carrying out their responsibilities.

BISHOP SOLOMON: All right we turn next to the report dealing with the General Administration Fund. I believe that's on page 304. You be prepared.

*General Administration Fund*

BILL WHITE (Wisconsin): I'm a member of the of the Wisconsin Annual Conference which has paid 100 percent of it's apportionments for the last four years. I direct your attention to the *Advance DCA*, page 304, for the report and recommendations of the General Council of Finance and Administration for the General Administration Fund. Our recommendations on allocations within that fund are found at the bottom of that page. The purpose of this fund is to support those functions of the denomination which are deemed to be administrative in nature as opposed to ministerial or programatic. The groups supported by this fund are the General Commission on Archives and History, Historic Shrines, the Judicial Council, the General Council on Fi-

nance and Administration itself, the World Methodist Council, and the National Youth Ministry Organization. The money necessary to pay the expenses of the General Conference in the year 2000 in Cleveland, Ohio, are also included within this budget item. The legislative committee was unanimous in its concurrence with the GCFA recommendation for the General Administration Fund allocations.

BISHOP SOLOMON: All right, and you have, I believe, the Interdenominational Cooperation Fund report.

*Interdenominational Cooperation Fund*

WHITE: Correct, Bishop. Report number 7, the Interdenominational Cooperation Fund, is found in the *Advance DCA* at pages 305 and 306. Their recommendations are contained on page 306. The fund amounts within the Interdenominational Cooperation Fund are recommended to this General Conference by the GCFA and were developed after we considered recommendation developed by the General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns after their consultation with the Council of Bishops. The groups supported by this fund include the National Council of Churches, the World Council of Churches, and the Consultation on Church Union. In addition, this fund provides for travel costs for United Methodist representatives to ecumenical organizations. United Methodist financial support for the 1998 World Council of Churches assembly will also be paid from this fund. Those expenditures include travel and related expenses for Christians from third world countries. The legislative committee reviewing the Interdenominational Cooperational Fund unanimously concurred with the GCFA recommendations.

BISHOP SOLOMON: Thank you very much. We'll go to the next presenter. It's my understanding this report will be found on page 320, dealing with report number 12.

*GCFA Budget*

STAN SAGER (New Mexico): I'm glad to be here this morning. The report which I present is indeed report number 12 on page 320 of the red book. I don't want you to conclude, because of the fact that report number 12 follows report number 7 given by Bill White, that GCFA doesn't know how to count; it just worked out that way this morning. While you take a look at that report, I'd like to make a couple of observations.

One is that the work of the General Council on Finance and Administration is performed by fifty-six very dedicated staff members, whom we on the board have come to love and respect. They work in three offices: one in Evanston, Illinois, which is the principal office of the organization; there are smaller offices in New York and in Nashville to enable the staff better to work with agencies that are housed and located in those cities. There are forty-three board members from across this church. They are scattered from Henning Bjerno, who lives in Copenhagen, to Barbara Shaffer in the great northwestern part of the United States. Staff and the board endeavor to make the General Council on Finance and Administration a "user-friendly" organization. If you find it to be otherwise, I hope you will let Sandra Kelly Lackore know; she will fix it.

The budget, as it appears on page 320, does not conform to the 0-0-2-2 figure which we asked of all agencies. In an effort at self-control, it was held at 0-0-1-1. I lay it before you, Bishop and members of the conference. It is my understanding that the legislative committee has concurred with this particular budget.

BISHOP SOLOMON: All right, thank you very much. We'll be prepared then to move to report number 8. You, as the delegates, would want to turn in your red *DCA* to pages 307-308, and that will prepare you to participate in their hearing and receiving of this particular report. This report, I believe, is now before us.

ZEDNA HAVERSTOCK (Central Pennsylvania): Thank you, Bishop Solomon. I, too, am proud to stand here this morning, to say that I am a member of an annual conference who paid their general church apportionments in full in the calendar year of 1995. The report that I am dealing with is report number 8, and as the bishop said, it will be found in your red *DCA* beginning on page 307.

The General Council on Finance and Administration, just as most of our annual conferences do, do continually look at the way we apportion the budget of our general church, but with the considerations during this past quadrennium, the report number 8, which you have before you, proposes no changes in the apportionment formula now in use.

BISHOP SOLOMON: All right, thank you very much. We turn to report number 9, Ellen Brubaker. Turn in your *DCA* to 309, and you will be prepared.

*Special Sunday Offerings*

ELLEN BRUBAKER (West Michigan): The report is 309-311 with some material on page 315 that will report to you the Special Sunday offerings for this quadrennium. All I can say to you about Special Sundays with offerings, is that once again, with our partner relationship with GCOM, we did take a look at the Special Sundays, wondering if they should be reduced, increased, or changed. As you see before you, we have continued these vital ministries, and we regard them as opportunities for giving that inspire various persons in our churches. And so, the report is before you.

BISHOP SOLOMON: All right, thank you very much. We are moving on to the next presenter, Bishop Boulton.

BISHOP BOULTON: Bishop Solomon and friends, when it comes time for you to take action on reports 10, 11, and 14, which appear respectively on pages 1059, 1060, and 1061 in your red book, and in the blue *DCA*, page 334, we are recommending that at the

time motions are in order, that these three reports be adopted in a single action, largely because the legislative committee is recommending concurrence with all three of these reports. I respectfully submit them to you.

BISHOP SOLOMON: They are before us. You may proceed in the manner that you have guided in that respect. All right, we move on.

*Mission Iniative Fund*

TRACY MERRICK (Western Pennsylvania): Brothers and sisters in Christ, would you turn to report 15. It is found in the blue *DCA* on page 660. You'll note that this is a replacement from a previous report which was published yesterday. While you're locating that, I'd like to share a couple of comments with you. You'll note that there are thirteen sections to this report, representing various petitions referred to GCFA at this conference. These items in this particular report are petitions which will be included in line items already in the budget at the 0-0-2-2 level. You'll notice, as you review the report, that some of the items involve reductions, and that was common across the process as we developed the budget in total. A number of the items refer to mission initiatives, and were rolled into the budget primarily in the World Service area, as indicated in your *Advance DCA*. Information regarding the Mission Iniatives Fund is specifically described on page 287 of the *Advance DCA*. In each case of the petitions reported in this report, there's information regarding the petition, the location of the original petition, whether it was in the *Advance DCA* or the white book, and also, where the petition was located in the blue book.

I encourage you to look at the last page of the report, which is page 663. And there's a summary of the actions that we're recommending in terms of dollars, what the original request was, what the legislative committee may have indicated, as well as what we are recommending. At the appropriate time, we will be willing to take questions concerning this report.

BISHOP SOLOMON: All right. Thank you.

*GCFA Focus 2000*

BISHOP BOULTON: Now, if you will turn to report 16, which is a handout you found on your desk this morning, entitled, "General Council on Finance and Administration, Report 16, Focus 2000." The four items referred to in this report are items that are not going to be included in the 0-0-2-2 budget at the level recommended by GCFA. I'd like to give some background concerning this. As you've heard so far this morning, GCFA listened, and we listened, and we listened, and proposed a budget which we thought was reflective of what we'd heard. It took a lot of wrestling, and we included what we knew at the time that the budget was prepared. There were a lot of reductions in this budget, if you look at it in detail, you will realize that. In reviewing the referrals of the four items that we have in this report, we realized that they would impact our boards and agencies in the church greatly if we tried to include these in the budget as well. And we probably would not have any contingency funds available to us. But consistent with our process throughout this quadrennium, we wanted to be sensitive and listening to this body.

And therefore, we're proposing a new fund that will incorporate these four petitions, for they are exciting new ministries. This would be similar to the Mission Initiatives Fund, which was proposed and adopted by the last General Conference. Again, there are some reductions, and you'll note those, but we wanted you all to have the opportunity to decide the validity of a new fund. I would urge you to look at the fourth page of this particular report, as well. It's the one that's printed horizontally, and I would like to explain a couple of items so that you understand the context.

You'll see the four proposals and the fundings spread across the four years of the coming quadrennium, and the total amount in the right hand column, the fifth number down, $4,760,000. The next line below that represents the total budget as proposed by GCFA and represented in the *Advance DCA* on page 285, 284 and 285. You'll notice there, 0-0-2-2 with a total of $503,500,000. The revised total including the proposed $4,760,000 is the bottom line on that sheet. You'll note that the annual increases are zero percent, zero percent, 2 percent and 2 percent. The reason for that is that we have initiated the dollars in the first year and the largest increase occurs then, with slight increases, across the quadrennium, from that point. This represents a 2.5 percent increase over the 1996 level multiplied by four.

Again, at the appropriate time, we'll be willing to take questions. We submit this report for your consideration. Thank you, Bishop.

BISHOP SOLOMON: All right, I'm going to return to Bishop Boulton for an additional matter.

BISHOP BOULTON: Brother Chair and friends, I refer you once again to the report I brought a few moments ago with reference to reports 1011, and 14. I'll give you just a moment to regather yourselves around those three reports. The word of explanation that I want to make is that, if you should adopt the proposal that I brought then, namely, that those three items would be dealt with in omnibus fashion, rather than singularly, then it will be our purpose to report that Calendar Item 1811, Calendar Item 1811, in the blue *DCA*, page 461, which contains an amendment to GCFA report number 13, would be appropriate as that is already on the Consent Calendar. Thank you very much, sir.

BISHOP SOLOMON: All right, thank you very much. Our procedure is to turn to the legislative committee, and we're going to ask Cashar Evans Jr. to lead us in the presentation of the entirety of their report.

CASHAR EVANS (North Carolina): I'd like to call on Lovett Weems to present report number 1, 2, 3; thank you.

BISHOP SOLOMON: All right.

*Financial Administration Offers Revised Budget*

LOVETT H. WEEMS JR. (Missouri West): Bishop Solomon, colleagues, I've been asked to present the budget approved by the Financial Administration Committee. It is somewhat different from the General Council on Finance and Administration budget. The committee's recommendation is found in the blue *Daily Christian Advocate*, page 462. Before presenting the details, some background may be helpful to understand the committee's changes.

First, the committee had great appreciation for the work of GCFA. The council and staff did a remarkable job over many months in preparing a budget under challenging constraints. We respect the difficult decisions made by GCFA. Indeed, as you will see, the committee's budget follows the GCFA budget in many respects. Second, the committee appreciated the work and cooperation of the GCFA staff, and especially the direction being provided by the new General Secretary Sandra Kelley Lackore. While the staff helped the committee with calculations on the revised budget, all changes made to the budget are the work of the committee. We were fortunate to have a gifted and strong Financial Administration Committee. I believe we all shared two values: one was for fiscal restraint; there was a sensitivity to the financial pressures on many United Methodist churches and conferences today. The other value was that United Methodism not only maintain a vital mission and ministry, but to expand our witness on behalf of Christ. However, committee members differed on which of these values required priority in the next four years. As different votes were taken, it became clear that a majority of the committee desired, indeed would insist upon, two things. First, there must be more equity within the budget. Second, the bottom line figures must not exceed the 0-0-2-2 formula. And just to make sure everyone is clear about what that means, using the 1996 apportionment figures as the base, the increase in 1997 for the bottom line would be zero percent; 1998, zero percent; 1999, 2 percent; 2000 would be 2 percent.

The budget before you on blue *DCA*, page 462, reflects an attempt to honor both of these values. Let me go over the changes. About two-thirds of the way to the right there is a column called "Amended Report." This column permits you to compare the quadrennial totals for this budget with the GCFA budget totals in the column to the right of it. The next column to the right entitled, "Change from GCFA Report" shows the dollar changes. Now, please go to the last two columns on the right. These columns are very important to the committee. These percentages represent the increase in each fund's apportionment over what it would have been if the 1996 apportionment had stayed the same for the next four years. I would like to work from the bottom up on the last two columns. You will notice that the bottom line stays the same. This maintains the 0-0-2-2 formula for a 1.6 percent growth over the quadrennium from 1996 apportionment levels. Moving up, Africa University is unchanged from the GCFA figure of $10 million which is part of an overall $20 million goal of which $10 million will come through an apportionment. The next two funds, Interdenominational Cooperation Fund and General Administration Fund, are unchanged from the GCFA budget. There is a reduction in the Episcopal Fund of between 0.04 percent and 0.05 percent over the original GCFA increase of 4.5 percent for the quadrennium.

The next three funds are revised to bring all three to a 1.3 percent growth for the quadrennium over 1996 levels. Our concern was to bring a bit more overall equity. It seemed to the committee that too much of our austerity was coming in two funds: the Black College Fund and the Ministerial Education Fund. These funds represent so much of our hopes and dreams for the future, for students at schools supported by the Black College Fund, and students at our seminaries, to know that we adopted a 0-0-2-2 budget, but for them and their schools it would only be 0.05 percent, .8 percent, would send the wrong signal. In hard times it is important for everyone to know that struggles are shared struggles.

You will find the detailed breakdown for the World Service line item on the next page, blue *DCA*, page 463. Some funds there remain the same, and some are reduced. By action of the committee, mission initiatives were not decreased. Also, no line item is reduced more than 0.05 percent from the original GCFA recommendation, except for the contingency which goes down by 0.06 percent.

Now, back to page 462. This is not the budget that any one of us on the Financial Administration Committee probably would have prepared originally. Some wanted a lower budget, some higher. But the amended budget is not really a compromise. It did not emerge from negotiation. We hope that, in good Wesleyan style, this is a third alternative, in which the strengths of two options are honored, while the most significant drawbacks are avoided. The final and most important, perhaps, thing I can say about this amended budget is that it comes to you with a unaminous vote of the Financial Administration Legislative Committee.

BISHOP SOLOMON: All right.

WEEMS: Bishop, with that introduction I believe we are ready for report number 1.

BISHOP SOLOMON: Does this complete the overview of the legislative committee report in its entirety?

WEEMS: Yes.

BISHOP SOLOMON: The chair is going to do this. In just a moment we're going to adjust the time for the

break, so that we'll be able then to proceed on addressing these two reports in the manner that you as the house choose. I want to clarify, or at least help us to be together as I understand it. And that is that the GCFA report brings in, as has been stated, the 0-0-2-2 budget. This report brings the same bottom line figure, but with some changes in the internal portion of the budget. That will be up to you to decide on. The third dimension of this is the GCFA report is bringing the recommendation that the almost $5 million that has been recommended by our actions here at this conference, be treated in an apportioned fashion, but as a special Focus 2000 line item, and you, as a house, will then be asked to decide how you want to handle that recommendation as well. Let's be clear. Those are the three items that are before us when we return from our break. I'm going to suggest to us that we will be in session promptly at 20 minutes until 11. You are in recess.

BISHOP RUEDIGER MINOR: Would you please turn in your hymn books to page 848 and let us begin together? Shall we pray Psalm 130? All right.

*(prayer and Psalm)*

*Chernobyl Commemoration*

ANTON ZAKHARCHENKO: [interpreted from Russian] Dear brothers and sisters, I would like to remind you of the tragic event which happened in Ukraine exactly ten years ago. April 26, 1986, a reactor exploded at the Chernobyl nuclear power station. Many people died. Many became crippled in body and spirit. And people are dying from the results of the radiation in the countries of Ukraine, Belarus and Russia even now. Unfortunately, the majority of the population in those countries has already forgotten this tragedy. Therefore, as a representative of the Russian United Methodist Church, I call upon you to remember those who died in the catastrophe at Chernobyl. The Chernobyl accident has been a warning that we may produce our own apocalypses now. Think of the astonishment of the people in the former Soviet Union that have been living in Biblical illiteracy as they write in the Book of Revelation. I read from the 8th chapter: "The third angel blew his trumpet and a great star fell from heaven, blazing like a torch, and it fell on the third of the rivers and on the fountains of water." The name of this star is Wormwood. Did you know that the word for wormwood in the Ukrainian language is Chernobyl? "A third of the waters became wormwood, and many men died of the water, because it was made bitter." Let us pray, that God will show favor and forgiveness, pardon and restoration. Shall we conclude this moment and pray together with the words of Psalm 85? Page 806 in your hymn book.

*(prayer)*

BISHOP SOLOMON: Amen. Thank you for leading us in this time of memory that we may be people of vision and faithfulness in days yet ahead. Turn now to Bishop Edwin Boulton for the beginning motion as we proceed.

BISHOP EDWIN BOULTON: Mr. Chairman the understanding that GCFA has is that we have now laid before you and this house the entirety of our report. I would like to ask only that everyone remember that report number 16 will be dealt with as a separate item.

BISHOP SOLOMON: All right. The motion is before the house properly, and we are on report number 1 which is the World Service report. You'll find it on page 286, coming from GCFA, and we'll turn to the legislative committee for the right of first amendment.

WEEMS: Just so we will all be clear on these next votes that we're taking, if you will look in the blue *DCA*, page 462. The two columns, one entitled "Amended Report" and one entitled "GCFA Report," both end with the same bottom line. But remember, if you want to vote on these next petitions in such a way to give the result of a 0-0-2-2, budget, you need to decide which of these columns you want to follow. So if you want to follow the amended report, then in cases where the legislative committee has a substitute or an amendment for the GCFA recommendation, you need to vote for that substitute, when the figures are the same, then obviously to vote for that. If, on the other hand, you prefer the GCFA column, you need to vote for the GCFA recommendation and against the legislative committee's substitutes at each point where there is a difference, because if you choose one figure from one column, and then another from another column, you can do that, but we cannot assure that that will result in a 0-0-2-2 budget.

BISHOP SOLOMON: All right. I think that's clear.

WEEMS: Report number 1, blue *DCA*, page 461, Calendar Item 1810, and this refers, as Bishop Solomon has pointed out, to the red *DCA*, page 286, Petition 21111. The committee recommends concurrence as amended. The committee proposes an amendment by substituting the figures on pages 462 and 463 for the World Service Budget found on page 290 of the *Advance DCA*.

BISHOP SOLOMON: It's properly before us. Does anyone wish to speak to it? I see a delegate on this side. Please go to microphone 9.

ARNOLD A. RHODES (Western Pennsylvania): I rise to speak against the amendment. I received the report of CFA. In our decision making, sometimes its easier just to give everyone the same increase or decrease. However, CFA has studied, has heard the responses of local churches and annual conferences, they have seen the response that persons and local churches have made to the World Service apportionments, and the other apportionments of the church, and have brought forward to us, I think, a fair and reasonable recommendation. Therefore, I would be in

nonconcurrence with the amendment.

BISHOP SOLOMON: All right. Yes, you may speak. Please go to microphone 3. Are you speaking for the amendment. A question?

*Questions About Agencies Meeting Budgets*

PAT STROMAN (Central Texas): I have a question, Bishop, and possibly an amendment. Those line items on page 463, under program reports. They reflect the same numbers basically as 1996. Now, we voted last month when we were here to reduce the size of the boards, it seems like last month anyway. Why do those figures not reflect the 3 zero percent reduction in meeting costs that I was told we would see?

BISHOP SOLOMON: We will turn to the committee for a response.

SANDRA KELLY LACKORE (general secretary): It was GCFA's understanding in the budgeting process, that because GCOM and the agencies that GCOM represents, that those figures were considered in the budget request that they put forward. That's what GCFA was told.

BISHOP SOLOMON: All right.

STROMAN: Then I have a motion. I move that the 13 agencies affected by the downsizing of the membership, have their meetings' budget reduced by a 3zero percent figure, plus 10 percent for inflation, from their 1992-96 budgets. And if I have a second, I'd like to speak to it.

BISHOP SOLOMON: It is seconded. You may speak.

STROMAN: The budget for the meetings for the '92-'96 quadrennium was $11,579,741 and some change. Less 3zero percent, pulls that down to $8,105,819. Adding back 1zero percent will give $8,916,496. That's about three million dollars in savings that will almost pay for the new programs. That will get us back up and it doesn't seem to me to be a very honest thing to say that you're bringing in a zero budget, when you're actually bringing in a larger program budget, you just cut off your meeting budget.

BISHOP SOLOMON: All right. Is there, yes, you may speak. Go to microphone 2 please. Are you speaking against the amendment?

BETH CAPEN (New York): I think I'm speaking against the amendment, but perhaps this is more of a question. My guess is that the meeting costs, particularly in the Board of Global Ministries, is quite high, but my question is, hasn't the Board of Global Ministries already decreased their membership in line with the actions that we've taken, and if so, wouldn't that decrease already be reflected and taken into consideration? And if the answer to that question is yes, then I would speak against this amendment.

BISHOP SOLOMON: The chair is going to turn to our GCFA.

LAKORE: I would defer that to the Board of Global Ministries, Bishop.

BISHOP SOLOMON: All right. Is there someone from Board of Global Ministries that wishes to speak? Yes, I see, microphone 2, please.

RANDOLPH W. NUGENT JR. (New York): The budget of the Board of Global Ministries has already, in this area, been decreased by half. That's what the reduction in the reorganization has done. Furthermore, in the report, I think it's number 16, the GCFA has recognized that and has even said that because of that reduction, other costs can be assigned to that reduction. So the response to Beth Capen's question is, yes, it's in the budget already, at a reduced rate.

BISHOP SOLOMON: All right. I think that is a matter of information, and not a speech against. We're back on the amendment. Does anyone else wish to speak? I think we're ready to vote. Yes, please go to microphone 3.

JO EVA MCCLELLAN (Kansas West): Before I can vote intelligently, I need to have an explanation of why the episcopacy line item was increased so much more than any of the others in the committee's report, please.

BISHOP SOLOMON: May I inquire, as the chair, are you speaking of an inquiry in relationship to the Stroman motion to reduce the meeting expense, or do you want to defer that until we get back into the World Service report itself?

MCCLELLAN: I will defer that. I thought the other question had been taken care of.

BISHOP SOLOMON: That's all right. We'll come back to you. We're on the Stroman amendment, now, and we'd like to move on to vote on that. Yes, you may go to microphone 4.

SUSAN KERN KESTER (Peninsula-Delaware): I rise to speak against the amendment. I chair the finance committee for the Commission on Communications. For two years we've been looking at our budget. We've been eliminating things that we think we no longer should do, and putting in things that we think we should try new projects. To arbitrarily cut our travel budget and meeting budget, at this point, would be to not recognize what we had already done. I urge the conference not to do something like this that might have adverse effects beyond their knowledge on the individual agencies.

BISHOP SOLOMON: All right. Now I'm going to turn to the legislative committee presenter, and to GCFA for any concluding comments. I think the house is ready to vote on this amendment.

WEEMS: I'd urge defeat of the amendment. The understanding of the legislative committee is that these budgets include meeting expenses but many other things. Those expenses have been reduced, but what we're asking the program boards to do is just what you've done in many of your local churches and many annual conferences. Your budgets have stayed flat, but within that some things have gone up that you felt important to do, and you have paid for them by reducing other things. That's the kind of fiscal management we're asking of the program agencies.

BISHOP SOLOMON: I've been advised that GCFA doesn't see a need to make a comment. Would you please vote when the light appears?

[Results: yes, 274; no, 589] The amendment is defeated. We're back on the main motion, and that is the legislative committee recommendation that World Service be identified as per the figures you have on page 462. There is a card in the very back. Would you please go to microphone 15?

SUE SHERBROOKE (Pacific-Northwest): I was a member of that legislative committee, and I have to admit that since we adopted this report I have had a conversion experience. The committee's recommendation was the result of articulate, impassioned pleas from people who know a lot and feel strongly about MEF and the Black College Fund. We did not hear equally effective presentations on behalf of other funds. I respect the process that volunteers on GCFA use to hear and balance competing claims among other very worthy causes. Secondly, most apportioned funds received support in 1995 at 83 percent, 88 percent, 91 percent. It seems to me that the committee's amendment seeks to make up for lower payout less than 81 percent in MEF and Black college, seeks to make up this lower payout rate by raising MEF's asking at the expense of funds that are better supported.

BISHOP SOLOMON: All right. Now the chair is very aware...because I was not clear where our speaker was headed until she was on into the presentation she was making, that she was speaking against the amendment. There has already been one speech against the amendment. I'll be fair about it, and we'll allow for two, in sequence, for the amendment if that happens to be the case. There's a card over here on my far left. Please go to microphone 5.

DALE JONES (Kentucky): Bishop and members of the conference, I wish to offer a motion, and if there is second I would like to speak to it.

BISHOP SOLOMON: Please state your motion.

JONES: I move that the General Conference refer report number 1 along with reports number 2 through 7 from GCFA and report number 16 to the General Council on Finance and Administration, with directions that the total annual and quadrennial totals of these eight apportioned funds be the totals represented in the 0-0-2-2 proposals, the specific numbers to be determined by the General Council on Finance and Administration in connection with the General Council on Ministries.

BISHOP SOLOMON: The chair is going to rule your motion as out of order, the reason being that GCFA report is before us in its entirety, and what they are presenting reflects, in fact, the deliberations that have been undertaken that are consistent with your request. It is the responsibility of this General Conference to vote on this budget; we cannot make a reference. All right? May you turn to number 3.

RUTH HUBER-HOHLS (Central Texas): Thank you Bishop Solomon. We have heard a number of impassioned pleas on behalf of a wide variety of particular groups of people, and all have been in order, and we care for everyone. However, I think there is one group that is feeling forgotten, that the church has, in fact, gotten up and walked away from them and does not look back. There's a group that's feeling very disconnected, that's not here to hear all the rest of this. And those are the people in the local churches, the people in our pews. And I appreciate the effort that GCFA and this legislative committee are each making to try to hear those pleas.

It's unfortunate that the Local Church legislative committee reflecting those concerns will not be heard until this afternoon and, in fact, after the budget has been adopted. I appreciated what Shirley Parris said, and I believe it's true. The people in our churches want desperately to feel a part of our mission, they want desperately to meet the cause of mission in the name of Christ. But my friends, they do not feel that we're hearing them, and I want to submit to us, we must hear or we will be leading and no one will be following.

BISHOP SOLOMON: All right, there is the opportunity for one more speech for on this particular amendment. I go to the mid section on the far side. Would you please go to microphone 6?

FRANK E. TROTTER JR (Baltimore-Washington): Bishop, I speak in favor of the committee report. I feel we had a good discussion and a fair one, but I think the body needs to know that we did feel there was the need of equity among the line items, and that the hit was coming at the expense of two of the most vulnerable line items: the Black College Fund and the Ministerial Education Fund. As a whole committee, we felt the church needs to take ownership of its seminaries and ownership of reaching out in terms of scholarship assistance to the Black College Fund. I encourage the members of the body to support the committee report to increase these line items in fairness to the whole budget.

BISHOP SOLOMON: All right, we turn now to the report of the legislative committee. You may speak, followed by GCFA. All right, GCFA, do you wish to speak? We've had two speeches for and two speeches against. The amendment is before us, which is the committee report. Please vote when the light appears. The legislative committee amendment to the primary report prevails by a vote of 656 to 204. That becomes, as it were, then the substitute for the report number one. If you will make that the substitute for the report number one, will you vote when the light appears? Or you may vote not to do that, of course. [773 approved] All right, that becomes adopted as report number one. We go to report number 2.

### *Finance Calendar Items Presented and Voted*

WEEMS: This is found in blue *DCA*, page 333, Calendar Item 1050. And it relates to the report in the red *DCA*, page 291, Petition 21112. The committee proposes an amendment by substituting the following amounts

of the annual apportionments found on page 291 of the red *DCA*. 1997: $27,036,000; 1998: $27,036,000; 1999: $27,476,720; the year 2000: $28,001,280, for a quadrennial total apportionment of $109,550,000.

BISHOP SOLOMON: All right. That is before us. We did not have the opportunity to hear GCFA make any further comment on their report prior to that, but we will give that opportunity when we come back to this. This is an amendment, in essence, to the GCFA report. Is there someone who wishes to speak on either side? Then I believe it is before us. We'll turn to the committee. You've already made your statement. Would GCFA choose to make a statement? All right. It is before us. You understand, I believe, what you're voting on. Please vote when the light appears. [783 approved] Yes, you have adopted Calendar Item 1050, and we turn now to the next report.

WEEMS: Blue *DCA*, page 333, Calendar Item 1051, which refers in the red *DCA* to page 293, Petition 21113. The committee recommends concurrence as amended as follows. The committee proposes an amendment by substituting the following annual apportionment amounts as found on page 293. 1997: $17,800,000; 1998: $10,780,000; 1999: $10,952,488; 2000: $11,169,512, for a quadrennial total of $43,682,000.

BISHOP SOLOMON: It's properly before us. I recognize the delegate in the back. Please go to microphone 8.

WEEMS: Excuse me, Bishop, there's a misprint. OK. What's printed in the blue *DCA*, page 333, Calendar Item 1051 is incorrect. The figures that should be included are those that are on blue *DCA*, page 462 for the years 1997 through 2000 for Black College Fund. Those are $10,780,000 in 1997-1998; and in 1999: $10,952,000; and $11,170,000 in 2000.

BISHOP SOLOMON: All right. Thank you, and I believe that was what was being called to our attention a moment ago. It's before us. Does anyone wish to speak? Does GCFA wish to make a comment? I think we're ready to vote. Would you please vote when the light appears? [830 approved] And you have approved Calendar Item 1051. May we proceed?

WEEMS: Cashar Evans will present.

BISHOP SOLOMON: All right. Thank you.

CASHAR W. EVANS JR. (North Carolina): The legislative committee accepts the report of GCFA. And that is found in, it's Calendar Item 1052 in the blue book. Red book, pages 294-296.

BISHOP SOLOMON: Have agreement between both of the committees. I would sense you are ready to vote. Please vote when the light appears. [881 approved] You have approved Calendar Item 1052. May we proceed?

WEEMS: Report number five is found on blue *DCA*, page 333, Calendar Item 1053. It refers to the red *DCA*, page 297, Petition 21115.

The committee recommends concurrence as amended by substituting the following annual apportionment amounts for those found on page 285. And again, the figures that are being proposed are the figures found on blue *DCA* page 462 for the Episcopal Fund. There was some rounding of funds that took place with the approval of the committee after the committee action. So those figures would be: in 1997 $15,059,000; in 1998 $14,945,000; in 1999 $15,699,000; and in 2000 $16,003,000.

BISHOP SOLOMON: All right. That's before us. I had already accorded a privilege of the floor to a delegate who raised a question in this regard a moment ago. I recognize this delegate now at microphone 3.

JO EVA MCCLELLAN (Kansas West): I would like an explanation of why the four percent increase for the Episcopacy Fund? From the committee report.

BISHOP SOLOMON: We'll turn to the committee for a response.

WEEMS: Perhaps someone from GCFA who worked on those figures might respond.

*Explanation of Episcopal Fund Increase*

SALLY BROWN GEIS (Rocky Mountain): If you will look back in the report that starts, you will see that the Episcopal Fund is a different kind of creature than any other report that is before you. The simplest answer, I think to your question, is that the main items that drive the Episcopal Fund are the benefits for the bishops and the number of Episcopal areas.

And we have no control. If you would quit raising the salaries of your own pastors, then we could lower the salaries of the bishops. But since you actually, in local churches...because, if you'll read the amount of salary, we are required to tie the bishops' salaries to the denominational average compensation. And this is how...then we have to squeeze everything else in the Episcopal office. Hope that answers your question.

BISHOP SOLOMON: All right. Thank you very much. We return to the committee's report. It is before us. I believe we are about ready to vote on this, so I'll turn to GCFA to, well, to the committee, any further word from the committee. GCFA do you have a report? Then what we are voting on is the Calendar Item 1053. The committee's amendment is contained in that calendar item, an amendment to the budget. Please vote when the light appears. [793 approved] You have approved Calendar Item 1053. May we proceed?

CASHAR W. EVANS JR. (North Carolina): Bishop, there is agreement in the report number 6. That is Calendar Item 1054 in the blue book. It refers to page 304 in the *DCA*.

BISHOP SOLOMON: All right, you have heard the agreement between GCFA and the committee on that. Any comments or questions? I think we're ready to vote. Would you please vote when the light appears. [879 approved] You have approved Calendar Item 1054. May we proceed?

EVANS: There is agreement, also, in report number 7 which is found in the blue book, Calendar Item 1055.

And in the red *DCA* on pages 305 and 306.

BISHOP SOLOMON: It is properly before us. Comments or questions? Please vote when the light appears. [852 approved] You have approved Item 1055. May we proceed?

EVANS: Report number 12 is the budget of GCFA. There is agreement there, also. That is in the blue book, Calendar Item 1056. Refers to page 320 of the red *DCA*.

BISHOP SOLOMON: You've heard the word, agreement. Any questions or comments? Please vote when the light appears. [874 approved] You have approved Calendar Item 1056. All right. May we proceed?

EVANS: Agreement, also, in report number 8. It is Calendar Item 1057 in the blue book. Referring to pages 307 and 308 of the red *DCA*.

BISHOP SOLOMON: All right. It's before us. Please vote when the light appears. [861 approved] You have approved Calendar Item 1057. May we proceed?

EVANS: Report number 9 is Special Sundays With Offering. Agreement there, also.

BISHOP SOLOMON: Calendar item?

EVANS: Calendar Item 1058.

BISHOP SOLOMON: All right. It's before us. You've heard agreement on both parties. Please vote when the light appears. [861 approved] You've approved 1058. May we proceed? Bishop Boulton.

BISHOP EDWIN C. BOULTON: I move the adoption of reports number 10, 11, and 14 together, in single action, growing largely out of the fact that the legislative committee has recommended concurrence with these three reports.

BISHOP SOLOMON: These have all been agreed to. This is a motion that is now before us. I believe we're ready to vote. Please vote when the light appears. [872 approved] You have confirmed these reports 10, 11, and 13.

BISHOP BOULTON: Brother chair, and friends, as the result of the action you've just taken, I'd like to report that Calendar Item 1811 in your blue *DCA*, page 461, which contains an amendment to the GCFA report number 13, which has also had the concurrence of the legislative committee be adopted, sir.

BISHOP SOLOMON: Calendar Item 1811 is before us. We have agreement on all parties. I believe. Yes, please go to microphone 3.

DONALD E. MESSER (Rocky Mountain): I believe that's, to make sure I'm speaking 461, 1811?

BISHOP SOLOMON: I'll turn to Bishop Boulton.

BISHOP BOULTON: That is correct, page 461.

MESSER: If you'll turn to page 464, where the amendment continues, I move to delete three words in the third sentence; those three words being "or formally members for." So it would read, "None who are presently staff with any general board or agency will be considered." If I have a second, I would speak on it.

BISHOP SOLOMON: Is it seconded? You may speak.

MESSER: I opposed this originally, this insertion, and I do so again on the floor of this General Conference. For us to adopt those words has the impact of eliminating all persons who have previously served on any of our general boards and agencies since 1972.

This particularly would strike at our efforts to empower women and ethnic minorities who have served in any way, shape, or form during those many years. I believe this is not in the interest of our church, or in the informed action of the GCFA. The GCFA still has the power to appoint persons. I'm sure they will select persons who are informed, intelligent, active, local members; but it would not in any way discriminate against all those who have served in some way in our great church. Thank you.

BISHOP SOLOMON: All right. This is a amendment by deletion. Does someone wish to speak against the amendment. This card in the back, would you please go to microphone 13.

MORRIS F. MATTHIS (Texas): The manner about which apportionment funds are gathered is one of intense importance to local churches. It may affect local churches, our connection may affect local churches, no more importantly in that way perhaps other than the appointment of pastors.

The connectional issues study and the listening report of the GCFA both indicate that we may be winning the pocketbooks of members and ministers of local churches, but not necessarily their hearts. This set-up, this approach, allows adequate representation by members of the general boards; but it also ensures adequate representation of those who will view this particularly from the local church perspective. The legislative committee agreed with this approach, and I would encourage this conference to do the same.

BISHOP SOLOMON: All right. It's before us. Do you wish to speak for the motion? Go to microphone 9.

JEROME K. DEL PINO (New England): Bishop, I would take extreme exception to the notion that persons who have served faithfully on the general boards of this denomination, particularly since its inception of the structure we currently have since 1972, that their service is in any way, shape, form, or fashion antithetical with what it means to identify with the local church.

That logic, to me, seems to be, at best, spurious, and at worst, inflammatory. I would suggest that we, in our need of having experience, we are in need of having all persons at the table, and if we are not prepared to do that, the denomination itself will be the poorer for it. I would hope, as well, that as we cast this vote, we will be mindful of the fact that every source of division within the body is one that will have a ripple effect. I think the local church is amply represented in this General Conference, and will be represented exceedingly well on this Connectional Issues Study group. I would hope that we would affirm this deletion.

BISHOP SOLOMON: All right. Is there someone who wishes to speak against the amendment? Yes, you may go to microphone 4.

KARL K. STEGALL (Alabama-West Florida): Eight years ago a young layman from the Kentucky Conference, or state of Kentucky, brought a petition before this General Conference for a feasibility study. Little did he realize that over the past eight years we've spent over $1 million over the issue of whether or not we should relocate the General Board of Global Ministries.

Over the past four years this committee of site selection has been half of the cause the former chair of the General Board of Global Ministries committee to assassinate that report, became the chairman of the Site Selection Committee. And this may have been the greatest scam ever perpetuated on the life of The United Methodist Church because of the misunderstanding. I think we, as a General Conference, need to make sure that there's no vested interest on any former person who has served on general boards on issues such as these that might come before us, and I wanted to speak to that issue.

BISHOP SOLOMON: All right. Now let the chair see if I can help the house out. We, earlier this morning, it has been brought to my attention, approved this language exactly as it is printed here in this *DCA*, on the Consent Calendar. Without the knowledge of that, we have proceeded to have this discussion.

In all fairness, I'm going to return to Don Messer, and give him the opportunity, if he chooses it...and if he voted on the prevailing side for the approval of the Consent Calendar, to state a motion for the reconsideration of this particular item on the Consent Calendar for the purposes for which we have been involved in this parliamentary situation. Would you care to do that, Dr. Messer, if in fact you voted on the prevailing side of the Consent Calendar.

MESSER: I presume because of the vote, yes I did. I opposed it in the session, but later approved it. So, yes I would, and would make such an appeal.

BISHOP SOLOMON: The house is understanding that a motion has been made and seconded for reconsideration of this item on the Consent Calendar. If you will consider this, reconsider this item, please vote when the light appears. [Results: yes, 564; no, 336] Reconsideration is approved. Now the chair is going to take the liberty of suggesting that we have already heard the conversations on both sides of this. I'm going to turn to the committee chair and to GCFA chair and then call for the vote.

BISHOP BOULTON: GCFA stands by the language that we have inserted, sir.

BISHOP SOLOMON: All right, and then the committee? No. The committee does not wish to...The amendment is before us, and the amendment is for the deletion of the words: "for formerly members are" and please vote when the light appears. If you favor the amendment, you will vote for it. If you are opposed to it, you'll vote against is. Please vote when the light appears. [Results: yes, 467; no, 424] Let's hear the point of order, please. Would you go to microphone 9. I'm sorry, microphone 10 will be fine.

GLENN KOHLHEPP (Western Pennsylvania): Bishop, you're doing an excellent job, but it seems to me a referral motion takes a two-thirds vote.

BISHOP SOLOMON: We had a motion before us. If I stated it a referral, I stated it incorrectly, and I apologize to the house. The motion was for reconsideration. It takes a simple majority. We're in order. Now, then, we shall proceed to vote again, since there was some question prior to vote being raised. If you are in favor of this amendment, then you would obviously vote, "yes." Opposed, vote "no." Please vote when the light appears. [Results: yes, 506; no, 415] The Messer amendment prevails.

All right, that becomes a part of the main motion of the committee report. We're back on the main motion of the committee report. We'll invite either the chair or someone else to make a comment prior to our voting on this particular Calendar Item 1811 on page 461 in your blue book. Committee or the chair?

TRACY MERRICK: No, sir.

BISHOP SOLOMON: All right. It's before us. Please vote when the light appears. [793 approved] And it is approved. May we continue now on our report?

MERRICK (Western Pennsylvania): I would like to place before you report number 15. It is found in your blue *DCA* beginning on page 660. Again, just to make sure you're aware of what is in here. These are the referrals to GCFA based on your actions. So far this General Conference, and these particular items will be found, or we have found homes for them to cover them within the budget that you have already adopted at the 0-0-2-2 level. I would move adoption of this report.

BISHOP SOLOMON: All right, this report is before us. Other committee reports? Did the legislative committee wish to make a comment on this? All right, it's before us. I believe we're ready to vote. If you'll vote when the light appears. [862 approved] You have approved these reports. We'll continue.

*Debate on Focus 2000 Budget*

MERRICK: I'd like to place before you now report number 16 for Focus 2000. It was the document that was on your desks when you arrived this morning. And just to make sure you're aware, again, of what we're talking about here. This is the additional apportioned fund which would total $4,760,000 over the quadrennium. These particular four items do not have a home in the 0-0-2-2 budget. But would be above and beyond that. Amounting to a total increase of 2.6 percent over the '96 level.

BISHOP SOLOMON: It's the chair's understanding that these items are properly before us. That

they are coming as an apportioned, special line item and we can proceed now to discuss these. These are coming from GCFA. I'm going to turn first and ask the committee if they have any comment. None from the legislative committee. Certainly available to the house. I saw a card, here. Yes? The gentleman standing. Please go to microphone 9.

JAMES BRANSCOME (Virginia): I would like to propose an amendment that we change the title of this fund to "Missional Initiatives/Focus 2000" and I would like to speak to that if it's seconded.

BISHOP SOLOMON: Is it seconded? All right, it's before us. You may speak.

BRANSCOME: The reason I make this proposal is as treasurer of a conference that has 1,200 and some churches, I do not relish the idea of going back to the conference and trying to interpret the fact that we have, for the third quadrennium in a row, created a new apportion fund. We did Africa University two quadrenniums ago, we did Missional Initiatives last time. This year, I would like to keep the title of Missional Initiatives so that it does not seem like we keep creating over and over, new apportionments.

BISHOP SOLOMON: All right. That's a speech for. Is there further conversation regarding this amendment? Yes?

MERRICK: On behalf of GCFA, I'd like to indicate that we accept this amendment of this change in term.

BISHOP SOLOMON: Well, I would have to put that to the house. Is there objection in the house to that being accepted? I do not hear an objection from the house. So then, with that being the situation, we will include this in your report, and we're back on the main motion. Missional Initiative/Focus 2000 is before us. All right. Would you? Yes? Second delegate over here, microphone 3.

NANCY CUCKLER (East Ohio): This is just a question concerning the focus on young people. Based on my assumption, I always thought GCOM was the oversight committee. Will they be developing the programs contained, or which will be contained, under the $3 million, or will they be assigning those funds to other agencies under them?

BISHOP SOLOMON: We'll turn to the committee for a response.

MERRICK: Would someone from GCOM respond to that?

BISHOP SOLOMON: Is there someone from GCOM who would wish to make...Can you answer that question for us? Please go to microphone 9.

PETER D. WEAVER (Western Pennsylvania): As you will recall, the proposal, the shared mission focus on young people has a shared mission focus team, which is independently composed through a nomination and voting process through jurisdictions and central conferences. It will report to the General Council on Ministries. As a shared missions focus, this involves all the boards and agencies as well as conferences of the denomination and the General Council on Ministries is the coordinating agency when we have matters which involve all of those various entities.

BISHOP SOLOMON: All right. Thank you. I'll take that as a question and an answer. Delegate, here, yes. You may go to microphone 9.

MONA MAE WAYMIRE (Oklahoma): I rise to ask a question, Bishop. It is in regard to the focus on the young people. I notice that in that there was a $2.4 million item for staff development, for staff training, as well as for pilot programs in ten different conferences. I would like to know more about what percentage of the pilot programs are of that $2.4 million.

BISHOP SOLOMON: All right. That is an inquiry.

MERRICK: Could we ask someone from GCOM to respond to that?

BISHOP SOLOMON: Ask GCOM representative to make a response, please?

MERRICK: Is Don Hayashi here?

BISHOP SOLOMON: Microphone 9.

WEAVER: I'd like to yield to those who made that motion. As you may recall, this particular extension of the GCOM proposal came from young people and workers with young people. It was developed independently, and I think those who developed that portion of what we're voting on ought to respond to that question.

BISHOP SOLOMON: If you are the one person to represent that group with this information, would you raise your card? Yes, you may go to microphone 7.

JEFF QUICK (North Arkansas): I may need to refer to June Wilson or to Jackie Euper at some point, but it is my understanding that the $2.4 million, which will be overseen by the Shared Mission Team, will be to develop pilot programs through funding trained staff persons in ten local churches and ten conferences, annual conferences, none of which would be the same annual conference, and that those programs would then come back together on an annual basis, those twenty individuals, and share together the ministry that has come out of their individual programs.

BISHOP SOLOMON: All right. Thank you very much. We're back on the main report. And I see a delegate, far side. Yes, would you go to microphone 7, or microphone 6 is fine.

*Focus 2000 Budget Beyond 0-0-2-2*

CHARLES COURTOY (Florida): First a question, then possibly a motion, Bishop.

Is it my understanding that this Focus 2000 will raise the bottom line beyond the 0-0-2-2?

BISHOP SOLOMON: The chair would understand that as a correct understanding.

COURTOY: Then I would like to move that we include this initiative within that 0-0-2-2 amount and reduce World Service and General Finance and Administration budgets proportionately in order to accomplish that. If I get a second, I'd like to speak to that.

BISHOP SOLOMON: Is it seconded? It is seconded. You may speak.

COURTOY: Bishop, we have to make hard decisions. When we begin to get excited about program and ministry, and it's evident that this General Conference has been very much interested in youth and the other three that are identified in this initiative, and that's great and fine. But we have to make decisions that we can live with back home. I come from a conference that requested through petition that we not raise budgets more than what we received in the last quadrennium. If we adopt this, we will have raised by 6.7 percent the amount over the last quadrennium. We will have increased by nine tenths percent the amount over which we had all agreed in the committee. I urge you to support this amendment.

BISHOP SOLOMON: Would you hold at the microphone for just a moment? The chair needs to make an inquiry, and that is whether your amendment affects everything related to report number 16 or only the youth portion of it that we have been discussing.

COURTOY: It would be everything in report 16.

BISHOP SOLOMON: All right, it's properly before us. The chair would also point out that since we have already adopted the World Service budget, should you adopt this amendment, then it will be necessary to reconsider the vote we took on the World Service amendment. We'll work this out parliamentarily; we don't need to be antsy about how we do that right now. Let's keep focused on the amendment that is before us, and that is the adoption of this report 16 to be folded into the report on World Service that we adopted previously. I recognize the delegate on this far side. Would you please go to microphone 5?

WILLIAM B. LUX (Iowa): I stand to oppose the amendment that would reduce World Service. Some of us live and pray and are United Methodists because of World Service. Please refuse to adopt this amendment.

BISHOP SOLOMON: All right, that's a speech against. Is there a speech for that you wish to make? Very back. Delegate, will you please go to microphone 13, please?

*Proposal to Take Focus 2000 Funds from World Service*

DONALD W. UNDERWOOD (North Texas): I know that peoples' eyes tend to glaze over when we talk about dollars. But the 0-0-2-2 that we've already adopted represents a 2 zero percent increase over the 1995 dollars that were actually collected. The fact of the matter is that we have 19 annual conferences that in 1995 paid less than 8 zero percent of their apportionments. Using GCFA numbers, the total fund balances for our general agencies increased in 1995 from $294 million to $320 million. The report provided by GCFA indicates that the Board of Global Ministries had a surplus in 1995, using (unintelligible) numbers of $28 million. I would suggest that these initiatives are good initiatives, but they can be funded in two ways: through the extra reserves that are already present in our general boards and agencies, and through the actual payments by our annual conferences. If people want these, then let them go home and pay with their dollars, vote with their dollars, rather than voting here and then not funding them. Thank you.

BISHOP SOLOMON: All right. The delegate in the far back. Are you wanting to speak against the amendment? You may go to microphone 9.

GABRIELLE MALLORY (West Ohio): I'm speaking against this amendment. And I ask that you take the first step in making youth and young people a priority. Without youth and young people, we have no investment in the future of our church. Funds from the church have helped my development as a Christian and in career planning for Christian vocations. I urge you to support the increase of the youth and young adult focus.

BISHOP SOLOMON: All right. We're at two speeches for and two speeches against on this amendment. Let the chair remind the house that the amendment calls for the folding in of the entire total amount of Focus 16 Missional Initiative into the existing budgets we have already adopted. Those budgets would be World Service and General Administration budget. I turn to the chair of the committee and to the chair of GCFA for any comments they wish to make before we vote.

MERRICK: Oh, just comment that we do have the budgets we have already adopted. We in GCFA feel they are fair, and to try to fold these items in would put a real strain on some of those agencies.

BISHOP SOLOMON: All right, does anyone from GCFA wish to speak.

ELLEN BRUBAKER (Western Michigan): For World Service, I beg of you not to do this. I am excited about the special initiatives that we have all talked about. I believe in the youth initiative program; I believe we can do it. But, I have heard all of the excitement about the funding that is already there in World Service that needs to continue in our world-wide ministry. We can do the extra if we only will understand that we have generous hearts.

BISHOP SOLOMON: All right. Now we're at the point...Excuse me, is there...yes?

WILLIAM WHITE: I'm the General Administration Fund. There is no money in the General Administration fund, and I don't believe the maker of the motion identified it, I think it's extremely important for the General Conference to understand that this is not a game that we have been playing here, but an attempt to honestly represent to this General Conference the financial situation of the general boards and agencies. And by making a motion doesn't make the money materialize in the General Administration Fund.

BISHOP SOLOMON: All right, is this a question or a point of order that

we had a card here? Point of information, we'll take that. Please go to microphone 2.

REBECCA C. YOUNGBLOOD (Mississippi): The point of information I would request relates to the comment that was made about reserve funds being available. It is not my understanding that there are unrestricted reserve funds available in the General Board of Global Ministries, and I would just like to have clarification on that.

BISHOP SOLOMON: It is properly before us. Someone wish to speak to that inquiry?

MERRICK: Bishop, Sandra is willing to address that.

BISHOP SOLOMON: Surely.

*Report on Agency Fund Balances*

LAKORE: Without getting into a complete analysis of the fund balance report, when this question was asked in the legislative committee, we responded that the implementation of federal accounting bureau standards, which The United Methodist Church has been very proactive in implementing in the financial statements of the boards and agencies, has resulted in changes in increased financial positions because of those accounting standards. Now we can have our comptroller speak to that if you would like more technical language.

BISHOP SOLOMON: All right. Would we have...The secretary will now read the motion that is before us. Let's please listen.

CAROLYN MARSHALL: The motion is that the Focus 2000 be folded into the 0-0-2-2 bottom line budget by reducing World Service and General Administration apportioned funds proportionately.

BISHOP SOLOMON: I believe the motion is properly before us, and I believe we are now ready to vote. Please vote when the light appears. [Results: yes, 333; no, 585] The motion does not prevail. We are back to the committee report Let's see if we can wrap this up. All right. Yes, you may speak at microphone 2.

CHARLES B. SIMMONS (Louisiana): I would ask that we would vote on this individually *a seriatim*—the motion that is before us.

BISHOP SOLOMON: That's a request to do that, but the chair would not presume to suggest that's a procedure we'll follow unless the house wanted to follow that procedure. So I'll just simply put the vote to the house. If you want to vote on this *seriatim* and not in its entirety as a whole, you'll vote yes; if not vote no. Please vote when the light appears. [Results: yes, 319; no, 589]

So, you have chosen to take the report in its entirety. We'll proceed in that manner. I'll go to the very far back here. Please go to microphone 8.

*Question $2.4 Staff Fund Use*

JOE KILPATRICK (North Georgia): I just continue to be a little bit confused about what's going to be done with this 2.4 million and would like to ask for more information. If I understood the answer previously, we're talking about 10 churches being selected from across the conference and giving them each, what would be an average of $60,000 per year. That's an interesting number. I'm confused as to what—would you hire a youth minister, would you buy musical instruments, would you have trips for youth. I'd just like to know what the plans are to do with that $60,000 per year per church.

BISHOP SOLOMON: All right, we'll turn to the committee for any response they want to make.

MERRICK: This question was asked of GCOM rep. Don Hayashi. He addressed it before us, and we feel, if he is present, that he would be able to give the best answer.

BISHOP SOLOMON: We'll yield to Don Hayashi if he is present. All right, I think we'll proceed on then in the report. The report in its...

MERRICK: Don is coming.

BISHOP SOLOMON: Ah, Don is coming. We'll...is there any objection to hearing from Don Hayashi? Hearing none, will you please proceed to microphone 15.

DON HAYASHI: I'm on the staff of GCOM. It is our understanding that the explanation has been given by the person who made the motion, and that is the information which is available at this time to GCOM.

BISHOP SOLOMON: Thank you very much. The report in its entirety now is before us. We're dealing with it as a whole. You may speak to any portion of it; of course you may proceed to make decisions relating to it. Yes, in the middle here. Correct, would you please go to microphone 3.

AARON M. GRAY (Rocky Mountain): Bishop, I rise to speak in favor of what is before us, and I celebrate the change to Mission Initiative, Focus 2000. I really believe that we can leave this General Conference with a story to tell to our local churches of what happened in the past quadrennium as a result of the mission initiative. We can begin to talk about what happened with the Native American Awareness Plan, the National Hispanic Plan, the Shalom Zone, the Drug and Substance Abuse Program. Even though it wasn't funded to a hundred percent, some real ministry took place as a result of the Mission Initiative Fund. Now we can begin to share with our local churches a new adventure that will be happening, that will work to strengthen racial minority congregations, that will respond to local churches in terms of their concern of how we relate to the general church, and then most of all, a plan that really attempts to reach out and meet the needs of young people. I know that the money is a question, but I do not believe that the sun is setting on The United Methodist Church. I believe that we are heading toward the dawn, and I urge us to support this fund. Thank you.

BISHOP SOLOMON: All right, I'm going to go to the very back of the plenary hall and ask the delegate to go to number 13. Are you speaking for or against?

EWING WERLEIN JR. (Texas): I propose to amend GCFA report

number 16, on page 3, second paragraph, Item 3, where it reads, "$2.4 million for salary of trained and qualified staff to craft ministry with young people for the future and for these staff people to meet together on an annual basis for the review of the program," etc. And I wish to amend it by deletion of that item, number 3. And if there is a second, I would like to speak briefly to it.

BISHOP SOLOMON: It is seconded. You may speak.

WERLEIN: I know that yesterday when Jeff Quick brought this to our attention, we responded with enthusiasm for him and for the concept of doing something new and better for youth. That's something that all of us want to do. But when we get down to it, as we have seen in the responses made this morning, there's not a well-defined or clearly understood program to advance.

Second, we know that ministry is best done in the local church. $2.4 million for trained and qualified staff to craft ministry with young people is not really what the church needs now. Jeff was asked yesterday, where's the money going to come from? He was not sure, at the time, but the money comes from the churches, churches that need a youth director, churches that need youth programs, and are unable, due to these kinds of apportionments, to afford them.

And I think we're better off leaving with our churches, this $2.4 million, at least until we see a better crafted program a better devised program, as to how we're going to improve youth ministry by directing it from some several staff members that get together and meet from time to time about what they're doing.

BISHOP SOLOMON: All right. Thank you. I recognize, go to microphone 4, please. Are you speaking against the amendment?

*Description of One Conference's Youth Ministry*

DANIEL GRIFFITH (East Ohio): Yes sir I am. As we sit here today, seeing the light at this end of the tunnel approach more and more quickly, I have been proud to have felt affirmed both here in this room and in all the other activities I have been privileged to be a part of. I thank you all for that. Many have stood at the podium here on the floor and spoken about something we all know is true, the youth and young adults throughout this denomination are not only the church of tomorrow, but able and willing to be a part of that ministry today.

As we look at such diverse issues as church growth and ethnic settings, increased participation in mission, and the fostering of future clergy, we find that they all have one definitive element in common. They all deeply depend on how much the church decides to commit itself to its young persons. Part of that commitment is the support that we feel when in these kinds of settings, and again I say thank you. But the other, equally as important half, is the fiscal commitment that must be made.

In East Ohio we have been gifted with a very strong youth program. One of the more primary reasons that ministry exists so effectively is because our annual conference has given us a full-time staff person who does $180,000 worth of programming after only being given $18,000 initially, something that not every annual conference here has. Just one example of the wonderful things that can be done with full support, the lives that can be touched, and further proof that the higher the expectation, the greater the achievement. We ask today, as we have asked before, and will ask again, that this General Conference give a full commitment, a full commitment, to those who are to carry on the message of Jesus Christ.

BISHOP SOLOMON: All right. The amendment has had one speech for and one speech against. Does anyone wish to speak on the amendment. Yes, a delegate here. Please go to microphone 8.

JAY BRIM (Southwest Texas): I rise to speak for the amendment. The problem here is not the program that we all support. The problem is the lack of planning that has gone into the presentation of this request. GCFA has gone to a great deal of trouble over this four year quadrennium to lead all the boards, commissions, and general agencies in a good planning process that allowed them to come forward with a 0-0-2-2 budget. What we're being asked to do today is to give $2.4 million to a very good idea that is not yet well planned. Delegates, we need to stand together to say to our churches that we have been good stewards while we were here voting, and that we looked not only to the goodness of the idea, but to the wellness of the planning.

BISHOP SOLOMON: All right. I recognize the delegate here. Go to microphone number 3. Are you speaking against the amendment?

*Conferences, Local Churches Share Staff Training Funds*

CAROLYN DOVE (Louisiana): Yes. I speak against the amendment, but I also come to speak to give information. This $2.4 million would be used in 10 conferences to train conference persons to in turn, train those churches within their conferences. It would also be used for 10 local churches to help train those personnel to work in the local churches.

When we speak of staff people, there are staff people on all levels that would be working together, so when we look at the number, I think the number was used 10 churches, $60,000. No. We're talking about 10 local churches, 10 conferences, and I don't know the number that that would include, that your $60,000 would go toward. So we're talking about a ripple effect of training and helping the youth of our General Conference.

BISHOP SOLOMON: All right. We've had two speeches for and two against. I'm going to turn to GCFA and to the committee for any concluding comments that you wish to make. This is on the Werlein amendment.

TRACY MERRICK (Western Pennsylvania): On behalf of GCFA, I'd just like to indicate to you, that in bringing this to you in this form, we are trying to be responsive to the vote of the General Conference.

BISHOP SOLOMON: GCFA, do you wish to make a comment? All right, we're on the amendment, by deletion, of this item number 3 on page 3. I believe it's clearly before us. The amendment is for the deletion of the $2.4 million. Please vote when the light appears. [Results: yes, 436; no, 472]

You have defeated the amendment 48 to 52 percent. We're now on the main motion. There has been one speech for, there have been no speeches on the opposing side. The main portion is the entirety of report number 16. I go to the, yes, right here, yes, exactly so, please, would you come to microphone 7.

*Proposal to Fund Portion of Focus 2000 Through Advance*

SUSAN HASSINGER (Eastern Pennsylvania): I have a motion to amend. I move that $1.375 million of the mission initiative Focus 2000 be designated as Advance projects as follows: $300,000 for the Asian American Language Ministry Study, $70,000 of the Korean American Task Force dollars, and $1 million from the Focus on Young People dollars, and that the remaining $3.385 million be apportioned across the quadrennium, 1 percent, 2 percent, 1 percent, and zero percent. If there's a second, I'd like to explain the rationale.

BISHOP SOLOMON: Is there a second? It is a seconded properly before us.

HASSINGER: I think there's been a sense of excitement about the missional programs. We also recognize that among portions of our local church populations, there is excitement about designated giving as opposed to apportionment giving, especially where missional priorities are concerned.

My motion also takes into consideration both that excitement and concern for local churches and annual conferences in their financial pinch. Furthermore, it puts up dollars up front, as initiative begins and before Advance dollars would come in.

BISHOP SOLOMON: Would you stay for just a moment, and let the chair be clear? Are you recommending in your motion, that of the $3.8 million remaining, that that be apportioned on ratio through the items of report number 16.

HASSINGER: Yes.

BISHOP SOLOMON: All right, thank you very much. It's before us.

HASSINGER: And may I also say, my dollars may be approximate on the number of millions.

BISHOP SOLOMON: All right. Yes, you may go to microphone 3. Thank you very much. We'll hear discussion if you wish to have it on this amendment.

CHARLES D. YOOST (East Ohio): I commend the General Council on Finance and Administration on their efforts to listen to the church and to hold the line on the budget of the general church. I would be happy to go home and tell my district that there will be no increase in the first two years of the quadrennium, and only a modest two percent for the last two years.

However, I cannot get out of my mind what Bishop Boulton said in yesterday's devotions. "The United Methodist Church is parked illegally in a handicapped parking zone." I believe that we are having financial problems because we are having spiritual problems. We have vast resources as a denomination and as individual persons. The report of the General Council on Ministries coming earlier in the quadrennium indicated that United Methodists have more disposable income now than at any other time in the history of the denomination. It's time to support the priorities that we have lifted up in General Conference and get The United Methodist Church out of the handicapped zone.

Our Asian American brothers and sisters are a growing edge of our church. Our youth cannot wait, they're growing up, whether we are influencing them in the church or not. I urge your defeat of this amendment. It will be hard enough to raise this money as an apportionment let alone as an Advance Special, and I urge your full support of Focus 2000.

BISHOP SOLOMON: All right, that was a speech against. Someone wish to.., yes, in the center here, go to microphone 8 please.

JUNE MCCULLOUGH (Southern New Jersey): Bishop, I move to suspend the rules and vote on all that is before us.

BISHOP SOLOMON: Is there a second?

One of the concerns that the chair has on that, and I just want the house to be clear, we've dealt with amendments we really haven't dealt with the report in it's entirety. Speeches before, speeches after. However, I think you're in order if you wish to suspend the rules. We're going to proceed to vote on that. If you favor suspending the rules in order to vote on all that is before us, meaning Report number 16, am I correct in that? Yes that is what I am understanding. Then would you please vote when the light appears? Requires two-thirds vote. [Results: yes, 660; no, 251] You have sustained suspension of the rules in order that we vote on all that's before us.

The first item before us now is the amendment. The amendment before us, as the chair understands it, would be that in relationship to Report number 16 of these total figures, $1.375 million would be used in Advance funding; $300,000, Asian language; $70,000, Korean language; $1 million for youth; the remaining $3.8 million would be apportioned. The apportionment formula would be 1 percent, 2 percent, 1 percent, zero. That's the chair's understanding of this amendment, and it is now before us. In keeping with our procedures, I am going to ask if the chair of either

GCFA or the legislative committee wishes to make a comment.

MERRICK: Only that we place it before the body.

BISHOP SOLOMON: It's before the house. Would you please vote when the light appears? Yes? Is there a point of order? Please state your point of order. Go to microphone 2.

RANDOLPH W. NUGENT (New York): The Advance is designated by the *Discipline* to be a General Board of Global Ministries fund. These particular programs are not in the general—one of the programs is not a designated program. Therefore, I'm asking for ruling as to whether that action which we're facing would apply with reference to the third sector.

BISHOP SOLOMON: Chair would understand that the designation of the Advance actually occurs as a joint initiative between GBGM and GCOM, and there would have to be some enabling motion to provide for action on this if that's the will of the body to try to direct this. We can refer in appropriate manner. You as a committee are free to respond. All right. The amendment is before us. Would you please vote when the light appears. [Results: yes, 426; no, 493]

*Focus 2000 Advance Proposal Fails*

The amendment does not prevail. We are back on the main motion. The main motion before the house is Report number 16 in its entirety. I'll invite the chair of GCFA and the legislative committee to make any concluding comments.

MERRICK: Just that we would urge it's adoption, as it stands at this point.

BISHOP SOLOMON: That's from the legislative committee. Now from GCFA. All right. Am I understanding you're speaking for GCFA?

MERRICK: Yes that's, that's the understanding.

BISHOP SOLOMON: So this Report number 16 is now before us. Please vote when the light appears. [Results: yes, 667; no, 258] It prevails.

All right. Now then I turn to the committee. Are there other items on the GCFA and legislative committee report that deal with this? Then the chair would entertain us to vote. You've adopted all of these items individually legislative committees. I believe that that covers it in its entirety. The adoption of the report as a whole has already occurred because we've adopted all the parts. We're going to move on in our calendar items unless there is a point of clarification or a point of order. Yes? Would you please go to microphone 3?

JEROLD W. VOGT (Kansas West): Bishop and members of the General Conference, I have a question, Bishop, that may be a motion that I'd like to ask if that would be in order.

BISHOP SOLOMON: Well surely. State your question and then we'll see where we go from there.

VOGT: My question is, if any place in the reports that we've received at General Conference, that there are any figures that let us know the amount of balances or reserves in the various boards that we've been talking about?

BISHOP SOLOMON: All right. We'll turn to the General Secretary of GCFA for a response.

SANDRA LACKORE: Yes. Those reports were before you as requested by the last General Conference and they can be found starting on page 1146.

BETH TAYLOR: 1145.

LACKORE: This is Beth Taylor our controller. She's got laryngitis. And I apologize—1145, and they were in the *DCA* that you received on your desk when you arrived.

*Changes in Accounting Procedures*

BISHOP SOLOMON: Thank you. All right. And may the chair just take a moment to acknowledge in the reference a moment ago to changing in standard accounting procedures. Prior to this time our assets in our boards and agencies have been able to be listed as book value on the purchase. They now have to be listed as book value in regard to fair market price. It means that the assets appear to be significantly, as they are, increased over when they were bought. When you look at that, you see the resources of the boards and agencies to reflect more than they have ever reflected. It's simply an accounting procedure you might want to know that as the house. We're going to turn now, unless it's a point of order or inquiry, to the next calendar item which will be presented. Excuse me.

SANDRA LACKORE: GCFA is impressed, Bishop, with the level of expertise of the chair.

BISHOP SOLOMON: Well, all right. We're going to go on now. *(applause)* Thank you. All right we turn now to, I believe there that there is a point of personal privilege. It was designed to be on the Calendar for 12:15 and the fact of the matter is we are at that point and we have agreed to honor this request. You have been a very wonderful and patient, and helpful body as we have worked through a major budgeting process this morning. I want to express appreciation to you, I want to express appreciation and gratitude to Bishops Oden and Blake who have backed me up, and I want to turn now to a calendar item that's really an order of the day and a matter of personal privilege relating to the EUB anniversary and we'll hear from Mark Conrad. Thank you. Excuse me, Mark Conard. That is microphone 4 please.

*EUB 50th Anniversary*

MARK CONARD (Kansas West): Bishop, delegates and friends and visitors of this General Conference. I am vice president of the Historical Society of the United Methodist Church. I want to express appreciation for the recognition of the 50th anniversary of the formation of the EUB Church earlier this week. That is deeply appreciated. I also want to note that an action taken on the Consent Calendar that this General Conference has approved the designation of what is now First United Methodist

Church in Johnstown, Pa., as a heritage landmark of the denomination. It was there in November, 1946, that the EUB Church came into being. And in recognition of this designation and in honor of this anniversary, I want to ask the greetings of the General Conference be sent to First United Methodist Church in Johnstown, to the Johnstown District, and the Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference.

Further, I would encourage that upon our return home, delegates to this General Conference take the opportunity, as it may become possible to make note of this anniversary in the sessions of their annual conferences and jurisdictional conferences. In so doing, we express our thanks to God for the lasting heritage and lively witness of the EUB Church, which is now a blessing for all of God's people known as United Methodists. Thank you.

BISHOP SOLOMON: All right. It's my understanding...*[applause]* Thank you very much. And we celebrate the word you share. It's my understanding that there is a need to suspend the rules for the allowing of cards to be shared regarding the next General Conference. At least for these to be placed on the tables during the lunch hour. By a show of hands, would you suspend the rules for this purpose? Opposed, would you register your dissent. And the rules are suspended for the purpose of allowing cards welcoming the next General Conference to East Ohio to be placed at the tables during the lunch hour. All right. Yes? In the very back, here. Please go to microphone 9.

LOVETT WEEMS (Missouri West): A question. When would a motion be in order dealing with what we have just dealt with and the process that we've used for future General Conferences?

BISHOP SOLOMON: Were it not for the fact that we have a few minutes, I would say sometime later today, but I think we have a few minutes, so I'll recognize you to make a motion.

### *Financial Proposal Deadlines for General Conference Approved*

WEEMS: Yes. I move that the General Council on Finance and Administration and the appropriate committee of the General Conference develop, for the 2000 General Conference, deadlines for any proposals with financial commitments, so they can be considered by GCFA and the Financial Administration Committee during the first week of General Conference. If there's a second, I would like to speak to it.

BISHOP SOLOMON: Is there a second? It is seconded. You may speak.

WEEMS: Bishop and members of the conference, as we celebrate the important efforts that we have just funded, I do have a concern about the process. I'm thinking about the persons who over a long time have been a part of a budgeting process where budgets have been brought down and down and down, where person had to go back and reformulate plans for much smaller amounts of money than we've just voted, where meticulous questions were asked and tremendous accountability was required before any funds would get into the budget.

And here in the last few days of the conference, after the legislative committee has completed its work, and when GCFA has to meet during a mealtime to consider millions of dollars, that is a problem. Again, the concern is not with what we have approved, but I believe that if these matters had been before us, they would have been addressed. But I also believe we would have come out with budget shaped differently so that all the items could have been on the table at the same time for consideration.

BISHOP SOLOMON: All right. That motion is before us. Now, the chair has a sense of the body that you're either in favor of this motion or you're opposed to it, and you've come to your mind on that without further speeches. Please vote when the light appears. (*laughter*) [Results: yes, 756] That motion is approved. All right. Yes? You may go to microphone 3.

BECKY HAASE (California-Pacific): I'd like to request a moment of personal privilege. This is the fifth General Conference I have attended either as a delegate or as an alternate. I came to this General Conference with a great deal of apprehension about what I thought might be happening during these two weeks. I'm very pleased that, although certainly not all the decisions have gone in the directions I would like them to, that the mood and the spirit of this General Conference has been one of being able to listen to each other out of our diversity.

There are two groups, however, that I feel I would like to lift up at this time, as two groups that I feel have particularly given us some prophetic leadership. I would like to lift them and express my gratitude and perhaps the General Conference would agree with me. The first is members of the Council of Bishops who I think have given us particularly prophetic word at this particular conference. And the second group is our youth and young adults. And I am grateful for the enthusiasm, which I use here in a theological term, that is leading us into the next quadrennium. And I thank you all for that.

BISHOP SOLOMON: Thank you for sharing that word. We receive it gratefully. (*applause*) All right. We had a delegate here to microphone 1, please.

### *Plea for Full Funding for Africa University*

RICHARD E. REEVES (Central Illinois): Personal privilege. I'm also on African University Board of Directors, as you know. The joy and excitement we felt when the African University choir sang for us still fills our hearts, because we, under God's blessing and guidance, get to be involved in this great ministry and mission of the church. You already know the request for the 1997-2000 quadrennium is the same as the previous

quadrenniums, $10 million from apportionment, $10 million from World Service and Special Gifts.

I think we need to know that after prior claims, the university received less than $8 million from our giving in each of the previous quadrenniums from apportionment, and less than $4 million each quadrennium from World Service. The university needs the full amounts requested from both sources if it is to grow as planned to fulfill the need. The amounts requested for both funds is approximately 60 cents per member, per year. The equivalent of a cup of coffee or a Coke once a year. There has been a wonderful response for buildings and from voluntary mission teams for which we are most grateful. The need for operation and endowment funds for scholarships and student aid continues.

When we return home, let's do these three things. First, make sure our own churches and conferences pay their apportionment for Africa University. Second, pay our share of our World Service Special Gift for Endowments. And third, pray for Africa University and especially for its students, now and in the future, that they may achieve their hopes and their potential.

BISHOP SOLOMON: All right. I have a card right here. You may go to microphone 8.

JOHN HOPKINS (South Indiana): I appreciate you for having the "wisdom of Solomon" in this session, but there's (*laughter and applause*)

BISHOP SOLOMON: Please proceed.

### *GCFA Help for Local Church Budget Balancing Requested*

HOPKINS: You've done an excellent job of leading us through, but there is a motion I have on the financial aspects of the conference that I would like to make. I'm a local pastor and the chair of the South Indiana Conference's Council on Finance and Administration. South Indiana paid 10 percent of all its funds in 1995 for the first time in probably 8 or 10 years, and we did that in February, after we ended the year and saw our receipts, and sent our money in to pay in full.

This is my motion: I move that the General Council on Finance and Administration help annual conferences develop a plan to balance their budgets and move toward 10 percent payment of all general church funds with report of results to the General Conference in the year 2000. If I have a second, I will speak to it.

BISHOP SOLOMON: All right. The chair understands that to be a request to be made. All right.

HOPKINS: Over the past year, five years actually, the amount paid on our general church funds has been just under 85 percent, ranging from some annual conferences in '95 paying at 67 percent, to one annual conference paying 101 percent. Special recognition ought to go to Wisconsin, Peninsula-Delaware, and the Red Bird Missionary Conferences for paying 10 percent for all funds for over the past five years. (*applause*)

We adopted a budget of $508 million. Actually, if we were honest, we adopted a budget of $432 million, because we expect to receive 85 percent. That means the budget pay out is really $832 million, and we've added $76 million to that budget, in order to collect the $432 million we expect to spend. Conferences paying 10 percent will have to pay almost 18 percent more to support the general church for those conferences that are not able to pay in full.

This means two things: 1) If every annual conference would pay 10 percent of it general church funds, we could lower the budget by $76 million. On the other hand, if we all paid 10 percent, we'd have $76 million more to spend on mission. To put it another way, for every 1 percent we increase our receipts, we have about $4.5 million to spend.

Annual conferences don't pay 10 percent because local churches can't balance their budget. If you look at page 270 in the red *DCA*, you'll know why. That's because they can't afford a pastor at the salary level they have and meet all their expenses. Most of our annual conferences have as many full-time clergy serving in local churches now as they did in 1968, in spite of the fact that membership has plummeted, and compensation has increased. We need to help our local churches balance their budgets if we want to balance the General Conference budget. Just like we have to help people in our local churches balance their personal budget, if we want them to tithe and give apportionatly. I believe that God always gives us the blessings we need to do the work of the church.

BISHOP SOLOMON: Your time is up.

HOPKINS: If we have good stewardship, we'll have the money to do that mission. (*applause*)

BISHOP SOLOMON: All right. I think the motion is before us. This is a matter of request to GCFA, and I believe that you are of a mind to express yourself. Please vote when the light appears. [Results: yes, 676; no, 144] It is approved. Thank you very much. We turn now to Carolyn Marshall for announcements.

CAROLYN MARSHALL: We have now been here almost 10 days. There have been times when we've been weary of the process, but this word has come to the platform this morning, and I think needs to be shared with all of us. It comes from the spirit in which delegates and visitors alike have interacted with those who have been serving us throughout this time.

Two quotes I bring to you: One from one of the custodial workers this morning who said, "I sure hate to see this conference end. There has been so much grace here, and we've never felt so welcomed and a part of any function held." (*applause*) And secondly, from a food worker downstairs who said, "Do you really have to leave today? This is the first time I've really enjoyed my job. This is a great group." (*applause*)

BISHOP SOLOMON: Thank you very much. Will you hold steady now for just a moment? Some years ago I had the opportunity to participate in

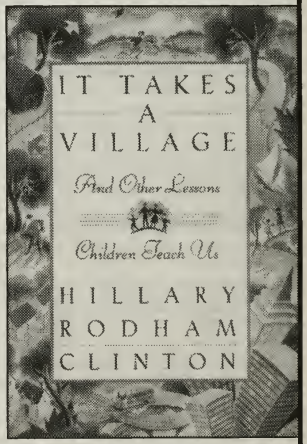
the Bishops' Conference in Latin America and came to know the remarkable spirit and gentle, pastoral leadership, and yet the prophetic voice of Bishop Aldo Etchogoyen. He is with us, now, from Argentina, and I'm going to ask him to come and lead us in the benediction for this session, in his own language. And will you just simply remain seated for this benediction. Upon the ending of the benediction, we'll be in recess until 2 p.m. Bishop Etchogoyen.

*(prayer)*

BISHOP SOLOMON: Bishop, thank you so very much. God bless you.


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## Friday Afternoon April 26, 1996

*Bishop Judith Craig, presiding*

BISHOP JUDITH CRAIG: Thank you very much. Now, delegates and friends, if you will find your seats. This is the last time we'll get to come together at sleepy time. By tonight it will be total nap time. So let's see if we can stay awake this afternoon, and be in good order. You've been a very good house this morning. It's time for us to be in order. And, I'm going to ask those that are coming in to come in quietly, please, because we're going to turn to that centering time that has been so rich for us across this week.

It has been beautiful to watch and to do, and I want to invite us once again to get in touch with our dreams and desires that rise out of our urge to be faithful, and see how close we can bring those to our awareness of God's loving desires of us. I want to suggest that we do it this way this afternoon. I want to ask those who are moving about to please cease your conversation and join us. Gallery, find a piece of paper and join us in this.

I'm going to suggest that as the questions come on the screen this afternoon, the first question, "What is my most earnest hope for the next few hours of this General Conference?" Will you sit quietly for a minute or two and reflect on that and write down, put it out there in front of you. "What is my most earnest hope for the next few hours of this General Conference?" See if you can put that in a sentence, in two or three phrases. Something that you can write concretely in front of you. And then in a moment I'll invite you to turn to a partner, and to share that, and say how close you think that is, or what kind of confession you need to make because it's not close, to what you really think God wants for us. We've been doing this so many times now, I hope these desires are coming closer and closer. But they will never quite be one until we always place ourselves in a position of prayer. So, will you contemplatively, honestly, find a way to put in a few words in front of you, what is your most earnest hope for the next few hours of this General Conference?

And now let me suggest you find a partner that perhaps you haven't spoken with a lot in this week and ask...speak to each other of what you believe God's most earnest desire is for us in these next few hours, conscious of what you have written on your paper. Please speak to each other.

Now, will you take the hand of that conversation partner, and remember the words we prayed in song this morning as we sang the closing hymn. "Come Spirit, come; our hearts control, our Spirits long to be made whole. Let inward love guide every deed. By this we worship and are freed. Amen." Thank you.

Now, friends, you have before you the agenda as its been printed on the front of the *DCA*. We're going to adhere to that as closely as we possibly can. We have several items that will precede the current Calendar Items and the chair is going to understand that everything that is on the agenda is in order of the day, and will be dealt with as an order of the day and, therefore not be very open to interruptions of any other kind, with your help. So we begin by turning to Bishop Edwin C. Boulton and the Rev. Kenneth Chalker, who have an invitation and welcome for us. Bishop Boulton, Ken. Let's be in order and give our attention to Bishop Boulton, please.

*Invitation to Cleveland for GC2000 from East Ohio Conference*

BISHOP EDWIN C. BOULTON: Bishop Craig and friends, I stand in a very privileged role before you in these next two or three minutes, for just by the very nature of things, there are not a great many annual conferences that will have the opportunity to entertain or make provision for a General Conference. And, the East Ohio Annual Conference, where I now serve, has been approved by you as the body that will be given the opportunity and the responsibility to do that in the year 2000. And I thank you. I thank the General Conference Commission which has given us this privilege.

I suspect this is one of those privileges that will end with a backache and a headache and a few other aches, but so be it. I'm a very courageous person, and about the first of September I'm going into retirement, and whoever, in the inscrutable wisdom of God, is to be assigned to my area is going to have it all to do. One of the fascinating things about being assigned to East Ohio eight years ago was the discovery of a wonderful new colony of people to me, that Betty Ann and I have come to feel at home with, and literally to adore. While my conduct as a retired bishop will have to be very, very carefully monitored, something of our profound affection for the area and the people is to be seen in the fact that we intend to retire there.

And so, we will drive less than 50 miles from where we now live to Cleveland so that I can be a retired bishop in the General Conference of the year 2000. And I'm looking forward to that. The East Ohio Area is one of the many great areas of the church. And Cleveland is one of the great cities of our country. It has had a kind of history, especially in the last number of years, that has caused people occasionally to make fun of it, referring to it, as sometimes, the "mistake on the lake." I've not found it so, I've not found it so. Nor will you. It's a great place, a great annual conference, a great people of God.

Kenneth Chalker, pastor of First Church in Cleveland, is a person that I've already appointed to chair the local arrangements that will be generated there. Ken and his colleagues have seen to it that there is a little purple- colored invitation at each one of your places. And madam chair, I am delighted, in behalf of Ken and all of my colleagues in East Ohio, to commend this to you that you might accept it as our formal invitation to you. We're going to have a party on the

lake about four years from now. I hope to be there, and I hope you are, too. Thank you very much. (*applause*)

BISHOP CRAIG: Thank you, Bishop Boulton. I'm particularly pleased to be in the chair when that happens. Cleveland is the city in which I was ordained an elder, and it is the city in which I will attend my last General Conference as, what they call, an effective bishop.(*laughter*) And it will be a thrill to go home to the conference that found a way to get rid of me, nominate her for the episcopacy. They said, "That'll get rid of her." (*laughter*) And, so, I feel like it's a wonderful invitation to accept. Thank you very much, Bishop Boulton and Rev. Chalker.

Now, he's mentioned retirement. We want to turn to William B. Cook, who is going to lead us in a moment of grace, recognizing some faithful servants of the church. Mr. Cook.

WILLIAM B. COOK (Oregon-Idaho): It is my pleasure to introduce Bishop Melvin Talbert, who will introduce the 1996 class of bishops.

*Bishops Retiring After GC 1996*

BISHOP MELVIN G. TALBERT: Bishop Craig, delegates of the 1996 General Conference. It is my distinct honor and privilege now to present to you those members of the Council of Bishops who will be retiring this year, effective August 31. These servants of our church have provided exemplary leadership over the years. They have been faithful to the call of God and to the call of their church. Having reached the age of retirement, we now recognize them and honor them for their faithful witness and service, in the name of Jesus Christ and of The United Methodist Church.

As I call their names, they will join me here in front of the altar, starting here and going across. If you would hold your applause, after they all have arrived I will ask you to join me in extending to them our heartfelt thanks, appreciation, and love for who they are, and in so doing we will be asking God's continued blessings upon them in the years to come. Now starting with 1988: William B. Lewis, the Dakotas Area. And if you will just come and stand here and go across. Clay F. Lee, the Knoxville area; R. Sheldon Duecker, the Chicago area; H. Hasbrouck Hughes, the Florida area; Thomas R. Stockton, the Richmond area. Class of '94: David J. Lawson of the Springfield area; Forrest C. Stith—he had to leave today and couldn't be with us—of the New York area; L. Bevel Jones III, the Charlotte area; J. Lloyd Knox, of the Atlanta area; Richard B. Wilke of the Little Rock area. From the Class of 1980: Calvin D. McConnell of the Seattle area; C.P. Minnick Jr., the Raleigh area; William Boyd Grove of the Albany area; F. Herbert Skeete, of the Boston area; Edwin C. Bolton of the Ohio East area. And then of the Class of 1972: Joseph H. Yeakel, the Washington area. Delegates and friends of the General Conference, our retiring servants of our church. (*applause*) Thank you very much.

BISHOP CRAIG: Thank you, Bishop Talbert. Let me say this word to my episcopal brothers who are retiring. That applause wasn't "we're glad you're going." It was, "We're glad God gave you good life and health to serve us, and faith to lead us, and gave us this moment with you to thank you. Thanks be to God."

*Marshall Re-elected General Conference Secretary*

Now we have a few additional elections we need to attend to. If you'll turn first to page 25 in the blue book; that's the second page 25. It's in Volume 3, number 2, page 25. You'll see there a nomination for the secretary designate of the General Conference. You'll see the name of Carolyn Marshall. This nomination is before you, but the floor is open if there are other nominations for secretary designate of the General Conference. Are there further nominations? I see no cards. That makes me think you are ready to cast a vote, so we will give you an opportunity to elect Carolyn as secretary designate. Please vote when the light appears. [774 approved] (*applause*) Congratulations, Carolyn. Thank you, Carolyn, for your good service this year, and we look forward to your service in the future.

Now if you will turn in your blue books to page 652, 653, and 654. Blue books, page 652, 653, and 654. We have a series of nominations there that come to you by the rules of the General Conference and the order of the *Discipline* from the Council of Bishops. The nominations are there for you now to elect. Make sure you've got the pages: 652, 653, 654. Is this a question for clarification? We're in the midst of an election, if you can wait, thank you. Question for clarification? Microphone 8, please.

DAVID SEVERE (Oklahoma): Bishop, my question is, are the nominations open for additional nominations, or are we to vote this slate up or down?

BISHOP CRAIG: It is the chair's understanding that these come to you by rules of the council, and you are to vote the slate up or down. All right. Are you ready? Is it in relation to the elections? We're still in the electing process. All right, these nominations are before you. Do you have a question or a point of order? The floor is not open for further nominations. We are simply ready to act on the slate. What is the question in the back? By microphone 14, the woman in the blue, please.

PHYLLIS FERGUSON (Pacific-Northwest): On the Connectional Process Team, I'd like to ask if there is at least one nomination from each ethnic group? It has been brought to my attention, there are no Pacific Islanders on this team. This is in relation to the Connectional Process Team only.

BISHOP CRAIG: If you will notice on the right-hand column of page 652, there is a pool of names, and additional nominations and elections will be coming by the rules we adopted earlier in the week. And there are, I understand, persons available in that pool. I'm looking to a member of the

nominating committee. So while it's not before you now, there will be additional opportunities for that at a later time by the rule.

FERGUSON: Thank you, Bishop Craig.

BISHOP CRAIG: Thank you very much. All right, I think you're ready to make...is this questions for clarification? We're on this election. Right here at microphone 3.

PATRICIA E. FARRIS (California-Pacific): Is a motion to refer back to the council in order?

BISHOP CRAIG: Yes, it is in order.

FARRIS: May I make the motion and then state my rationale?

BISHOP CRAIG: You may.

FERRIS: I would move to refer this back to the council for further consideration. Only 9 of the 24 nominated are women. There's only one clergy woman nominated, and I would respectfully request the council reconsider this list.

BISHOP CRAIG: Let me ask you to be very clear. Which list? We're on all three pages.

FERRIS: For the CPT.

BISHOP CRAIG: You're asking to refer only the CPT?

FERRIS: Yes.

BISHOP CRAIG: Is there support? I see support. The motion is to refer the nominations for the Connectional Process Team back to the Council of Bishops for further work for the reason stated. We're on the motion to refer. If you will refer, please vote when the light appears. Motion to refer. [Results: 315, yes; no, 509] Motion is not referred, so the whole slate is still before you, and all three pages are before you. I believe you are ready to elect these persons. Please vote when the light appears. [approved 756]

Thank you. These persons are elected. Thank you very much. Now we're going to turn to Calendar Items on the local church. And we're turning to Janice Riggle Huie for the committee. Good afternoon Janice.

*Local Church Report Introduced*

JANICE RIGGLE HUIE (Southwest Texas): Bishop Craig, members of the General Conference. We've been waiting for this moment. We are pleased to present our report to you of the Local Church Legislative Committee. If you concur with many of the proposals presented in this report, there will be some significant changes in the chapter in the *Discipline* on the local church. We believe that these changes will make our congregations more effective in mission and in ministry.

Our legislative committee received many calls for change. They ranged from eliminating most local church structures, to adding more local church structures and work areas. In a style that has become familiar to us, we listened for deepest concerns and highest dreams. We built consensus around proposals that addressed local church concerns and expanded horizons for mission. In regard to local church structure, we are proposing what committee members referred to as a "cafeteria plan." This is opposed to either "cook it yourself," or "eat what I give you and don't complain."

In the cafeteria plan, you may choose an organizational plan from one specifically named. Or you may create your own structure within the guidelines named by our tradition and our mission. If a congregation already has an effective structure for mission, whether that's an administrative council, an administrative board and COM, a nurture outreach witness model, nothing we will offer here diminishes that. There is no requirement for any congregation to change. There is the opportunity for developing new options as the need arises. There are 21 petitions for us to vote on. An overview of the whole may help us to move more quickly. I will be brief and I want to overview the major themes.

*Overview of Local Church Themes*

Number 1. United Methodists want to be in mission. Structure is simply a way to organize ourselves for mission. Everything we offer here is directed towards mission.

Number 2. The local church is the primary base for mission and for ministry. We appreciate and affirm this insight from the connectional issues study. We boldly claim that reality. One of the ways that some churches may choose to claim that identity is to change the name of their governing body. There are many people who find that the language, administrative board or administrative council, is more bureaucratic than biblical, more maintenance than mission. You will notice in what we present, that the basic governing body is called simply "church council." It claims who we are—church. You will also notice that we would no longer have work areas. As Jean Dowell, a lay woman who was a subcommittee chair, commented, "Nobody wants to be a part of work areas. They want to be in ministry." Those same functions are now referred to as ministry groups. "Ministry"—it claims who we are.

Number 3. Flexibility, simplicity, innovation. Beyond the foundational units, that is, charge conference, PPRC, trustees, nominating committee, ministries of nurture, outreach and witness, the language of the structure is permissive, encouraging congregations to reflect on mission from their context and to organize themselves in the most effective way to accomplish their mission. Therefore, there are many more "mays" than "shalls."

Many people in our legislative committee felt that the *Discipline* in the local church section leaves them swimming in a sea of words. The legislative committee identified traditional areas of ministry in the current *Discipline*. It retained the ministry by naming it and often deleted long descriptions. We preferred simplicity in the *Discipline* in the section on local church. Sometimes people said, "Well the local church can't do this, or the local church can't do that." Our legislative committee was made up of people from local churches, clergy and

lay. And over and over again, those 80 people said, "We can do it. We can do it."

Number 4. Clergy and laity are partners in ministry. You heard it in the laity address, you will see it in the legislation.

Number 5. Connect, connect, connect—the language of much of the first week in our legislative committee. Inclusiveness was an extremely high priority for the legislative committee. Language regarding inclusiveness remains, and in some places is strengthened. In addition the legislative committee on the local church is deeply committed to the United Methodist connectional church, the body voted unanimously to nonconcur with all items related to optional apportionments. We want to utilize our annual conference and General Conference boards and agencies to resource our local congregations as well as to extend the mission of the church in broad ways.

*Local Church Mission Statement*

So these are the themes that will be woven throughout these 21 petitions which we will present to you. I begin by offering an item—the mission statement. You have already adopted it, but I want to call it to your attention. You will find it in the blue *DCA* on page 457, it is Calendar Item 1782. The underlined portions in that petition are the excellent additions which came from the Discipleship Legislative Committee. We thank them. We want you to celebrate with us this historic moment. We believe that this is the first mission statement in a single sentence, with the expansion statements under it, adopted in the local church section of the *Discipline* in more than a quarter of a century. Congratulations to all of you for that wonderful, wonderful adoption of that mission statement.

This statement is the beginning point now from which all our local church legislation flows. The first two reports will be given by Jim Harnish, clergy from Florida, Terry Clark, clergy from Southern [Central] Illinois. They are two subcommittee chairs. They will overview our first four major petitions, and then we will bring them to you for your vote. Thank you.

BISHOP CRAIG: All right. Thank you.

JIM HARNISH (Florida): Bishop, and members of the conference, we present to you the main entrees in this local church cafeteria. You'll find it on page 140 in the blue book, Calendar Item 194. It refers to Petition 20696 in the red book, but you really don't need to turn to that because the *DCA* folks have been gracious enough to print the entire paragraph the way that we are proposing it to you. So, I'll lead you to page 140 in the right hand column, you'll see the new paragraph 245 as it would read. And at this time I'll ask the folks to project the graph that we have on the screen. Since a picture is worth a thousand words, we've tried to give you an image of what this structure looks like.

*Church Council and Four Mandated Committees*

As Janice said, everything that we are attempting to do grows out of the definition of mission that has been developed and approved by this body. Our task is to fulfill that mission in whatever way is most effective for that particular congregation, meeting the needs of its particular community with the unique resources that it has. And so it's that sense of mission that drives us in this process. You'll see to the far left of the screen, the familiar form of the charge conference, which continues to be the connectional link for every local church to the rest of the body of United Methodism. Then in the center you'll see the new church council. The church council—it's a round table. And gathered around that round table are four mandated bodies: the Pastor-Parish Relations Committee, the Board of Trustees, the Committee on Finance, the Committee on Nominations and Personnel.

And then if you're looking in the paragraph on page 140, the words read, "and such other elected leaders, commissions, councils, committees and task forces as the charge conference may determine. Every local church shall develop a plan for organizing it's administrative and programmatic responsibilities. Each local congregation shall provide a comprehensive program of nurture, outreach and witness, along with leadership training and the planning and administration of the congregation's organizational and temporal life in accordance with the mission of The United Methodist Church." See paragraph 101-114.

*Nurture, Outreach, Witness*

The three primary prongs of mission and ministry which are extended out from this church council table are defined as nurture, outreach and witness, which some of us have come to know as the NOW model. But the forms which those ministries and missions take will be determined by the church council. Around that church council table are the persons, we believe, who will be gifted by the spirit with the vision of the best way to fulfill that mission and that ministry in that local church.

Number 1 in the paragraph, you will note, that the church council and all other administrative and programmatic structures of the local church shall be amenable to the church conference. And the church council shall function as the executive agency of the church conference. Then item 2 is critically important and it underscores what Janice communicated to you about this cafeteria plan enabling churches to use those structures that are most effective for them. Alternative plans may be developed in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 248.2. Such alternatives may include: nurture, outreach and witness ministries; administrative council; or administrative board council on ministries.

In a real sense we see the work that the legislative committee has done as being a part of the process that began all the way back there when the Council of Ministries first came into what had been the Methodist Church into the new United Methodist Church, then was transformed and changed by the adoption of the plans for administrative council. And this continues that movement in the direction that we hear churches calling and asking for.

*Structural Options*

Now that is the primary petition that would establish the church council as the basic organizational plan allowing for all the other alternatives. If you'll turn in the blue *DCA* to page 456, I want to draw your attention to Calendar Item 1779 on page 456. This elaborates on this structure. You'll see the first part largely reinforces what we've said about the church council and lists the mandated membership, and then again says that the church council will be composed of all the folks that that local church needs to draw around its table. It defines the nurturing, outreach and witness ministries; says a word about meetings and the order of the structure. And then if you'll look in the right hand column, Item 4, "If a church chooses to have an administrative council or administrative board."

Because these forms of church structure have been effective in many congregations, we assume there will be many congregations who will want to continue their existence. And so the rest of this column picks up the disciplinary language which continues to define and describe the administrative board, administrative council structure. So that within the *Discipline*, those alternatives are defined and available to the persons who would want to use them. These two calendar items define the church council. You need to know that you've already approved Calendar Item 1779 on the Consent Calendar. Now Terry Clark will come and share with us the next two pieces of this outline.

TERRY CLARK (Central Illinois): Bishop Craig, and members of the conference, what we share with you is a variety; but it's important that we remember the variety is based on mission. Several years ago one of our daughters, in waiting for a date, out of parental curiosity I asked, "What do you expect of the evening," and she paused for a moment and said, "Well, dad, if the evening goes as I think, the purpose should, there won't be any confusion at the end of the evening." And that is how, I think, it is in ministry as we prepare this for you...is that there is no confusion, but a variety of which you can draw from.

*Ministry Area Options*

There are two major petitions that will be before you that we will look at. They are both found on volume 3, the blue *DCA* on page 455. They both deal with the elimination of work areas. One is specifically dealing with the work areas that we have come to know. The other deals with age level coordinators and family coordinator. Now, even though the headings talk about elimination, because that was the wording of the original petitions, we have made amendments to those. And you look very closely at that and see that the words there are "may;" that a charge conference *may* continue those work areas that we have come to know. Of christian unity and interreligious concerns, church and society, education, evangelism, higher education and campus ministry, missions, you see a new one there that has been approved—prayer advocacy. Religion in race, role and status of women, religion and race.

*Age Level and Family Options*

And then on the far right column, the Calendar Item 1774, even though the heading says the elimination of the age level and family coordinators, please note, that here we also lift up again the "may." And the reason that is is because as churches think of their mission, there will be many as they continue to step out in new mission areas, feel very secure in using those categories of work areas as well as age level coordinators, to do that particular ministry. There are then four other petitions that will deal with that elimination also, of those. Let me again assure you that what is being done here is for the purpose of advancing the mission of the local church into the world.

The director of lay speaking for the district in which I reside, his name is Al Kochefski. Al is six feet seven inches tall, and weighs about 300 pounds, and a cartoon he has is most helpful, where a customer enters into a shop and there sees a sign that says "one size fits Al." He says to the salesperson, now, don't you mean one size fits all? And the sales personnel says, "no, Al." And she points over and there's a large man standing to the side. We hope that what is being presented here will not be one size that fits all, but will be in terms of many sizes that again gets at the thrust of the mission of the local church for Jesus Christ.

HARNISH: For our action, therefore, bishop and members of the Conference, we commend to you Calendar Item 194 on page 140. It comes to you with the recommendation of consensus of 76 for and 3 opposed.

BISHOP CRAIG: All right. Thank you very much. What is before us is on page 140 of the blue book. Calendar Item 194. Are you ready? All right, I see a card, right here in this section. Come to microphone 8, please. OK, you're coming over to number 9.

CHARLOTTE ABRAM (Nebraska): Bishop, I would like to make a motion to amend if that would be in order?

BISHOP CRAIG: It is.

ABRAM: Yes, Bishop, I would like to amend the point 2 under this motion. The words begin "alternative plan" following the words "such alternatives include." I move to insert the words "the interactive organizational process." If I get a second, I will speak to that.

BISHOP CRAIG: All right. Is there a second? I see support.

HARNISH: Bishop, we're willing to accept that.

BISHOP CRAIG: Jim is indicating that they'll accept that. Is there any objection in the house? If the committee accepts that? All right. It looks like it's acceptable.

ABRAM: Thank you.

BISHOP CRAIG: Do you mind not making your speech?

ABRAM: I don't mind. (*laughter*)

BISHOP CRAIG: All right. Calendar Item 194, Yes? right over here. Microphone 9, again.

*Role of Pastor in New Structure*

JEROME DEL PINO (New England): Bishop, I have a question. The question has to do with the deletion of the existing text regarding the pastor as chief administrative office of the local church in charge. My question is simply, what then is the role of the pastor in relationship to this new creation? Particularly *vis-a-vis* the whole matter of apportionments, the whole matter of accountability for the overall workings of the local church.

...when it comes to the appointing authorities in supervision and evaluation.

BISHOP CRAIG: Let's turn to the committee.

JAMES A. HARNISH (Florida): Yes, there was a petition relating to that paragraph. The legislative committee voted nonconcurrence, which would remove that language. I'm not sure if that petition ended up on the Consent Calendar? Yes. It ended up on the Consent Calendar. The sense of the legislative committee was, they were uncomfortable with that language. It sounded more like the language of secular business and of the secular world rather than the life of the body of Christ. That was the basis upon which the legislative committee voted in support of the petition that removed that language.

BISHOP CRAIG: All right. You've already spoken Jerome. Did he not answer your question? Let's come over here. Microphone 7, please.

THOMAS W. FLINN JR. (Baltimore-Washington): If I remember correctly, I was in this section, and the petition that was before us was not chief administrative officer. It was chief executive officer. And that was what we voted nonconcurrence. Isn't that correct? So understanding that and having the same concern that my colleague just mentioned a little while ago, I would like to move that we reinstate that printing that has been crossed out.

BISHOP CRAIG: All right. There is a motion to amend. I hear support. Would you wish to speak to it?

FLINN: Yes. It seems to me that as we go in plowing these new grounds in areas of vagueness, and this is in vagueness when you start eliminating all the work areas, areas that have been assigned to individuals within your church that know exactly what their job is and where they're supposed to go, into three basic areas, we certainly need a leader out there that will guide that, someone in charge, someone that can certainly show us the right direction. So that's it.

BISHOP CRAIG: Thank you very much. Now we're on the motion to amend, which would restore the language in the middle, bottom third of the column in the middle that has been deleted. The motion to amend. On that motion, right there. Come down to microphone 4.

CHARLIE O. DUNDAS (Minnesota): I speak against the motion to amend. I do not believe that pastoral leadership and administrative guidance depends on that being designated in the *Discipline*, but rather on trust and relational experiences within the congregation. And I believe that the pastoral role as shepherd and as prophet provides every opportunity for us to lead the church as pastoral servant leaders, and that we do not need to be shored up by having a designation of administrative executive or chief executive or whatever.

BISHOP CRAIG: All right. Thank you. There was a speech for and a speech against. I need now a speech for the amendment. For the amendment. Back there, far back. I'm sorry, behind you. The gentleman in the grey jacket. Yes. Microphone 9. Are you speaking for the amendment?

ARNOLD A. RHODES (Western Pennsylvania): Yes. It is very important in the life of the church to have a connection. And one of the places of connection in following the principles that were placed on the screen is the pastor. And the pastor as a chief administrative officer ensures the connection with that local church to the annual conference and to The United Methodist Church as a whole. When the local church makes decisions about its life and its mission, it's important that they have that connection and that there is a person in the life of that congregation that supports that connection and interprets that connection to the local church. And the pastor as a chief administrative officer can do that well.

BISHOP CRAIG: Thank you very much. We can have one more speech against. Way back in the back corner. Microphone 11. Are you against the amendment?

THOMAS J. BICKERTON (West Virginia): Our United Methodist *Discipline* is very clear about the responsibilities and duties of a pastor. Paragraph 439 on pages 236 and 237 state very clear what the role of a pastor is in the local church. I speak against the amendment.

BISHOP CRAIG: All right, thank you. We've had two for and two against. By our rules we go to vote. We are on the motion to amend by restoring the text that is marked "deleted," in the middle of the column of Calendar Item 194. Please vote when the light appears. The motion is defeated. We are back on Calendar Item 194. All right, right here. I see a card. Come to microphone 3 please.

JEANNIE TREVINO-TEDDLIE (Central Texas): I have a question. On this petition, it says, "amend paragraph 3 by eliminating paragraph 245.2 as follows." Now that seems to indicate it's really amending the peti-

tion and not amending the *Discipline*. If you go back to the original petition, the original petition eliminates paragraph 245.2 and then substitutes that language. So my question is, what are we voting on?

HARNISH: That's specifically why we requested the *DCA* to print the entire paragraph. In the right-hand column the proposed paragraph coming from the legislative committee is in its entirety there. That's what the new paragraph would look like.

TREVINO-TEDDLIE: OK, so that, what is in the *Discipline* then would not even appear, is that what you're saying?

HARNISH: That's right.

BISHOP CRAIG: All right, are you clear? If you look at the right-hand column of Calendar Item 194, you have the perfected new paragraph 245. All right. We're on this Calendar Item. Yes, right here in the middle. The woman in red. There. Would you like to go back to microphone 8, please?

*Inclusiveness in New Structure*

LUCILLE V. VANZANT (Oklahoma): Bishop, I see nothing in there that holds the church accountable for its relationships to its racial obligations. We know that racism has reared its ugly head in so many ways until the church has gotten behind already in dealing with it. I feel that the church should be, someone said, in front of the parade. Why should we give opportunity for racism to creep into our congregations and we do not have any structure to deal with it. I only ask that, in its nurturing or in its outreach, that somewhere in here it is built in that there shall be some responsibility given to something in the church so that we can be aware where racism has taken over, and we as United Methodists becoming a global church will be ready and able to deal with it.

BISHOP CRAIG: Thank you very much. The chair takes that as an invitational speech against. Anyone else wishing to speak? Yes.

HARNISH: May I say a word to that. We're looking for the exact paragraph. By consent you have already approved a very strong statement about inclusiveness being a part of the mission of the local church. And so our position would be, we are in total agreement with this delegate, and that that is clearly expressed in the mission of the church. We're dealing now here with structures that grow out of that.

BISHOP CRAIG: Let the chair give the house some encouragement. We have adopted an enormous number of Calendar Items by consent. And it is probably true that there are many, many pieces of this larger plan that has been overviewed for us that we have already adopted. I'm sure that between 2 and 4 a.m. you haven't read all of those items. I've only gotten halfway through between 1 and 2. And so, I think from time to time we may need to give the latitude to the committee to help us know what we've already adopted. All right. Thank you very much for that clarification, Jim. And it reminds us that there's a good deal out here already in our pocket. All right. We're still on Calendar Item 194. Now I had seen a card way back there I was about to acknowledge. Go to microphone 13, please. I'll come to you in just a moment. Let's listen to the gentleman on 13.

SCOTT J. JONES (North Texas): I'm a member of the Local Church Committee. I want to support what you just said, Bishop, and respond to the previous speaker and call the body's attention to page 456, Calendar Item 1779. Jim Harnish called our attention to this in his presentation. It's important to remember that the witness missions of the church, I'm looking at paragraph 2C—actually it ought to be outreach ministries in 2B—which mandates that the church shall give attention to religion and race, and status and role of women. By listing these functions, we must not back away from any of these areas of ministry but allow local churches to adapt the particular ways that they deal with them.

BISHOP CRAIG: Thank you very much for that help. Now you had a point of information here at microphone 2.

WILLIAM D. REESE (Missouri East): It adds to that, and I don't know where it is in the blue *DCA*, but it is on page 953 in the red *DCA*. Our committee concurred 78 to nothing, and I assume it's on the Consent Calendar. And it addresses that issue very specifically. It says, "Seeking inclusiveness in all aspects of its life without regard to race, gender, age, national origin, and disabilities.

BISHOP CRAIG: Thank you very much. It's helpful to have these folks who are keeping the pieces together help us keep them together. Now we're on Calendar Item 194. Way over here, microphone 5.

JIM HOLSINGER (Kentucky): I'm aware that we have 21 such petitions to deal with, and if it's in order I would therefore move to suspend the rules and vote on all that is before us.

BISHOP CRAIG: That is in order. Is there support? It takes two-thirds. If you will suspend the rules and come to vote on Calendar Item 194, please vote when the light appears.

You're quite ready to vote Calendar Item 194 is before you. Please vote when the light appears.[837 approved] Thank you. You've adopted Calendar Item 194. Where do we go next?

*Legislation Regarding Council on Ministries*

JAMES A. HARNISH (Florida): As I stated, you have approved by consent on page 456, Calendar Item 1779. Now we go to page 210; there are four calendar items, all of which are dealing with actions which follow out of the action that you've just taken. Calendar Item 543 from paragraph 258 deletes the language regarding the Council of Ministries. We recommend consensus by 75-1.

BISHOP CRAIG: All right, we're on Calendar Item 543, page 210, this is cleaning up after what we've done. You've found it? You look ready to

vote. Please vote when the light appears. [848 approved] Thank you, it is adopted.

HARNISH: Calendar Item 545, regarding paragraph 259 deletes the membership description of the Council of Ministries. We recommend concurrence by 75-1.

BISHOP CRAIG: All right, Calendar Item 545 is before you. Please vote when the light appears. [860 approved] It is confirmed, thank you.

HARNISH: Calendar Item 547, regarding paragraph 250 deletes the name of the Council on Ministries from the charge conference. We recommend concurrence, 76-0.

BISHOP CRAIG: All right. Calendar Item 547. Please vote when the light appears. It is adopted. [852 approved]

HARNISH: Calendar Item 548 regarding paragraph 249 changes the language about who can call the charge conference into the language of church conference, and simply makes that language change in that paragraph. We recommend concurrence 76-0.

BISHOP CRAIG: All right, Calendar Item 548. Please vote when the light appears. It is adopted. [866 approved] Thank you very much.

HARNISH: Page 175 in the blue book, Calendar Item 461, regarding paragraph number 245. This is that portion of the connectional issues study which describes some of the function that the legislative committee feels was taken care of in the previous legislation that you've already approved. We recommend nonconcurrence by a vote of 53-24.

BISHOP CRAIG: All right, Calendar Item 461 is before you. Yes, I see a card in the middle, coming to microphone 9.

CHARLOTTE ABRAM (Nebraska): Bishop I'd like to make a motion. I'd like to speak against it. This is some important language. It's language that comes and enables us to understand what is coming from the connectional issues study, and the CPT team, when they talk about the interactive organizational model or process, and I'd like to see it retained somewhere in the *Discipline*. It'll be a way of helping to point local churches and local church pastors towards what is coming on the horizon. One more menu opportunity as far as how a local church can organize interactively, being proactive, in making sure that the leadership team and the leadership ministries and the nurture, outreach and witness ministries and administrative ministries remain in dialogue and conversation.

BISHOP CRAIG: All right, that's a speech against nonconcurrence. You may want to tell us where this is in the red book since the text we're deleting isn't there.

HARNISH: Yes, Bishop. It's on page 954 at the top of the left hand column, Petition 21643.

BISHOP CRAIG: The motion is for nonconcurrence. We've had a speech against nonconcurrence. Does anyone wish to speak for nonconcurrence? Are you for nonconcurrence? Come to microphone 7 please.

JAY BRIM (Southwest Texas): Bishop, I believe we've already amended paragraph 245. Wouldn't this overlay language that we've just adopted as a body?

HARNISH: That's the position of the legislative committee, is that although it isn't word for word what this paragraph says, that all the content of this paragraph has already been approved in Calendar Item 194.

BISHOP CRAIG: We'll let the house see how clear they are about that. We've got this calendar item before us. Yes, right here in the middle. Microphone, which way do you want to go? You want to come to 3?

KATHY AUSTIN MAHLE (Minnesota): When we added the accepting of the interactive process model in the action that we were taking before, we're really caring for all of that. I believe that the petition that we're looking at right now just lays it out more carefully.

BISHOP CRAIG: All right. We have this calendar item 461 before us. Are you ready to vote? I think you are. The committee recommends nonconcurrance. Anything further, Jim? All right. Vote when the light appears.

Thank you. You have adopted Calendar Item 461. Thank you. [764 approved]

*UM Women Permissive Language*

JAMES A. HARNISH (Florida): Page 482, Calendar Item 1998, you must remember that the committee must respond to every petition that is sent to it. And responding to the petition that came to us, this changes the language specifically regarding the United Methodist Women from "shall" to "may." The committee wants it to be perfectly clear that this is no lack of affirmation of the ministry and mission and importance and critical value of United Methodist Women, but the committee voted by a vote of 41 to 26 concurrence with the petition, so that we continue to be using more "mays" than we use "shalls."

BISHOP JUDITH CRAIG: Jim, let's be sure people know where we are in the other books. We've got some interest out there this time. You were doing so well cleaning house, what happened?

HARNISH: You see why saved this one.

BISHOP CRAIG: Yes, I do, where do we find this one?

HARNISH: It's on page 1416 in the white book, Calendar Item 1998.

BISHOP CRAIG: I was just about to invite you to come home with and clean my house! *(laughter)* All right, page 1416 in the white book. We're on Calendar Item 1998.

HARNISH: That's not harassment, is it?

BISHOP CRAIG: I hope it's not! *(laughter)* No, because my house isn't really that dirty, so we're OK. All right, we're on Calendar Item 1998. My, what a choice we have. Let's go all the way back in the back, in the center aisle, microphone 13, please.

BROOKE CONKLIN (Troy): Thank you. I would like to speak against. I believe we should retain the current language as in the *Discipline*.

United Methodist Women and its predecessor organizations have been the impetus and focus for mission for our total church through out the years. We are over one-million women strong. It is the largest women's organization in the world. We have the strength because of the members in the local units. They are the vitality behind the mission of our church and our outreach to women, children and youth. I ask for you to vote to retain the current language in the *Discipline*.

BISHOP CRAIG: Thank you very much. That's a speech against. Do we have a speech for concurrence? *(laughter)* I just dropped the cards like fury. Right there, please come to microphone 4, please.

*New Paradigms for UMW*

CHARLIE O. DUNDAS (Minnesota): I'm 60 years old, so I can risk it. *(laughter)* I just want to say that I serve as a pastor in a suburban congregation that has so many very young families and young women. And, I believe, with all my heart, that we need flexibility around organizational models for women's ministries. If we do not pass the permissive language, then I want to urge the United Methodist Women to look at some new paradigms for ministry with, to and for women in local churches. I'm going to tell you, friends, that in the church I serve, the young women who live in a totally different way, in many cases, than the model that has been in place for years, or can't relate to that model that has been in place for years, will not respond. That does not mean that they are not interested in mission. That does not mean they are not involved in the life of the church. It simply means that we need some new paradigms. I want flexibility at this point as well as several other points.

BISHOP CRAIG: Thank you very much. Now we can have a speech against. Let's go way over here to the right, the second card back, the woman on the aisle. Microphone 1.

MARTHA MORRISON (Mississippi): I rise to oppose the recommendation of the committee. To make optional, the local unit of United Methodist Women will weaken the strongest mission area of our church. The local units of United Methodist Women offer the most effective, in-depth mission education program in our church. In light of the conversations around money that we had this morning, it is very important for this body to know that pledge to mission by local women exceed what this total church gives to mission through world service. That is very important. In response to what we do for young women, there has been a structure that has been made during this quadrennium that addresses the issue of young women. I urge this body to defeat the recommendation of the committee.

BISHOP CRAIG: Thank you. We can allow one more speech for the recommendation of the committee. Someone who speaks for the recommendation of the committee. Way back in the back there. Come to microphone 14.

Microphone 14, please. Are you speaking for concurrence?

MARY ANN GALLOWAY (West Ohio): Yes, Bishop. There's nothing in this statement that says we shall not have a United Methodist Women's. It says we have flexibility, we have a choice.

BISHOP CRAIG: Thank you. That's two speeches for, two against. This Calendar Item 1998 is before you, and we'll turn over here for a last moment.

JAMES HARNISH (Florida): Let me just underscore, since the bishop and I had some humor about it, but let me underscore, that the legislative committee did not enter into any evaluation or any questioning of the value and the significance of the United Methodist Women, that's number one. Number two, the committee had committed itself to a principle of flexibility in the local church, which is what led to this. Number three, to go back to the "shall," I speak on behalf of the majority, to go back to the "shall" at this point, opens a slippery slope, because next, we're going to hear from the United Methodist Men, who'll want their "shall" back. And then you'll hear from somebody else who wants their "shall" back. And so, they're totally on their commitment to allowing flexibility in the local church, they said this was where this would come. The fourth element is that if Janet Sorenson of Pottsboro, Texas, had not sent in a petition, you never would have heard about this.

BISHOP CRAIG: All right, we're ready to vote. Having two speeches for and two against. Point of information? What is your point of information? I think the house is ready to vote on this, and knows its mind.

JAMES LAWSON (California-Pacific): I want to ask the question: Is the "shall" being removed from the United Methodist Men's paragraph?

*UMW Mandated*

BISHOP CRAIG: It never came before us. I think the house is ready to vote on this. Let's vote when the light appears on Calendar Item 1998. [yes, 407; no, 477] All right, the committee has been overturned.

HARNISH: OK, if you'll turn to page 895, I'm sorry it's 316, Calendar Item 895 on page 316. Calendar Item 895 is actually mis-titled. The content of the petition, which you'll find on page 1408 in the white book, actually has nothing to do with the rights and responsibilities of youth members of the church. It describes who has responsibility for nurturing, and for teaching, and for nurturing youth in the Christian faith in the church. The petition included the phrase, "professional staff." The committee, by a vote of 75-0, recommends concurrence with the removal of the word, "professional" from the phrase, "professional staff." It's the only change. The sense of the committee was that saying "professional staff" left out lay volunteer staff who may be involved in ministry, and that was their reason

for removing the word, "professional." That was the only issue that we had with the petition.

BISHOP CRAIG: All right, it's Calendar Item 895 on page 316 that's before us. Yes. Right there, microphone 8, please.

JEREMY VETTER (Nebraska): I move to amend this petition. I move to amend by inserting the following sentence at the end of paragraph 226: "It shall be the responsibility of the pastor to participate in this growth process through interaction and ministry with youth."

BISHOP CRAIG: I hear a second. All right.

*Pastoral Involvement in Youth Ministry*

VETTER: Can I address this?

BISHOP CRAIG: You certainly may.

VETTER: The original petition added several other categories of workers, such as diaconal ministers, Christian educators, and youth workers. I personally, and all the others I've talked to, have nothing wrong with adding these people to the list of those who have responsibility for working with youth in the church. However, as it presently reads, with the pastor as the only one listed, and I believe it is important to maintain a strong position that the pastor should be involved with youth. And I think it is of vital importance that all of the youth work not be pushed away completely from the pastors, that there be some kind of interaction, not only as a model of ordained ministry for prospective persons to be called into the ministry, but also to show that youth are an equal part of the church.

BISHOP CRAIG: All right, thank you, that's an amendment by addition. Are you ready to vote on that? You understand where it is? Please vote when the light appears. [yes, 582; no, 308] All right, you've approved the amendment. Now the whole item is before you. Are you ready to vote? If you will adopt this item, please, just please vote, whatever you want to do, when the light appears. What language I've learned! *(laughter)* Thank you. That item is adopted. It's my understanding that Mr. Harnish has one more. The chair has passed an order of the day, hoping to finish his work. Then we're going to break in with two other items, and take a break before we come back and return to these Calendar Items. Take your additional one, Jim.

*Pastor-Parish Relations Committee*

HARNISH: Thank you, Bishop. Page 259, Calendar Item 790. It's found in the white book, on page 1410 in the lower right hand corner. The petition requested that we change in the *Discipline* from "pastor-parish relations committee," to "staff-parish relations committee" in all places that the committee is named. Our legislative committee felt that we should stay with the language of "pastor-parish relations committee." One, because we have a huge number of our churches for whom the pastor is about all the staff it has; and that the *Discipline* already provides the option for the church to call the committee the "staff-parish relations committee" any time that it wants to. So, that's what our recommendation was based upon. We recommend nonconcurrence by a vote of 66-11.

BISHOP CRAIG: All right. Calendar Item 790 is before you. Please vote when the light appears. [817 approved] You've agreed with nonconcurrence. Thank you very much for your good work.

Now friends, I'm going to turn to the secretary. She has some introductions to make, a couple announcements, and do you want to read this other item at this point, Carolyn? Do you want to read this item, also? We're just going to let you do several things, Carolyn.

*General Conference Secretary's Staff Introduced*

CAROLYN MARSHALL: You have all been most generous with your support of the work that has been done by the secretary's office, particularly here, at this General Conference, and prior to it. This time, I would like to ask those persons who are on the secretarial staff to please stand and come here in front of you. *(applause)* Thank you for your affirmation. You may go ahead and sit down, but I would also like to share their names with you, because you need to know them as individuals. These are the people who have really done the work. I may sit here, but these are the people who have really made it go, and for that, we're deeply, deeply grateful. I'm going to have to do a little turning around, and I hope the microphone will cooperate with that. On your immediate left is Preston Price.

BISHOP CRAIG: Carolyn, we're not going to hear you that way. Why don't you say their names, and let them step forward?

MARSHALL: All right.

BISHOP CRAIG: Have you got a list in front of you?

MARSHALL: No, I don't. Preston, David Wilson, John Ross Thompson, Erodio Valverde, and Odell Thompson, the person to whom you all sent all those thousands of petitions *(applause)*.

I want to share one particular word about Odell with you. You probably saw her name and her family listed on your prayer list several days while we've been here. Some of you are aware that her daughter-in-law had a heart attack and died on the Saturday before General Conference started. She felt a deep commitment to be here, not only as a delegate from Wisconsin, but as a part of this staff and the commitment she had made to be the petition secretary, and to fulfill those responsibilities. So with a heavy heart and responsibility at home, she came on Sunday, and was here through Tuesday evening, in order to get us started to meet with the Committee on Reference and to get things going; then returned to Beloit for the funeral, and was back here the next morning after that. And so we share with Odell at this time, and are grateful to her for the commitment

that she has made to her church. *(applause)*

I could really say something similar about all the rest of these people, but that particular one, I wanted to share. Continuing on, we have Lindy Lorescoe, Millie Hilts, Dorothy Caldwell, Arlie Brawn, Susan Brumbaugh, Randall Partin, Gere Reist, and John Brawn, the brain and the effort behind the computerization, which has been such a benefit to us all. Thank you very much. *(applause)*

In addition, there have been two volunteers who are not here to be introduced at this time, but whom, if you know them, should be recognized. Bea Cook had to return because of a local church and a conference responsibility, and we are grateful to her. She has given countless hours. And then also to Mim Porterfield from South Indiana. *(applause)*

At this time, which will give me time to get back over there to make some announcements, we turn to Roger Kruse who will introduce the business manager's staff.

*General Conference Business Manager's Staff Introduced*

ROGER F. KRUSE (Conference Business Manager): Thank you, bishop and members of the General Conference. As Carolyn indicated, there are literally dozens of people who make this conference work, not only these two weeks, but for several of them, many, many months in preparation.

Let me introduce, first, the co-chairs of our page and marshall team. They've led a cadre of approximately 150 volunteers who have spent many long hours delivering messages, packages, making sure there was water, keeping the appropriate people off the floor: Laura and Mark Wharff. *(applause)*

Our music at this General Conference, I think, has been second to none. And the persons responsible for that, first, our two co-directors of music, Cynthia Wilson-Felder,*(applause)* and the Rev. S.T. Kimbrough, Jr. *(applause)* and they have been assisted by Johnetta Johnson-Page who has had to leave, who was our pianist, and two very, very fine organists: Austin Lovelace and Kathleen Forsburg *(applause)*. When I addressed you more than ten days ago, I indicated that we were translating into eight languages. That has changed and we are now translating into nine. We've added Indonesian this week. That translation and interpretation service is made possible by a cadre of 44 highly qualified individuals who do the actual interpretation and three technicians. And they have been very ably lead throughout this entire General Conference by a colleague whom I'm proud to count as friend, Nilda Ferrari. *(applause)* Carrying out a production such as General Conference in terms as lights, sound, the set-up, voting booth, keeping the TV monitors running...is not an easy task to do, and it has been ably handled for us throughout this General Conference by Jay Voorhees from UMCOM. He's here as a private contractor with us. *(applause)* And then, Bishop, last, but certainly not least, are three members of the staff of the General Council on Finance and Administration. Two of whom work for me full time, and one who is on loan. All of you have had contact with these individuals in one way or another, and let me tell you they have made my life a lot easier—Ronna Levy-Tritz, Steve Hellman, and Russell Elenz. *(applause)*

BISHOP CRAIG: Thank you very much. Thank you so much to all of you. Now Carolyn, you have some announcements?

*Judicial Council Decision on Homosexual Union Paragraph*

CAROLYN MARSHALL: During the plenary last evening, there was referral made to the Judicial Council, and I share with you their report. "We have received the referral raising the question: Does the statement ceremonies that celebrate homosexual union shall not be conducted by our ministers and shall not be conducted in our churches belong in paragraph 71C? Paragraph 2616 provides that the General Conference may petition the Judicial Council regarding constitutionality, meaning, application or affect of proposed legislation. This is a legislative placement decision. We do not have jurisdiction." April 26, 1996. Signed by Tom Matheny, President and Wayne Coffin, Secretary of the Judicial Council.

One other announcement. Perhaps you take confession, too. In as much as we were coming to the end of General Conference, and this announcement had been made last week, the secretary chose to ignore one that came up yesterday that would remind those of you who are not delegates to allow during our refreshment break, for delegates to get to the tables and refreshments first. But inasmuch as it has surfaced several times again, today, even for this last coffee break, refreshment break, we bring to your attention that if at all possible, please if you are a visitor, observer, would you let those persons who are here as delegates partake first in order that we may all be back to business. Thank you so much.

BISHOP CRAIG: All right, thank you. Now, house you have done very well, let's take a 15 minute break. That means that in ten minutes you are on your way back to your seats. Thank you very much.

*[song]*

All right. Thank you. Thank you. All right friends, if you'll find your seats. That's a grand duet, isn't it? No, I didn't request the content of that song. But that's a grand duet. Now if you'll come to your seats, I'd like to tell you where we're going. The chair would like the privilege of telling you where we're going before we interrupt the flow. The house will come to order.

Let the chair suggest what we hope to accomplish between now and an hour and ten minutes from now when I'm going to sing "Free at Last"

*(laughter and applause).* Now this is fun. Thank you so much for being a good house. If you are coming to your seat, if you can-come, if you can walk and not talk, then the chair will talk. Isn't that silly language, "the chair will talk." First, I want to acknowledge that we know there is a winged bird flying around in here. That is a real bird with wings. I'm assured that it is appropriately credentialed. Don't worry about it. *(laughter).* If it's within the bar, it's OK. Worry about other things.

Now here are the things we need to do. We've discovered that we have another set of nominations that have never been voted upon. So I want to turn first, when we begin, back to the General Conference secretary, who will help us with some nominations and elections. Then we want to return to the local church legislation. If we can move through a whole series of cleaning up items much like the series we've just finished, if we can move with some dispatch through those, they really are the actions that are necessary in order to have responded to petitions, to bring everything into conformance with the major piece that we've already done. We've already pretty well organized the local church. Isn't that marvelous? That's a wonder. And we need to kind of put some other things on the shelf and close a couple of drawers, and then we'll be in order.

Then we would hope to have time to go on to half a dozen such items from Discipleship and then turn to a few moments with the Central Conferences report. Now we can do all that if we'll just pay attention and move as well as we've been doing all day. So with that in mind, I want to turn to the General Conference secretary. Carolyn, if you will help us.

CAROLYN MARSHALL: We'd ask that you would open your blue *DCA*'s to page 23. That would be the second 23 in that compilation, the one for April 17th.

### *Election of Clergy & Laity to Board's and Agencies*

As you are moving to it, I would suggest that you look at those nominations which are listed there on page 23, and then the first column of page 24, just beyond the half-way point. Those are the clergy and lay person delegations to general boards and agencies as was contained in the *Discipline* before we arrived at General Conference. Those are nominations which come from the Council of Bishops and also from the colleges as had been specified in our *Book of Discipline*. While we have been here, we have made changes to that *Book of Discipline*. However, it has not been possible for adjustments to be made to this time. And so, therefore, we bring to the body a recommendation. And therefore, I move that we elect those persons so listed here, with the provision that the Council of Bishops make adjustments, be permitted to make adjustments, as necessary in order to conform to the new structure. Bishop, I so move.

BISHOP CRAIG: All right, thank you, Carolyn. Now, in essence what's happened is that we're at Friday afternoon, and the opportunity to reconvene the Nominating Committee of the Council of Bishops and get material back in your hands is well nigh physically impossible. Yet we need to elect these persons and have some flexibility. I think you understand the situation in which we find ourselves. We're on pages 23 and 24 of the blue book, the items on page 23, and the first two-thirds of the left hand column on 24. There are some persons elected to some general agencies by the General Conference. We've nominated to an old structure. Since we've been here, we have been transformed. And then, the motion is to elect these persons with permission for the Council of Bishops to make adjustments as necessary to conform to the new structure. All right? I hear a question. Who's asking a question? Over here, I'm sorry. Clear over here. That happens when you are deaf in one ear, got a good hearing aid that lets you hear on that side, but you don't know where the side is. *(laughter)* Yes, microphone 5.

JIM HOLSINGER (Kentucky): Bishop, I'd like to just simply point out that we previously, on page 652, 653, elected the members to the General Commission on Archives and History, and we may not want to go past down to General Board of Pension and Health Benefits.

BISHOP CRAIG: Is that true, Carolyn?

MARSHALL: Yeah, I hope we've got them all. I hope so.

HOLSINGER: Midway down on the right-hand column of page 653, General Commission of Archives and History is listed there, and that represents the new size and structure of that agency.

BISHOP CRAIG: We think you're correct. Thank you very much, Jim. So we're voting for page 23 and the first two items on the top of page 24, Church and Society, Pension and Health Benefits, with that proviso as the General Conference secretary has said for us. All right. Please cast your vote when the light appears. [785 approved] Thank you. You have elected those persons and given the council permission to make necessary adjustments. Thank you so much. Let's return, then, to local church legislation. Who's up next?

### *Permissive Language for Work Areas*

TERRY L. CLARK (Central Illinois): If you would to turn in your blue *DCA*, Volume 3, to page 313. We're going to be dealing with four petitions here that the vote of the committee was, on three of them, in favor of a previous petition which I pointed out to you in the first presentation. These were two petitions on page 455. They were Calendar Item 769 and 774. You approved those primary petitions on the Consent Calendar 805. So these petitions are coming, three of these, in preference to those petitions you have gathered. We're looking again at page 313, Calendar Item 862. Your primary reference is Volume 1; that's the red *DCA*, page 960. We're looking

at Petition 20353, which deals with paragraph 262. This was with the elimination of the local church work area chairpersons. The vote of the committee was concurrence, 70, zero, zero in favor of the Petition 20352 that you approved on the Consent Calendar.

BISHOP CRAIG: All right, thank you. Now, recognizing that we're dealing with the clean-up around the edges of the major legislation, we're on Calendar Item 862 on page 313. It is before us. Please vote when the light appears. [822 approved] The bird and the chair is declared confirmed. Not the bird *in* the chair, the bird *and* the chair. *(laughter)* Next item.

TERRY CLARK: Looking now, if you would turn to page 259. Again we're in volume 3, blue cover of *DCA*. On that page we're looking at Calendar Item 785, which is in the left-hand column, halfway down. The petition comes from the red *DCA*, Volume 1. We're looking at Petition 20672 dealing with paragraph 264. The vote of the committee was concurrence, 41, 33, 3. This petition, however, retains—if you will look at the red *DCA*—one is the church school, one also is the youth council, and then also, United Methodist Women.

BISHOP CRAIG: All right. Ready? Calendar Item 785, page 259. Recommendation is concurrence. Please vote when the light appears.

It is adopted. Thank you. [813 approved]

TERRY L. CLARK (Central Illinois): We're looking, if you would, at page 316 in your blue *DCA*, Volume 3. And we're looking at Calendar Item 890. The primary reference is in your red *DCA*, Volume 1. It's Petition 20357. This is to eliminate the local church work area commissions. The vote of the committee was concurrence 61, zero, zero. Again in favor of the previous Petition, 20352, that you approved on the Consent Calendar.

BISHOP CRAIG: Very well, Calendar Item 890, page 316. Please vote when the light appears. It is adopted. [845 approved]

CLARK: Then, looking at page 316, again the same page, we're looking at 891 now. The primary reference is on page 962 of Volume 1, the red *DCA*. We're looking at Petition 20358 in reference to paragraph 268. This is to eliminate the local church task groups. The vote of the committee was concurrence, 62, zero, zero, in favor of the previous Petition 20352 that was on the Consent Calendar.

BISHOP CRAIG: Very well. We have Calendar Item 891 before us. Please vote when the light appears. You have concurred. [834 approved]

CLARK: And then if you would please turn to page 455 again in your blue *DCA*, Volume 3, we're looking at Calendar Item 1772, that's the middle column, the third item down, 1772. Your primary reference is Volume 2 of the *DCA*, that's the white cover, Volume 2, page 1417. We're dealing with Petition 22133. And if you'll look at that, you will see that the committee voted concurrence 64, zero to 3. And as you can see there in the wording is that we're moving to the chairperson of the Committee on Nominations and Personnel being a co-chairperson. That is the lay person being elected from among the membership of the Committee on Nominations and Personnel and being the co-chair of that committee with the pastor.

BISHOP CRAIG: All right, 1772 is before you. Well now, which one of you really wants to speak. All right, the woman in red. Microphone 13, please.

*Chair and Vice Chair of Norminating Committee*

RUTH PALMER (Texas): I would like to substitute the following words to those presently stated in paragraph 270.1. After "the pastor shall be the chair person," I would like to add these words, "A lay person elected by the Committee on Nominations and Personnel shall serve as the vice chair person of the committee." If I have a second to that amendment, then we'll speak to it.

BISHOP CRAIG: I see support, you may speak.

PALMER: I will yield to the gentleman behind me, my colleague, Rev. Caldwell.

BISHOP CRAIG: All right.

KIRBYJON CALDWELL (Texas): Bishop, if it is OK with you, we have a tag team match here today.

BISHOP CRAIG: That's quite all right. It's refreshing. Go ahead.

CALDWELL: We would like to urge the house to please support this amendment, primarily for three reasons. Number one, the nominations committee is the only committee that the pastor can chair, so in the spirit of a blessed balance, we think this would be healthy for the local church. Second, its not unusual for the pastor to have, shall we say, access to confidential information, which others may not be aware of, which may impact the election process of the nominations committee. Third, the Lord God Almighty and the bishop and the cabinet of the Texas conference have blessed me to pastor a two-point charge during the past 14 years, and during that 14 year period I've been able to pastor a small church, a medium church, two large churches; and throughout all of those evolutionary trends, one thing has remained constant, and that is, there's always a need for a pastor with vision, and there is always the need to have lay persons who are involved, equipped, and empowered to bring that vision to reality. We believe that having the pastor as chairperson, a lay person as vice chairperson can best implement that vision. Furthermore, it helps to wipe out internal civil wars which may erupt in some churches. Thank you.

BISHOP CRAIG: All right. The chair would like permission to treat this as an amendment to paragraph 270 rather than a substitute for what is before us so that we cannot get caught in substitute parliamentary procedure. Is the house amenable to that? We'll treat it as an amendment. Any objection? All right, the amendment before us would be to amend paragraph 270 to allow for the election

of a lay person to serve as vice chair. I see somebody over here, yes. Microphone 4. On the amendment.

EARL RENSHAW (Southern Illinois): I would like to speak to this issue. As a pastor, I wish to live out the stance of partnership in mission and ministry with the laity of the churches I pastor. I am not afraid to share the chair with the laity. It's coming. Pastors will not permanently hold the chair of the Committee on Nominations and Personnel, its time has come, we are in ministry together. The parallel may not be perfect, but here is my witness. During my years as a full member of the Southern Illinois Conference, I've been on the conference nominating committee three quadrennia, one as chair, two as member. Frankly, I was able to influence the direction of the conference more when I was not in the chair. As co-chair of the local church committee, my philosophy of leadership will be to step out of the chair position on occasion to enable my perceptions to be better heard. We clergy don't chair other committees. Is our influence diminished by this fact? Why do we have to chair this committee? It's a matter of partnership. I support the committee.

BISHOP CRAIG: OK. That's a speech against the amendment which would allow for the election of a lay person as vice chairman of the nominating committee. Does someone wish to speak for the amendment? Yes, back here, are you for the amendment?

*Nominating Committee and Spiritual Gifts*

BRIAN BAUKNIGHT (Western Pennsylvania): One of my deepest convictions is that a church's strength is built on the spiritual gifts that are found within its people. And I believe that I could defend biblically and theologically the fact that the pastor or pastors of a congregation are the overseers of those spiritual gifts. So I would support the amendment. I would have no problem with a lay person as a vice chairperson of the committee, but I think in this particular office in the life of the church, the pastor in charge, as the overseer of the spiritual gifts, should be the chair of the committee. And I strongly support the amendment.

BISHOP CRAIG: Thank you very much. We can have one more speech against the amendment. Are you against the amendment? Yes sir. The gentlemen back there that's coming to microphone 6. I'm sorry, sir. He was behind you. Yes.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.

BISHOP CRAIG: Microphone six.

LELLAND P. MCKEOWN: I helped all through the original bill that was before the committee. I speak against the amendment because I would like to see us return to the original legislation that's on page 1417 of the Volume 2. I feel like this answers the spirit of what we were trying to do, and I don't think we've had a chance to do that during this conference. I'm sorry I didn't get to attend the legislative committee when this was deleted. May I speak to it or should I just wait until this is either voted up or down?

BISHOP CRAIG: We need to deal with the amendment and see what we've got before us then, sir.

MCKEOWN: Well, I would like, I will speak against the amendment because I'd like to see us come back to the original legislation as it was written.

BISHOP CRAIG: All right, thank you. Now, we've had two speeches for and two against on the amendment, which would in effect amend paragraph 270 to allow for the election of a lay person as vice chair of the nominations of personnel committee. By our rules, we are ready to vote on the amendment. Please vote when the light appears. The amendment is adopted. [Results: yes, 469; no, 429] That makes it the main motion now. Just a sec, let the chair make sure she says the right thing here. Hold on. It now becomes the main motion for 1772 that the nominating and personnel committee will have a lay person elected as vice chair. Do you understand where we are? That is now the substance of 1772. Are we clear? Calendar Item 1772. Yes? Back there. I see a card.

GARNETT M. WILDER (North Georgia): I would like to have a response from the chair. If this motion is defeated, does this leave the *Discipline* as is?

BISHOP CRAIG: It's chair's judgment, yes.

WILDER: I would like to speak against this motion.

BISHOP CRAIG: All right.

*Nominating Committee and Control*

WILDER: For 20 years, I have been working with local pastors in the Course of Study School. One part of the curriculum of the Course of Study School in which I work is a discussion group and case study situation where lay pastors, after five years in the Course of Study, bring their situations for discussion in the group. One of the things lay pastors observe in the smaller churches is that quite often there is a small cluster of people who control everything. No one on the nominating committee is going to change that leadership. The only one who can do so is the pastor, who must be willing to pay the price of being moved that year. *(laughter)* I do believe that leaving the *Discipline* as it is, keeping in mind that two-thirds of our Methodist churches, United Methodist churches, have fewer than 200 members; that many, if not most of these churches have situations where long-term office-holders need to be encouraged, one way or the other, to give up that and the development—to enable the development of a broader range of leadership. I believe that to leave the pastor as chairperson of the nominating committee will help to effectuate this in courageous moments.

BISHOP CRAIG: All right, thank you. We're on Calendar Item 1772, which you have amended. That is a speech against. Does someone wish to speak for the amended Calendar

Item 1772? Over here, microphone 1. Are you for?

ROBERT B. BRANDT (Northern New Jersey): I would speak in favor of the amended petition in the spirit that it at least moves us toward a partnership arrangement between pastor and lay people in the local church. Laity are in the church long before and many times long after a pastor comes into our presence. I am concerned when I hear someone say that the pastors are the, and I'm not sure what the exact words were, but those who oversee the spiritual gifts in a local church. As an individual who's been leading workshops in rediscovering spiritual gifts, I think each one of us have a responsibility in the spiritual gifts, and laity just as well as clergy, in a partnership relationship, can bring to the fore the best leadership that's needed in the local church. So I would urge us all to take a step toward partnership.rather than a step back, away from partnership, and vote in favor of this petition.

BISHOP CRAIG: Thank you. We've had a speech for, a speech against. Who is against? Point of clarification, microphone 9.

ROBERT D. PIERSON (Oklahoma): Because of the nature of the first speech a moment ago, I'd like the motion read again because I believe that it leaves the pastor as chair and the lay person elected as vice chair, and so I'd like that clarified.

BISHOP CRAIG: That's correct. What we have before us is the paragraph now in the *Discipline* that provides for the pastor to be the chair, with a new provision for the election from among the membership of a lay person as vice chair. That is the substance of Calendar Item 1772. I need someone to speak against. Yes.

HENRY RODDY (Central Texas): I'm not sure I'm speaking against, but I think what we've done is superfluous because the pastor is on the committee and no more than 10 lay people. If the pastor is chairperson, who is left to be vice chair except lay people? *(laughter)*

BISHOP CRAIG: *(laughter)* All right, are you ready to hear from the committee and vote on the new 1772? I think you're ready to hear from the committee. You have a question? All right.

PORTER WOMELDORFF (Central Illinois): The previous speaker made the statement that the pastor is on the committee. This may well be, but I want to know what we did with all the pastor's memberships in committees. I believe that we defeated the restoration of that language, and I'm not sure that the pastors are on any committee.

BISHOP CRAIG: The chair understands that before us is the paragraph that provides for the pastor to be on, and chair of the Nominating and Personnel Committee. The body has amended that to allow for a vice chair who is lay. That's what we're voting on. Does the committee wish to speak?

TERRY CLARK: Yes. Our intent was to move what we would see as a new partnership. One that in many ways has been there for years, but has some veterans on the committee who have been at their fifth and sixth General Conference have pointed out, this is something that has been lively debate every General Conference. As much as we would have liked to have seen you affirm the co-chair, and as much as the brother has pointed out who that leaves on the committee besides the pastor, the fact is that in many churches there is no designation of a vice chair. And so as a compromise in true United Methodist fashion, we would certainly give support. And hope that you will support this amendment that has now become the main motion to carry us further than where we presently are.

*Nominating Committee Vice Chair Approved*

BISHOP CRAIG: All right. We're ready to vote on Calendar Item 1772 as you have amended it. Please vote when the light appears. [750 approved] You have adopted it. All right, thank you very much. That is all. Thank you very much for your leadership. Janice?

JANICE RIGGLE K. HUIE (Southwest Texas): Bishop Craig, the remaining six calendar items will be presented by our vice-chair, Shirley Parris.

BISHOP CRAIG: All right, Shirley. Welcome.

*Facilities for Persons with Disabilities*

SHIRLEY PARRIS (New York): Thank you, Bishop. If you will turn in your blue *DCA* to page 259, we will be dealing with Calendar Item 786, which is found in your white *DCA*. The petition, itself, on page 1405, and it's Petition 22105. It is an amendment to the petition as you see there. The amendment is given to extend and strengthen the definition of inclusiveness under the paragraph in the *Discipline* that describes the marks of inclusiveness in the church. And the amendment, Bishop Craig, is on page 259 in 786. We're adding, "a further mark of inclusiveness is setting of church activities in facilities accessible to persons with disabilities."

BISHOP CRAIG: All right, then. Calendar Item 786 is before us with the amendment as you see it on page 259. Please vote when the light appears. [829 approved] You have concurred. Thank you.

*Other than Full Membership Status*

PARRIS: The next item is still on page 259, Item 788, and it's found in your white book 1421; the original petition, on page 1421, Petition 22682. And we voted nonconcurrence on this because we feel the *Discipline* adequately provides for membership of other than full members in any local church. We did not see the need for this petition.

BISHOP CRAIG: All right. Calendar Item 788.

PARRIS: No, 787.

BISHOP CRAIG: I'm sorry, 787. Excuse me. Pardon me, 787, page

259. Yes, sir? You wishing to speak to this? Go to microphone 8.

JAMES GENTRY (South Indiana): Bishop Craig, the title should be "Consecration," not "Conversation."

BISHOP CRAIG: Jim, I think we are 787. We're on 787. I was confused, too. It's good to be in your company in confusion, Jim. That's all right. Calendar Item 787, Seasonal Local United Methodist Church Trustees. All right, please vote when the light appears. [822 approved] You have concurred with nonconcurrence. Thank you.

*Dedication of Local Church Buildings*

PARRIS: The next item is number 788, also on page 259, and that is on Conservation and Dedication of Local Church Buildings. And the committee recommends nonconcurrence. The petition may be found in your red *DCA*, page 966, and it is Petition 21091. The petition was asking to add a sentence at the end of paragraph 2545 about inviting the participation of clergy and lay representation from neighboring congregations. The legislative committee felt that this is a normal courtesy which does not need to be legislated, and therefore we voted nonconcurrence with the petition.

BISHOP CRAIG: All right. Now we're on 788 on page 259 with a recommendation of nonconcurrence. Please vote when the light appears. [861 approved] You have agreed with the committee. Thank you.

*Church Universal*

PARRIS: Still on page 259, in your blue *DCA* Calendar Item 789. The petition may be found on page 946 in your red *DCA*. And it is Petition 21084. We voted concurrence with this. It is adding the words "church universal," a member of the church universal which ties in with a language in our current constitution, division 1, part 4. We voted concurrence and ask your support.

BISHOP CRAIG: All right. Calendar Item 789, page 259. Please vote when the light appears. You have concurred. Thank you.

*Membership of Building Committee*

PARRIS: Now if you will turn to page 389 in your blue *DCA*. Page number 389, it's Calendar Item 1696. It refers to Petition 22149, which is on page 1426 in your white *DCA*. And the petition refers to the voting of the membership of the building committee. And it would change it from a simple majority to a two-thirds majority. The legislative committee felt that a majority vote as stated in the current *Discipline* is adequate, because this vote still needs charge conference concurrence. And therefore, we voted nonconcurrence with the petition.

BISHOP CRAIG: All right, Item 1696 on page 389. The recommendation is nonconcurrence. Please vote when the light appears. You have agreed with nonconcurrence. Thank you.

*Enabling Legislation for Basic Salary Plan*

PARRIS: And finally, still on that page, Calendar Item 1697, Enabling Legislation For the Basic Salary Plan Option. It refers to Petition 22117 on page 1412 in your white *DCA*. And all the legislative committee did was change "basic salary plan" to "shared salary plan" in keeping with other languages, which is more commonly used now. We voted concurrence with the petition with that amendment, and we ask your support.

BISHOP CRAIG: All right, 1697, page 389. Yes? I see a card back there. Microphone 13, please. Number 13, please.

SCOTT JONES (North Texas): Shirley, was it not the case that in a previous action we declined to put the basic salary plan someplace else. We were told in committee this was dependent upon another action, and I don't remember what the conference did.

PARRIS: OK, my records show, Scott, that it was an amendment that we had passed. I show no reference to another petition, but just let me check. Bishop, I've just been told that last night the petition that was suggesting a shared salary plan was rejected, so this is really a moot point.

BISHOP CRAIG: All right. You're saying then, that this should...we should simply ignore this one because we have already voted on it last night?

PARRIS: That's correct.

BISHOP CRAIG: Thank you very much. The house agree? Thank you.

PARRIS: I'll vote nonconcurrence with the legislative committee, which ever one is legal. Thank you, Bishop. That concludes the presentation.

BISHOP CRAIG: All right, Janice.

HUIE: Bishop Craig, the legislative Committee on the Local Church, after it had spent more than two hours deliberating all the petitions, which had come to it regarding apportionments, and changes or potential changes in how the apportionments and the local church would be related to each other, nonconcurred on all those petitions. But in the discussion, they prepared a statement which was voted unanimously by the committee, which they asked me to read to the General Conference. With your permission, I shall read, it's a simple statement to be read, on behalf of the Local Church Committee, our sense of regarding those matters.

BISHOP CRAIG: All right.

*Statement of Support for Local Church*

HUIE: From the Local Church Committee: We have heard the passionate call of local churches throughout our denomination for relief from apportionments, which many of them perceive as a heavy burden. We believe that our local churches are deeply committed to the United Methodist connection system, and do not seek to break this inheritance and covenant. But we also believe that many of our local churches are struggling with the reality of the economic situation to which none of us is a

stranger. We express our profound appreciation to the local churches for their faithfulness. The legislative Committee on Local Church, after consideration of many petitions, accepts no new proposals on local church apportionments to the 1996 General Conference. In true United Methodist tradition, we considered calling for another task force. But in true United Methodist reason, we didn't.

However, we would like to go on record reporting our encounter with much local church frustration around the following unresolved tensions. The need for annual conferences and general agencies to be sensitive to the financial demands they place on the local churches.

Two, the need for annual conferences and general agencies to be more accountable to local churches.

Three, the need for local churches to be given adequate support in interpreting and personalizing the causes of our church.

And four, the need for local churches to have greater voice and ownership in the mission work of the church.

We call on The United Methodist Church to enter into a period of prayer, dialogue, and action around these issues in the next quadrennium. We are unwilling to cast aside our covenant of connectional mission work. However, we do believe that it is time to translate our mission giving process into new terms for a new day and time. May God grant us the wisdom to discover the way forward. That concludes our statement and with your permission I'd like to introduce the other members of the committee.

BISHOP CRAIG: Go ahead.

HUIE: The secretary of the legislative committee, Herchel Sheets from North Georgia; Jean Dowell, seated out here, she chaired sub-committee number one, a lay woman from Minnesota, thank you Jean; Mary Brown Oliver, if you'd please stand, she chaired sub-committee number two, clergywoman (Baltimore-Washington). Thank you very much. This concludes our report. (*applause*)

BISHOP CRAIG: Thank you very much for your good work. All right, the chair would like to go to one item from Discipleship Legislative Committee and then come to the Central Conference Commission. Is it a question? All right, microphone 3 please.

KATHI AUSTIN MAHLE (Minnesota): I would like to move referral of Janice Riggle Huie's statement to the CPT for consideration. The issues that the Local Church Legislative Committee dealt with are issues that we heard very clearly in the Connectional Issues Study.

BISHOP CRAIG: All right, it's a motion to refer. Help us the with acronym CPT is, I haven't learned it yet.

MAHLE: Connectional Process Team.

BISHOP CRAIG: Connectional Process Team, yes, a new one for us. The motion is to refer this last statement we've heard there for their consideration in that. I heard support, yes, on microphone 9.

TRACY MERRICK (Western Pennsylvania) In one of the reports we adopted this morning, it was mentioned that GCFA is establishing a task force to study this exact matter, and I move that we refer this to GCFA.

BISHOP CRAIG: We have a motion for referral to the CPTs. Are you wishing to amend?

MERRICK: That's correct.

BISHOP CRAIG: All right. Is there support for the amendment to refer to GCFA? I hear support. Now what we have is an amendment to say, "Let's refer this to GCFA." Kathi, did you hear that speech? Maybe we...just better ask the house. I was just going to ask you if you thought it was a better place there. Microphone 3.

MAHLE: I would change my motion for referral to both GCFA and to the Connectional Process Team.

BISHOP CRAIG: Let me ask the maker of the amendment. Would you accept both? All right, we got both people saying that now the motion is a referral to GCFA and the Connectional Process Team. House clear? Please vote when the line appears. You've referred that. All right, yes.

HUIE: Bishop, I've made a significant error of omission. I did not introduce Robert Rosas (Pacific Northwest), chair of subcommittee number 5 from which you had no calendar items to deal with on this floor. And I want to ask him if he would please stand, and I apologize for leaving him out of the list.

BISHOP CRAIG: All right, thank you very much. We thank the legislative committee for their work (*applause*). Now the chair would really like to move on. The chair wants to move. You're going to resist. Microphone 1. (*laughter*) What the chair wishes to do, following this, is to take us to one item from Discipleship, then come to the Commission on Central Conferences.

PORTER WOMELDORFF (Central Illinois): Bishop, I would like an interpretation from you. In Calendar Item 194, we refused, or we declined to reestablish the deleted language regarding the chief administrative officer. However, we did not discuss at that same statement, is the statement that establishes the pastor as an ex-officio member of many local church organizations. In my hasty survey, I cannot find any place else that we do that. And so my question to you, Bishop Craig, is have we disenfranchised the local pastor and excluded him or her from many meetings within the church?

BISHOP CRAIG: Janice, are you still within the sound of my voice? Janice, help. Here she comes. Look at this. At 4:00, 4:40 on Friday afternoon, the woman can still run. It's incredible. (*laughter*)

Janice, did you hear the question? OK. Can you help us.

JANICE HUIE: I think, Porter, we'll have to research that carefully. It is certainly, as you know, not the intention of the committee to disenfranchise the pastor. We will simply have to research that carefully. I can't refer immediately to the place where that would be cared for.

BISHOP CRAIG: Can you be patient with it, Porter? Thank you very much. All right, let's turn to Discipleship, Paul Ervin Jr. Paul, are you ready?

PAUL ERVIN JR.: Bishop, the one item we will take up is Calendar Item 1988 on page 478 of the blue book. This has a minority report, Bishop, which would really be treated better as an amendment, and the representative from the minority report is here to confirm that. But Duane Sarazin from the Minnesota Conference will present it.

BISHOP CRAIG: OK, we're on Calendar Item 1988, page 478.

*Doctrinal Standards and Theological Task*

DUANE E. SARAZIN (Minnesota): Our legislative subcommittee on doctrinal matters within legislative committee three on Discipleship had literally dozens and dozens of petitions, which came before us reflecting the intense interest in commitment to being faithful to "Our Doctrinal Standards and Theological Task." This is a petition which our legislative committee believes has merit as it is amended. It's on page 478 of the blue book, number 1988, third column in the bottom. There is a minority report reflected on page 479, but in the interest of conciliation and going on towards perfection, we have continued to speak one with the other. And so I'm prepared, Bishop, to lift the amendments which would be made to the majority report beginning on the bottom of page 478, and then allow Phil Wogaman to step forward, who headed the team that put together the minority report, to second it so that it can be open for discussion. Does that seem agreeable to you, Bishop?

BISHOP CRAIG: All right. So you are in effect moving the minority report?

SARAZIN: I would be moving the majority report with amendments.

BISHOP CRAIG: With amendments.

SARAZIN: Yes.

BISHOP CRAIG: All right, that's fine.

SARAZIN: OK. So beginning at the bottom of page 478. The first paragraph would have several deletions. Beginning with the first line, you would strike the word, "of"; second line, you would strike the word "stand"; and then, in the third line you would begin striking the words, "these standards," and continue striking the entire rest of the paragraph. And then there would be insertions beginning with the first line. It would read: "The Doctrinal Standards and Our Theological Task found in *The Book of Discipline*, paragraph 65-68, places United Methodism in the broad stream of apostolic Christianity." I'll repeat how that paragraph should read: "The Doctrinal Standards and Our Theological Task found in *The Book of Discipline*, paragraph 65-68, places United Methodism in the broad stream of apostolic Christianity."

Then on page 479, dropping down to the fourth paragraph which begins, "Episcopal leaders are given responsibility to guard" and so forth, just beginning with an editorial correction, it should read paragraph 514.2 rather than 512.2 in the *Discipline*. And then, in that same paragraph, substitute the following sentence for the last sentence: "Such oversight includes providing leadership to the church in doctrinal matters." I'll repeat that: "Such oversight includes providing leadership to the church in doctrinal matters."

And then, dropping down to the bottom part of that column, in item number one, after the "Therefore, be it resolved," there is a one in the second line. After the word, "standards" would be the addition, "and our theological tasks." In the third line of that same paragraph, strike the word, "practice," and insert the word "observance." And then at the top of the second column on that page, we would change, "we encourage" to "we direct the secretary." Those then, would be the amendments to the majority report as agreed upon by the leader of the group which put together a fine minority report. And if there's understanding about these amendments, then I would like to call upon Phil Wogaman to step forward and make the second. Bishop.

BISHOP CRAIG: All right, let's hear from Mr. Wogaman.

PHILIP J. WOGAMAN: Thank you, Bishop and fellow delegates. I wish to second the motion that has been made, and if I could say a word about that.

BISHOP CRAIG: You may.

PHILIP J. WOGAMAN: In the spirit of a prayer which appears on the walls of our church kitchen, which is as follows: "Dear Lord, when I am wrong help me be willing to change. And when I am right, make me easy to live with." We want to be easy to live with and to acknowledge a useful compromise to save the body's time. The concern of the minority in this group was not to replace the doctrinal standards or to show any disrespect for them. We join in a solid commitment to our doctrinal standards. The issue with us was how the doctrinal standards would be used. And therefore, we felt it very important to maintain the balance between the statement of doctrinal standards which are quite large and vast in our *Book of Discipline* and the statement, "Our Theological Task," which encompasses the quadrilateral and a way of using those doctrinal standards. We have arrived with an agreement with the majority, which preserves both of those interests, and therefore, we feel it unnecessary to maintain the language of the paragraph immediately before the "therefores," which was the major statement of our committee. And thus, Bishop, we are prepared to go along with that. If there is no objection from any of those who signed on to this within our group in the minority.

BISHOP CRAIG: Is there objection from anyone who is the signer of the minority report? All right.

SARAZIN: Are the amendments before us? I would like to speak before we would vote on the final motion.

BISHOP CRAIG: You have put the amendments before us as a whole.

SARAZIN: That's right.

BISHOP CRAIG: And once we have dealt with the amendments, we'll come back to the amended report. It's complicated, and he read it slowly and carefully. Let the chair ask, do you have a sense of what the amendments are?

Are you ready? I see a card way back at the back. Yes sir. Microphone 13.

JOHN "JACK" ALBRIGHT (Texas): I'm a signer on the minority report. And I concur with the amendments and will support this on the basis that it is not that anyone on the minority report was trying to negate doctrinal standards, but that we were seeking to place doctrinal standards in the context of having some form of understanding their place.

There was a time when we had very strong doctrinal standards. And those doctrinal standards gave us a clear sense of identity. And out of that community there came an individual that did challenge some of those doctrinal standards, by healing on the Sabbath, and feeding on the Sabbath, and touching lepers. And that individual was charged and convicted.

So I hope that we will learn from that, that we support the doctrinal standards, but that we also know the one that we are behind and who we follow, who is the one that leads us into the continuous, mysterious struggle of how we faithfully practice our beliefs. So I will support the changes that have taken place, and support this petition with its amendments.

BISHOP CRAIG: All right, thank you. We are on the amendments. I saw a card back here. Microphone 9, please. That was a speech for.

JEFFREY GREENWAY (Western Pennsylvania): Bishop, I'd like to speak in favor of this as well.

BISHOP CRAIG: All right.

GREENWAY: I've been a member of this legislative committee and a supporter of the majority opinion throughout. This is one of the several resolutions that was sent to us from individuals and local churches, concerning doctrinal integrity. Several of us would say that we have no issues here, but others in The United Methodist Church family would beg to differ.

However, some on what was formerly the minority side would see this resolution without these amendments as an effort to squelch serious theological inquiry and reflection. This is not an effort to do such a thing. We live in a day when forces at polar ends of the theological spectrum might be pulling us so hard that it might tear us apart. In these days I believe that we need to affirm a centrist position, a dynamic center where we can live together and stand in ministry. If we're going to stay together as a vital force for mission and ministry, we must take our doctrinal standards and theological tasks seriously as we work together to fulfill the mission and ministry to which we have been called.

These amendments citing the *Discipline* would accomplish two things. They will affirm, as it says in paragraph 68, page 74, in the third paragraph on that page, "while the church considers this doctrinal affirmation as the central feature of its identity and restricts official changes to a constitutional process, the church encourages serious reflection across the theological spectrum." This language found in our theological task, affirms serious theological reflection. But, secondly, it would also affirm that we are a distinctively Christian church. We are Trinitarian, not unitarian. We believe in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. This language, as found in our doctrinal standards, helps to define who we are as the people called United Methodist. Thank you.

BISHOP CRAIG: All right, thank you. Now we are on the amendments. Is there anyone who wishes to speak against the amendments? Against the amendments? Yes, sir. Question? Microphone 8.

JERRY HEARE (Southwest Texas): Could you tell me, please, where we might find the doctrinal standards published?

BISHOP CRAIG: They're in the *Book of Discipline*. In the early section of the *Book of Discipline*.

DUANE SARAZIN (Minnesota): Paragraph 65 through 68.

BISHOP CRAIG: Is there anyone wishing to speak against the amendments? Are you wishing to speak against the amendments? You wish to hear one of them read again? All right. Well, I'm going to ask him to read the amended paragraphs in just a moment, all right? I don't hear anyone else...see anyone else wishing to...you wish to speak against the amendments? You want to move an amendment to the amendment? All right. (*laughter*) Now we see in a glass darkly. Microphone 3, please.

MARY ELIZABETH MOORE (California-Pacific): Actually this is a very small amendment which I think is consistent. I move that at the bottom, on page 479 at the end of the last of the last sentence of the fourth full paragraph, after the word "doctrinal," the words "and theological" be added. And if I have a second I'll speak to it briefly.

SARAZIN: We would accept that.

BISHOP CRAIG: Would you accept that? I hear acceptance. Thank you. Now I'm going to ask you to read the paragraphs you've amended as they would be amended...just the sentences around them so we can get the sense of it.

*Episcopal Leadership in Doctrinal and Theological Matters*

SARAZIN: OK, the first paragraph on the bottom page 478 would read now: "The doctrinal standards and our theological tasks found in the *Book of Discipline*, paragraphs 65 through 68, place United Methodism in the broad stream of apostolic Christianity." End of first paragraph.

Paragraph four, on page 479, left-hand column, would now read, in its entirety: "Episcopal leaders are given responsibility to guard, transmit, teach and proclaim, corporately and

individually, the apostolic faith as it is expressed in scripture and tradition, and as they are led and endowed by the Spirit to interpret that faith, evangelically and prophetically (paragraph 514.2). Episcopal leaders have the responsibility of general oversight and promotion of the temporal and spiritual interests of the entire church (paragraph 50). Such oversight includes providing leadership to the church in doctrinal and theological matters."

And then number 1 at the bottom of that page would read: "We affirm our doctrinal standards and our theological tasks, as set forth in the *Book of Discipline*, and encourage their observance at all levels of church life." And number 2: "We direct the secretary of the General Conference," etc.

BISHOP CRAIG: All right, that's what is before us now to amend this report. Please vote when the light appears.

BISHOP CRAIG: All right, the document is now before us as amended. [820 approved] There has been considerable discussion. I think you know what it says. Are you ready to vote? Please vote when the light appears. [864 approved] You've adopted Calendar Item 1988 in good spirit and good spirit from those who have worked on this. Thank you for the excellent work on that and the good spirit. That's right.

PAUL ERVIN: Bishop, will we be first up tonight *(applause)* or do you know? Will we be first up, so that I can let the people who'll be making presentations know?

BISHOP CRAIG: I'll have to refer that to the agenda committee. I don't have the authority to tell you.

ERVIN: Let me say that Aileen Williams and Christian Ricks—I'll need to see them here at 7:00, just in case.

BISHOP CRAIG: All right.

ERVIN: Thank you, Bishop.

BISHOP CRAIG: All right, thank you. Let's turn now to the Central Conferences Commission, Bishop Nacpil.

*Request to Translate Official Resources from English*

BISHOP EMERITO P. NACPIL: Bishop and members of the conference. I'd like for you to turn to page 477 of the blue book, Calendar Item 1977; 477, Calendar 1977. Petition 20021, the subject of which is a request to translate into Hausa, the language predominantly spoken in Nigeria, of portions of the *Book of Discipline*, *Book of Worship*, and the hymnal. The full text of this petition appears on page 542, top of the page of the same blue book. When this matter was considered in the commission, there were 29 of its members present. All 29 voted for it, none against. The recommendation of the commission is for concurrence and refer the matter to the publishing house.

BISHOP CRAIG: All right, before us is Calendar Item 1977 on page 477, recommendation for concurrence and referral to the publishing house. Clear back at the back, right there yes, you sir, microphone—no I'm sorry it's the gentleman behind you, not the one in the blue shirt. I'm sorry I called on the man in the jacket. I'm sorry, sir. Microphone 11. I'm stuttering, I'm sorry. Eleven, please.

WILLIAM S. DEEL (West Virginia): Bishop, the publishing house is aware of this proposal and has some clarification we'd like to make. I'd like you to recognize Neil Alexander for clarification on this matter.

BISHOP CRAIG: Yes, please. Would the house allow that? Yes, please. Mr. Alexander?

NEIL ALEXANDER (President, UMPH): We'd be glad to receive this as a referral to be investigated, to be developed as far as possible. What we don't know are all of the implications relative to both cost and practicality. The material that's in *The United Methodist Hymnal*, much of that material is not owned by The United Methodist Church. It is licensed for a one-time publication in *The United Methodist Hymnal*. Similarly, there is material in *The Book of Worship* that is not owned by The United Methodist Church. So there are issues here of copyright, practicality, and other related factors in terms of cost, all of which need to be further investigated.

BISHOP CRAIG: Do you want to respond to that in any way?

BISHOP NACPIL: We have no problem with that.

BISHOP CRAIG: All right, understanding those issues to be resolved, this item is before us. Yes? Microphone 4. I'm sorry, 5.

MEL BOWDAN (Kentucky): Nigeria is the largest country in population in Africa south of Sahara. You also have *Ebo, Yorba,* other tribal languages that are there that are also very competitive. Just a point of—a question. Has the committee considered that once we print something in *Hausa* that there may be some real requests for printing in other languages of Nigeria?

BISHOP NACPIL: There is that distinct possibility.

BISHOP CRAIG: Sounds like they've considered that. All right. Are you ready to vote on this item? Right back there in the center. Microphone 8, please.

ROCKY EUBANK (Southwest Texas): In view of what the gentleman from the publishing house said, I make a motion that this be referred at the publishing house rather taking action approving this request.

BISHOP CRAIG: All right, this is a motion for referral, simply referral.

BISHOP NACPIL: We have no problem with that either.

BISHOP CRAIG: All right, I hear the chair of the commission saying that's all right. Motion to refer. Please vote when the light appears. [860 approved] You have referred the item. Thank you. Bishop?

*Laity Added to Central Conference Executive Committee*

BISHOP NACPIL: The other item appears in the special Consent Calendar, A08, which you received this afternoon on your desks. It is Calendar Item 2464, Petition 23082, the subject

of which seeks to amend paragraph 2301.3 of the *Discipline* by adding a lay man and a lay woman to the composition of the Executive Committee of the Commission on Central Conference Affairs.

BISHOP CRAIG: All right, this item is before you, are you ready?

BISHOP NACPIL: The recommendation is concurrence.

BISHOP CRAIG: Concurrence; the recommendation is concurrence. Please vote when the light appears. [866 approved] You have concurred, thank you.

BISHOP NACPIL: And while I'm on my feet, Bishop, may I just point out two major actions that you took through the Consent Calendar, namely the continuance of the Eurasia Episcopal Area in order to provide for the continuing increase of our mission work in the Commonwealth of Independent States. We have signs of that here. We had the Latvia Choir this morning; we have the representative from Bulgaria; we have a representative from Estonia; we have observers from Russia. This is in grateful acknowledgement that God continues to bless our work there. The other action that you took was your provision for an enabling act that would make Zaire become a Central Conference by itself, to be composed of seven annual conferences. When we came to you in 1992 requesting that that section of the Africa Central Conference was to be allowed to meet, they had 500,000 members. Now the report comes to us that they have 700,000 members. Again, this is a reason for celebration. *(applause)* Thank you.

BISHOP CRAIG: Thank you very much, Bishop Nacpil. Now the chair is aware that it's 5:00, it's the dinner hour. Let's see if the house would be willing to extend for two things: a report on the status of the delegation to the White House, which we asked for earlier in the General Conference, and one motion on Consent Calendar. Would the house be willing, is there any objection to extend the time for those two items? Then I call on Bishop Woodie White.

*White House Delegation Announced*

BISHOP WOODIE W. WHITE: Delegates and friends, I'd like to give you an update on the request that you made earlier in the General Conference.

For the last several days we have continued to be in touch with the White House and the security council. It appears that a meeting can be scheduled for next week. With that in mind, earlier in the week it was necessary to name delegates to this White House visit, in order that security clearance could take place on the persons who attend.

I've asked the following persons to be a part of that delegation: Delegate Ronald Bretsch from [North] Central New York, who is a specialist in Middle East affairs; Dr. Randy Day from the New York Conference; Paulo Phillipe Bunga of Angola, and if he is unable to be with us, we'll have Kristen Dowdy of Virginia; Jo Ann Fukomoto; and myself. It is our intent to have a report for you in the *DCA* roundup. Thank you very much.

BISHOP JUDITH CRAIG: Thank you Bishop White. Now let's turn to Fitzgerald Reist and Sarah Miller for a calendar item.

*Consent Calendars Adopted*

FITZGERALD REIST: I'm coordinator of the calendar. Consent Calendar A07 may be found on page 665 of today's *DCA*. Calendar 2421 found on page 667 of today's *DCA* has been removed from Calendar A07 at the request of 10 delegates.

BISHOP CRAIG: All right.

SARAH MILLER: I move the acceptance of this calendar.

BISHOP CRAIG: All right, This calender is before us. I'm sorry, tell us the number again.

REIST: Consent Calendar A07.

BISHOP CRAIG: Page 665.

REIST: Page 665 of today's *DCA*. The one removed was 2421, found on page 667 of today's *DCA*.

BISHOP CRAIG: Consent Calendar Item A07 is before us with the exception of that calendar item. Are you ready? Please vote when the light appears. [812 approved] I think it passed. *(laughter)* I'm sorry. All right, anything else from the...Go ahead.

REIST: Consent Calendar C07 begins on page 668 of today's *DCA*, there are no changes.

BISHOP CRAIG: All right, 668.

MILLER: I move the adoption of Consent Calendar C07.

BISHOP CRAIG: Calendar C07 is before you, please vote when the light appears. And, I'll look this time. [874 approved] That's approved. Almost perfect, you're going on to perfection.

REIST: Not quite yet, but that's why we're Methodists. United Methodists are always going on. I recommend suspension of the rules to act upon Consent Calendars A08, B08, and C08, which were distributed to the desks of delegates this afternoon after 7:30 p.m. That is the action after 7:30 p.m. The deadline for removal of items to be 7:00 p.m. This would allow almost the normal amount of time for delegates to request removal of items from the Consent Calendar.

BISHOP CRAIG: All right, the first motion is to suspend the rules, will you do this by hand, I think you will. If you will suspend the rules will you lift the hand? Thank You. Opposed? They are suspended. Now your motion.

MILLER: I so move.

BISHOP CRAIG: We're into good shorthand here. *(laughter)* All right, these special Consent Calendars are before you. Please vote when the light appears. What's the point of order, excuse me.

BECKY HAASE (California-Pacific) I believe the motion was that they would be taken up tonight at 7:30 p.m. and not before.

BISHOP CRAIG: Excuse me. You're correct. The chair has in error, thank you. All right. What a good house you are. I've been handed a

couple of things here. One is, Bishop White failed to name that Bishop Dale White and Bishop Dan Solomon will also be in the White House delegation. I believe Jane Middletown, where are you? We're going to give you 35 seconds. Microphone 1.

*Tribute to Bishop James K. Matthews*

JANE MIDDLETON (New York): Thank you, bishop and members of the conference, I'll try to talk fast. When we acknowledged our bishops who are retiring, we failed to recognize yet another bishop who will retire again this year, Bishop James K. Mathews first retired in 1980, in 1985 he was assigned Bishop of Zimbabwe and retired for the second time in 1986. In 1990 he was yet again assigned to the newly-created Albany Area and retired for the third time in 1992. Last May he was assigned to the New York Area and has served with energy and wisdom, and we of the New York Conference have benefited enormously from his experience. He will retire for the fourth time at the end of August and what we hope will be a well-deserved rest. I have no historical data to support this, but we suspect this is a record.

BISHOP CRAIG: We'll put it to the Guinness Book of Records and see. (*applause*) All right, let's give our attention to the secretary of the General Conference for some announcements please.

CAROLYN MARSHALL: The first one is to ask that legislative chairpersons with items, which remain to be cared for this evening, would meet with Sara Miller, chair of agenda and calendar committee, near the platform immediately on adjournment this afternoon.

The question has come about the availability of pictures of the clergywomen which was taken here. The answer, which has been secured, is that the press office is closed at this particular point that was handling that. However, that picture will be available if you will contact United Methodist Communications in Nashville next week. Particularly ask for Lynn Scott.

*Report on General Conference Offerings*

Question also came as to sharing with you the amount of the offerings, which have been received here. The United Methodist Committee on Relief communion offering amount was $9,384.19. (*applause*) The native American Awareness offering was $3,579.00. (*applause*) And the offering most recently received, that for Pages and Marshals, amounted to $12,114.41. (*applause*)

Earlier during this session you were more than gracious in responding and affirming the work, which had been performed by two of the staffs, which have served you in preparation and during the General Conference. We now want you to be able to express your gratitude, our gratitude, to the local committee, Paula Johnston has chaired that committee. Unless you've done this, you have no idea of the amount of work that has gone into it. But we now present Paula Johnston to you, and Peggy Sewell, from the Rocky Mountain conference, who will share with you for just a minute.

*Thanks from Local Hosts*

PEGGY SEWELL: We in the Denver Episcopal Area, along with Bishop Mary Ann Swenson, have been twice blessed in the last nine months to be able to welcome our global family to our neighborhood. First with Youth '95 in Salt Lake City, and now these two weeks with General Conference in Denver. As we all prepared with great anticipation to receive family and friends into our individual homes, so had we in the Denver Episcopal Area, been filled with great excitement and anticipation to welcome you. We will continue to hold you in our prayers as you return to your homes and places of living out your faith commitment, just as we have prayed for you in our preparation and during the conference.

We thank you for the opportunity to be able to open our doors, our homes and our hearts to you. We have been greatly blessed and enriched by your presence among us. We pray that it has been for you a time of encountering the movement of the Holy Spirit in new ways, settings and relationships. Thank you for coming among us and living with us.

MARSHALL: Thank you. (*applause*)

BISHOP CRAIG: We thank you so much for your gracious welcome and hospitality. And, I want to thank this house for being a gracious and delightful house over which to preside. Thank you for the privilege. My thanks to Bishops Christopher and Lawson for keeping me straight. And, I'm happy now to say that at 7 o'clock, Bishop Hearn will be here to take us home. But in preparation for our evening meal recess, I've asked Bishop Ho of Singapore, who hosted the 1991 World Methodist Conference to come and give us our benediction. Let Us stand.

*(prayer)*

BISHOP HO (Singapore): Let us pray. Great and gracious God, we praise you for the day of opportunities and challenges. We thank you for the fellowship we share as the people of God. We acknowledge with gratitude your presence and guidance throughout the sessions of the General Conference. We now commit ourselves and all the resources of The United Methodist Church into your loving and sovereign hand. And as we continue to struggle with the very difficult issues that seek to frustrate and divide us, we believe and trust in your goodness and love that hold us together. So may we now go in you name with the assurance of your grace, peace and benediction. Amen.

# Friday Evening April 26, 1996

*Bishop J. Woodrow Hearn, presiding*

*(music)*

BISHOP J. WOODROW HEARN: The delegates will please find their seats. The hour has come for us to begin this evening's session. If you will please be in order and find your places.

STEVE KIMBOUGH: If you were in a church or Methodist Church in the Caribbean tonight, you might be singing, "Halle, Halle, Halleluia." If you will join Cynthia and me on this, when we sing the "Halleluia."

*(song)*

BISHOP HEARN: If you will be in order, please. I am going to call on Carolyn Marshall to make an announcement that needs to be made at this time before the house. If you'll give attention, please to Carolyn.

CAROLYN MARSHALL: David Severe, who is the chair of General and Judicial Administration Legislative Committee needs to meet with that legislative committee to the right of the platform immediately.

BISHOP HEARN: All right, if you will respond to that announcement. If everyone, now, will get in your seats, please. We need order in the house so that people can pay attention to the business. If all delegates will immediately make yourselves available to your seat, it will help everyone. As quickly as you can, now, if you will get in your seats, please. Now, if we can have silence in the hall, please so we can begin the business. Thank you.

This is the evening we've all been looking forward to for two weeks. So with your cooperation, and help, we'll make this a fine and joyful evening for our United Methodist Church. I want first of all to recognize Bernard "Skip" Keels for a matter concerning Liberia. Please, Skip. Where is Skip? Microphone 6.

*Motion on Matter of Liberia*

BERNARD "SKIP" KEELS (Baltimore-Washington): Bishop Hearn and members of the 1996 General Conference, in the spirit of holy conferencing I bless the Lord with all my soul, my heart, my mind and my strength. We commend the General Conference for adopting Petition 21066 and the April 20th, 1996 edition of the *Daily Christian Advocate*, Calendar Number 248, page 153, subject Liberia. Based on the historical relationship between Liberia and the United States, and realizing the Liberian civil war has reached a point where resolution of the crisis within seems extremely difficult, I move, one: that the 1996 General Conference of The United Methodist Church call on the President of the United States and his national community to urge international arms embargo on the sale and delivery of arms to Liberia.

Two: ask the United Nations to expand the capabilities of the economic community of West Africa's State Monitoring Group: with a) the necessary resources to carry out the tasks entrusted to it by the August 1995 Abuja Peace Accord, especially the disarmament and demobilization of the warring factions; b) additional peace-keeping forces from other countries outside of the continent of Africa.

And three: that this statement be carried by the General Conference delegation headed by Bishop Woodie White, president of the Council of Bishops, who will meet at the White House next week. I move the adoption of this.

BISHOP HEARN: Is there a second to this resolution? It's been moved and seconded. The resolution is before you. If you will adopt the resolution, you will vote when the light appears. [529 approved] The resolution passes.

There is one other matter before we get to the calendar items. I would like to recognize Mr. John Thomas, on behalf on the Commission on the Conference. Microphone 8.

*Thanks to Carolyn Marshall and Roger Kruse*

JOHN THOMAS (South Indiana): Bishop and members of the conference, this afternoon, Carolyn Marshall introduced her staff, and we gave them proper recognition. Also, Roger Kruse introduced his staff, and we gave them proper recognition. I think that we need to give proper recognition here, now, to our pleasure with first of all, Carolyn Marshall as our secretary. (*applause*) ...and to Roger Kruse. I'm not sure whether he's here on the floor or down in his office, but anyhow, he has worked hard and diligently to be our director. And I say this on behalf of the Commission on General Conference.

BISHOP HEARN: Thank you very much for that announcement. Now I want to recognize the fact that we are under a motion that was passed a few days ago, that we will proceed with the calendar items that are put before us by the Agenda Committee. And any special privileges or other motions that you want to make will be cared for after these items have been taken care of. So we will proceed with hearing from the chairs of the various legislative committees and all of those items. Then if there is time left for any special privileges or other items, we will take care of those at that time. I now want to recognize Cashar Evans who is with Financial Administration. Cashar.

*Finance for Promotion of Homosexuality Denied*

CASHAR W. EVANS JR. (North Carolina): I call your attention to page 387 of the blue *DCA*, Calendar Item 1687. And in the white book on page 1322, the right column, a third of the way down, is Petition 22640. It has to do with monetary assistance to the promotion or acceptance of homosexuality. The committee's recommendation is nonconcurrence. That

was by a vote of 54 for, 27 against, and zero abstentions. I ruled, and I certainly could have been in error, I ruled a substitute out of order. And hence, I have a minority report. So, Bishop, do you want to take the minority report first?

BISHOP HEARN: Yes. We'll need to have it presented.

DALE JONES (Kentucky): These lights are bright, aren't they? This is a rather unusual minority report in that our Financial Administration Legislative Committee passed by a 59 to 25 vote majority an amendment to this petition saying to add to paragraph 707 a new subsection 7: "No conference council, commission, board, agency, or committee shall give monetary or other assistance to the promotion or endorsement of homosexual practice."

Having passed that, we then discovered that paragraph 707 was not within the prerogative of the Financial Administration Committee to amend. And our chair very correctly, I think, ruled the amendment or the substitute, out of order. At this point, it was late at night, and we had mountains of important matters yet to consider. So rather than consuming additional committee time with reconsiderations and further amendments and that type of thing, we decided to address the committee's wishes as expressed in that initial substitute through this minority report. I suppose, had we known that it would be coming here at 7 p.m. on the last day, maybe we would have taken a little bit more time in the committee that night after all, to have saved a few minutes here in the plenary. But that's how the minority report came to be.

There is an editorial correction that should be made there in the first line under the word, "minority report." Insert new paragraph that should read, "710.16 and renumber." The paragraph 710.16 deals with the responsibilities of the Conference Council on Finance and Administration, and just insert this as the next to the last item in that section and would be essentially parallel with the language that is already in paragraph 906 regarding the General Council on Finance and Administration. Thank you.

BISHOP HEARN: Thank you. The majority report in this case is a nonconcurrence on this item. So the matter is now before the house. Yes, over here. Microphone 7.

J. PHILIP WOGAMAN (Baltimore-Washington): Fellow delegates, we've had quite enough on this subject, have we not? I can think of no useful purpose for this, whatsoever, unless maybe to stifle honest debate within the life of our church and the expression of alternative points of view under the sponsorship of programs of the church. Nobody is using church funds to promote homosexuality. I think this is just one step too far.

BISHOP HEARN: A substitute is before you, which is the minority report. If you want to adopt the substitute, you will vote for it first, and then we will go to the main motion. If you are ready to vote on the minority report, a "yes" vote would sustain the minority report; a "no" vote would be against the minority report. Cast your vote when the light appears. The minority report is not adopted. [Results: yes, 307; no, 443]

The majority report is before us, which was for nonconcurrence from the committee. If you will act on the nonconcurrence item, you will vote when the light appears. [Results: yes, 548; no, 201] You've agreed with the committee's recommendation. Mr. Evans?

EVANS: Now we come to Discipleship. Mr. Ervin.

PAUL ERVIN, JR. (North Georgia): We have another matter in Discipleship. Calendar Item 1987 on page 478.

BISHOP HEARN: If you'll give the page number first, it will help the delegates.

ERVIN: Page 478, Calendar Item 1987. [unintelligible] Minnesota Conference. There is a minority report but, Bishop, we're suggesting it be handled as an amendment.

BISHOP HEARN: All right.

*Council on Youth Ministries*

AILEEN L. WILLIAMS (Minnesota): Bishop, this, as Paul has said, is on page 478 in your blue book; Calendar Item 1987, Petition 20496. You'll find that in your red *DCA*, on page 243, in the right-hand column.

You'll find that in your red *DCA* on page 243 in the right hand column. In our committee, the structure subcommittee received over 20 petitions dealing with bringing flexibility into the annual conference, and this was dealt with prior to our passing the connectional issue study by the General Council of Ministries. We were looking for flexible language, and this language in this petition dealt with how to have the functions of the Youth Council possibly put into another structure—that there be an equivalent structure. So the committee accepted this language around flexibility prior to the work we've done in plenary about giving flexibility. After the concurrence, the minority report was filed which we would like to have presented to you as an amendment to the report, and Debra Wilcox will present the minority report.

BISHOP HEARN: And we are treating the minority report as simply an amendment to the material that's found in the *Advance DCA*.

DEBORAH WILCOCK (Eastern Pennsylvania): There is a misprint in the *Advance DCA*, which may lead to some confusion as to how the amendment would read. Let me attempt to clarify that. The phrase that we're inserting is the phrase that says "which follows the same membership requirements." That would make the petition read as follows: "In each annual conference there shall be a Conference Council on Youth Ministries, or the responsibilities outlined below may be assigned to such other organization which follows the same membership requirements as the annual conference provides pursuant to" and continuing. If I have a second then I'll explain the rational.

BISHOP HEARN: Is there a second to this amendment? It's before us.

WILCOCK: We believe that this would ensure that the vibrant joint ministry between youth and adults would remain intact. Basically there was some confusion in the committee as to whether or not some other structure that would be assigned the responsibility of the Conference Council on Youth Ministries would follow the same balance of youth and adults within the structure. This does still allow for flexibility in the name of the organization and the accountability of the organization. It ensures that youth ministry will continue to be a joint venture of youth and adults.

BISHOP HEARN: Would you point out the specific words, which you are adding.

WILCOCK: After the word "organization" in the petition as it reads in the *Advance DCA*, we're inserting a comma, and then the words "which follows the same membership requirements," a second comma, and then it continues.

BISHOP HEARN: This is the amendment to the original petition which the committee is recommending concurrence for. If you will adopt this amendment, or if you will vote on this amendment, you will do so when the light appears.

The amendment has been added and now the whole matter is before us, which is recommended concurrence, and then it has been amended. If you will vote on this matter, you will do so when the light appears. And it has been adopted.

WILCOCK: Thank you.

BISHOP HEARN: We'll go now to the ministry.

SANDRA W. LUTZ (Chair, Ordained, Diaconal Ministry): We have several items we need to reconsider, because the committee recommendation recorded in the blue *DCA* is incorrect, and does not record the actual vote of our legislative committee. I believe we need to work through these one at a time. I would first move reconsideration of Calendar Item 1580, blue *DCA*, page 377.

BISHOP HEARN: I would like to ask again that the chairpersons please give the page number first so the delegates can be looking up the number.

LUTZ: Page 377.

*Correction of Concurrence/Nonconcurrence*

BISHOP HEARN: Thank you.

SANDRA W. LUTZ (East Ohio): Its Calendar Item 1580. The true vote, I believe we have to vote reconsideration first, Bishop. Is that correct?

BISHOP HEARN: Is this an item that has already been acted upon by the house?

LUTZ: It was accepted on a Consent Calendar, and it was incorrectly accepted as nonconcurrence and it really should have been concurrence.

BISHOP HEARN: All right, we do need to reconsider it then. If you will reconsider this item, you will indicate voting when the light appears. [776 approved] You have agreed to reconsider. Please present it to us.

LUTZ: All right. I would move that we accept the committee's recommendation of concurrence, which was 72, 0, 0.

BISHOP HEARN: If you will agree with the committee for concurrence on this item, or if you will vote on what you want to do with this item, you will do so when the light appears. [773 approved] Your action has now been changed to concurrence.

LUTZ: Thank you. Second, I would move reconsideration in the blue *DCA*, page 555, Calendar Item 2125. The true vote of the committee—I'm sorry, I need to move reconsideration first, Bishop.

BISHOP HEARN: How many of these items do you have?

LUTZ: This is the second and I have a third.

BISHOP HEARN: If you will authorize the reconsideration of both of these items, she'll get the other one in a moment. Let's do it all at one time. Will you vote as to whether or not you will reconsider both of these items she is going to present in one vote? Please vote when the light appears. [813 approved] You've authorized both of them to be presented to the house.

LUTZ: Thank you. All right. This one, the true vote of the committee was nonconcurrence—85, zero, zero. That's Calendar Item 2125.

BISHOP HEARN: So this would be changing from concurrence to nonconcurrence?

LUTZ: That's correct.

BISHOP HEARN: Off of the Consent Calendar. If you will make your decision concerning this item, please vote when the light appears. [815 approved] You have now taken nonconcurrence action.

LUTZ: All right. The final item in this group deals—in the blue *DCA*, page 375. Calendar Item 1555. This references paragraph 38 and is therefore a constitutional amendment. The true vote of the committee was for concurrence by a vote of 94, zero, zero.

BISHOP HEARN: The matter is now before the house again.

LUTZ: Does the house want some discussion of that or not?

BISHOP HEARN: Would you like any more explanation than you have? I do not hear any call for it. The recommendation of the committee is for concurrence. If you will concur with them or not concur with them, you will indicate by voting when the light appears. This will take a two-thirds vote. [764 approved] It has received more than the two-thirds required for concurrence.

LUTZ: That's all I have at this time, Bishop.

BISHOP HEARN: Thank you. We go now to Conferences. Mr. Hunter.

GEORGE G. HUNTER III (Florida): We have a couple of priority items before we take some of our other items later in the evening.

BISHOP HEARN: All right. If you will present them to us.

*Number of Western Jurisdiction Bishops*

HUNTER: Yes. The first of these has to do with a mistake in the 1992 *Discipline* which, if left uncorrected,

would give the Western Jurisdiction only one bishop, or something to that effect. Flo Sapp Martin will explain it.

BISHOP HEARN: Well, well, well. *[laughter]*

FLO SAPP MARTIN (South Georgia): I don't think that's entirely true, Western Jurisdiction, so do not panic. But if you will turn with me in your blue *DCA* to page 445, you'll see Calendar Item 1702, Petition 21720. And you will find this item in the red *Advance DCA* on page 178 in the top of the left-hand column. We lifted this item from the Consent Calendar to report an error in the line numbers that was made in the printing. And I understand that there are lots of people beside me and behind me on this platform that want to make sure that this gets corrected.

So, if you will look in your blue *DCA* on page 445 where it says line 3, it should read line 5; where it says line 6, it should read line 8. And where it says line 6 the second time, it should read line 12. And that's referring to the line numbers in the red *DCA* on page 178. We voted concurrence. This just allows the number of bishops in each jurisdiction to remain the same. It corrects the error in the 1992 *Discipline* and makes sure that all the folks up here have a place to go when July and August come.

BISHOP HEARN: OK. This matter of a correction of the '92 *Discipline* is before you. You will vote when the light appears. [810 approved] You have corrected the *Discipline*.

GEORGE G. HUNTER III (Florida): Bishop, another thing came up as we were going to supper, and I have not had time to get all of the pages related to this. But I simply want to correct a mistake that our committee made in good faith. Calendar Item 409.

BISHOP HEARN: Page number please.

HUNTER: I was given that, but it turned out to be incorrect. I only know that it is Calendar Item 409. This is the gist of it.

BISHOP HEARN: I'm going to ask you to step back for a minute and have the opportunity to find that page number 168. OK.

*Reconsideration of Publishing Volumes of DCA*

HUNTER: And the gist of the problem is this. We responded concurrence to a petition that came in, in essence, asking that the *Advance DCA* all be done in one volume and be done much earlier. Acting on the data that we had, Bishop, we concurred with that without a great deal of discussion. The staff simply tells us that they experience that petition as something like cruel and unusual punishment. And we love our staff. All we're asking them is to do what is humanly possible, to get the *Advance DCA* out to all of the people as early as possible. I would like to, therefore, propose reconsideration, and invite the house to vote nonconcurrence.

BISHOP HEARN: If you will reconsider this item, or you will take your action on reconsideration of this item when the light appears. [739 approved]

You have agreed to the reconsideration. Your motion then is that this be for nonconcurrence on this petition.

HUNTER: For nonconcurrence to that petition.

BISHOP HEARN: All right. Yes. Microphone 8.

WILLIAM B. THIELKING (Southern New Jersey): I don't care if the volumes come out in two volumes or three volumes or ten volumes. What I am concerned about is that we get all petitions at the same time. We were given weeks to look at the recommendations that came from the boards and agencies and hours to read the recommendations that have come from local churches. And would voting nonconcurrence mean that we'd go back to the way it was done this year?

BISHOP HEARN: We'll ask the chair to respond.

HUNTER: We haven't had time to discuss that or any other contingencies. But I think that desire could be accurately communicated to the staff.

THIELKING: Well, I'm for—never mind. *(laughter)*

HUNTER: I know the feeling.

BISHOP HEARN: The delegate who is standing by microphone 8 is out of order because you left your seat and went to the microphone. I'm sorry. Down here.

Microphone 3.

CAROL A. SMITH (Missouri East): I'm a secretary, and I know that you can't publish something until you have it. So, perhaps we're looking at deadlines that are impossible unless there's a way you can extend deadlines or make them earlier. But I appreciate the staff and what they have to do, because my faculty members sometimes ask me to do the impossible also.

HUNTER: Yes. Bishop, if I could, one of our delegates, Jack Stone, is in a position to interpret this for us. Could we call on him?

BISHOP HEARN: Be very happy to. Please. Now he's got to walk back to microphone 8. As the sleepiness of the evening continues, he'll be glad for this exercise. *(laughter)* Give us some information that will be helpful.

JACK VAN STONE (South Indiana): I would move that, after we've reconsidered it now, that we amend the petition to have the time limit of 150 instead of 120 days, and that's for consultation with the secretary and the staff, and that will give ample opportunity to get all the petitions at one time.

BISHOP HEARN: All right. There is a motion that it be...Well, actually, we have a concurrence before us, and this would be amending it to 150 days where it's 120 days.

VAN STONE: That's correct. Yes.

HUNTER: We would accept that, Bishop.

BISHOP HEARN: Very good. Then this matter is before us with the changing of those numbers. All right, I see you back in the back here. Yes, microphone 13.

ANTHONY ALEXANDER (Central Pennsylvania): While we're talking about the *Advance DCA*, I have a concern.

BISHOP HEARN: OK. I need to tell you that we have an amendment before us that we change the original petition to 150 days from 120 days. That's the matter that's before the house.

*Request for Advance DCA to be Translated from English*

ALEXANDER: Yes sir. But I'm concerned about our central conference delegates and the languages. I'm wondering while we're working on that if we could also ask the Bishops to confer with the central conferences so that they can get a language that they can understand, so that they could also have it in advance. Is that appropriate, sir?

BISHOP HEARN: If you wish to make an amendment to this amendment, it would be appropriate.

ALEXANDER: I so move that the Commission on the General Conference be required to consider the following steps for the central conferences for the year 2000: consult with the bishops from the central conferences to determine language needs of delegates to the General Conference; the central conference bishops should be asked to provide a list of recommended languages for translation; and to explore ways in which non-English speaking delegates can be provided written translations of the *Advance Daily Christian Advocate*, as well as daily summary of the *Daily Christian Advocates*.

BISHOP HEARN: Is there a second to this? This is an amendment to the amendment. It seems to me to be a rather simple straightforward thing. Would you like to vote on this now? If you will get ready to cast your vote on this recommendation here that will be passed on to the Commission of the General Conference concerning language needs of our persons from outside the United States. If you will get ready to vote on that when the light appears. Yes? Your point of order? Microphone 7.

CHUCK HEFLEY (North Indiana): Could we please check and make sure we're on the right petition? I don't think we are.

BISHOP HEARN: All right, we'll ask the chair of the presenting committee. He referred us to page 168.

GEORGE HUNTER III: Sir, I do not have my red *DCA* with me, let me fetch it.

BISHOP HEARN: Yes.

HUNTER: Has someone else found it? I think our colleagues have over to the left, sir.

BISHOP HEARN: I'm going to ask that this whole matter be put on hold, and then I ask the chair of this committee to take the time necessary to get the proper information to put this before the house. Don't you think this is the way we need to handle it so that we can have that information before us? So we'll ask Mr. Hunter if he please will do that, and I'll go now to presentation by David Severe to give you time, Dr. Hunter, to do that.

HUNTER: Thank you.

DAVID L. SEVERE (Oklahoma): Thank you. Our committee was reconvened for a moment because of a matter that we would like to bring back to you with our concerns. If you would please turn to your *DCA*, page 204, the right-hand column.

BISHOP HEARN: Blue book, 204?

SEVERE: Yes, sir.

BISHOP HEARN: OK.

*Process for Electing General Secretaries*

SEVERE: The Calendar Item 480. Now if you want to see this where it came originally, the Petition 20548, and it is on, in the red book, page 701, the right-hand column in the middle of the page, Petition 20548. This was one of the early petitions that was passed out of our committee. It calls for a reversal of our position on the way general secretaries are elected. This appears in a number of places, but this is a specific area that we were concerned about. The way we have done that is that the general secretaries are nominated by their various agencies, and the General Council on Ministries elects. It is a process which provides a certain amount of creative tension; it also is a safety-valve for our general secretaries to have some back-up, from time to time.

Unfortunately, it slipped through without a great deal of discussion in the full committee; and so we met a moment ago, and we have reversed our position on that in a unanimous vote of those who were present, which was not everybody, I would admit. But we would like to move nonconcurrence with this, because we believe that for this next four years, at least, we ought to leave these matters pretty much the way they are and let that process move forward through the Connectional Process Team and see what that needs to look like in the future. So we would move nonconcurrence.

BISHOP HEARN: So the vote of the committee on 480, on page 204, is now non-concurrence.

SEVERE: Yes, sir.

BISHOP HEARN: OK. Yes? Microphone number 7.

RUTH A. DAUGHERTY (Eastern Pennsylvania): Bishop, was this taken off of the Consent Calendar?

SEVERE: Yes, it was.

DAUGHERTY: OK, thank you.

BISHOP HEARN: Thank you for that inquiry, Ruth. The recommendation of the committee is for nonconcurrence. Prepare to vote when the light appears. You have agreed with the committee. [768 approved]

SEVERE: We have one other item and that is—as we have operated with the process moving along, you will recall that we set a number for the number of people who would be on general agencies as directors and members. That had been done prior to our establishing the Methodist Men's Commission. That has necessitated us revisiting some of these matters so that we can correct the numbers. And so we would like to move reconsideration of that, and I've asked Jim Holsinger if he would please come and lead us through that.

BISHOP HEARN: All right. Good. Dr. Holsinger, if you will tell us where we are first of all, then we'll take the

matter of the reconsideration before us.

*UM Men Commission Requires Adjustment of 640 Member Agency Total*

JIM HOLSINGER (Kentucky): Yes, Bishop, members of the conference. We have a situation, as you well know, where by an 80 percent to 20 percent vote we concurred with the formation of a General Commission on United Methodist Men with 43 members. You also recall that we concurred in the number of 640 as the maximum number of individuals to serve on general boards, agencies of the church by a vote of 70 percent to 30 percent.

With those two overwhelming votes, our legislative committee went back to work to see what we would need to do to conform the legislation that we have, that we have passed. Two of the pieces of material have passed. One was the legislation to create the General Commission on United Methodist Men. Another one that we have already approved on the Consent Calendar that would be affected is the size of the General Board of Discipleship. And we have had lifted from the Consent Calendar some days ago paragraph 805, which is the implementing legislation that would include the 640 member board—640 members of the general agencies. What I'd like to do is to walk us through the process by moving to open the item on page 386 in the blue *DCA*, and we will do everything that we need to do tonight in the blue *DCA*. Page 386, Calendar Item 1681 is the...

BISHOP HEARN: Let me interrupt just a minute, Jim. What he is presenting relates to action that has already been taken to the house. The committee is asking to come back to correct that, the correction being made necessary for other items that the house has also passed. So if you will vote reconsideration upon this so that it may be presented to you, you will vote when the light appears. We are technically in order for the reconsideration, so please proceed.

HOLSINGER: Thank you, Bishop. Our legislative committee met to try and see how we could reconcile these two very different numbers, and we have been able to come up with the process of being able to create a General Commission on United Methodist Men with 23 members, and at the same time, because of some internal shifting that would go on between the Board of Discipleship and the United Methodist Men's general commission and some slack that we had in the system, we can do that with an increase of only ten members to 650 from 640. What we'll do is walk our way through that series of items it would take to do that, and you're on page 386, Calendar Item 1681, the bottom right-hand column.

In this particular item, we would have to amend this new paragraph for the General Commission on United Methodist Men, which will probably be numbered in the 2300 series and is the paragraph entitled, "Membership;" and you will see it in the lower portion of the left-hand corner of that particular page, at the very bottom of page 386...

At the very bottom of page 386 we would need to substitute the first sentence of this paragraph to read as follows: "The commission shall consist of 23 voting members as defined in paragraph 805.2 in the general provisions and paragraph 635 for the 1997 to 2000 quadrennium." If there's a second to the motion, then I would just...

BISHOP HEARN: Does this come from the committee?

HOLSINGER: This does come from the committee, so we can move ahead.

BISHOP HEARN: It comes from the committee, so its properly before us.

HOLSINGER: This would allow us to set that level at 23, and it would allow us to move on then beyond the year 2000 quadrennium after we have finished the connectional process teamwork and have gone though this interim quadrennium to develop the size of this agency at whatever would come to us in 2000 General Conference from the CPT, or Connectional Process Team. Also, as part of this would be a requirement to amend, at the top of the next page, where it says, "The Council of Bishops: six members," would read instead "two members."

BISHOP HEARN: This item now is before us, starting on page 386 and going over to 387. Back in the back, microphone 14.

GILBERT HANKE (Texas): United Methodist Men concur with this action.

BISHOP HEARN: Thank you very much, Gil. The matter is now before you for these two changes in the numbers. Prepare to express yourself when the light appears. [821 approved] All right, you have concurred with the recommendation which has come from the committee.

*Move Junisdiction UM Presidents to New Commission*

HOLSINGER: If you will turn to page 452, Calendar Item 1754, middle left-hand column. This particular legislation deals with the organization of the General Board of Discipleship. In order to conform this legislation to the size of the United Methodist Men's general commission, we would need to do the following things. We would need to amend paragraph 1204.1 to read as follows: "The Board shall consist of 58 members" instead of 63. And if you will go to the top of the next column, we would need to amend paragraph 1204.1*a* to read, and these are numbers: "North Central, 6," instead of 7, "Northeastern, 7," instead of 8, "South Central, 9" instead of 10, "Southeastern, 12 instead of 13, and "Western, 2" instead of 3. Follow the "3" of Western with a period and strike the remainder of the paragraph. What this effectively does is to move the five jurisdictional presidents of the United Methodist Men from the Board of Discipleship to the United Methodist Men's—General

Commission on United Methodist Men, which is a part of their legislation to have them included in that general commission.

BISHOP HEARN: This amendment is before us. Yes, over here. Microphone 1.

HARRIET OLSON (Northern New Jersey): I'd like to try a substitute, if I may.

BISHOP HEARN: Please.

OLSON: Leaving the beginning of 1204.1 as it is so that it would remain 64 members, I would propose to make—that is leaving it the way it is in the *DCA*. I propose to make an amendment in 1204.1*a*, and the amendment would be after "Western, 3," to place a period and delete the rest of the paragraph.

BISHOP HEARN: The amendment is before us. Is there a second? There is a second.

OLSON: The purpose of the amendment is to retain the board size of 63 members. I recognize that this would mean that the total number of board members in paragraph 805 would have to be raised to 655, but I think that we would benefit from having the additional members, that we would lose if we consider, if we were of the view that the jurisdictional men's presidents had not been full participants in the board. That's not how the board has functioned in the past quadrennium. We have a lot of program work, as you know, and we've been referred some very important items like the ministry of the laity, and following up on the bishops' work in that area, and I think that the representation would be very helpful to us. So that's why I would make the substitution.

BISHOP HEARN: The amendment is before us. Jim, do you wish to speak to that?

HOLSINGER: Harriet's motion simply would result in the action in petition 1754, simply the deletion of the five United Methodist Men's jurisdictional presidents. The rest of the size of the General Board of Discipleship would remain the same, and we would simply, when we get to the next item which it 805, we would amend the 640 to 655 instead of the 650.

BISHOP HEARN: OK. The amendment calls for raising the number proposed by the committee from 58 members to 63 members on the Board of Discipleship. Express yourself when the light appears. [Results: yes, 380; no, 502] The number remains at the recommendation of the committee at this time. If you are now ready to vote on the recommendation of the committee for the changes in the numbers, you will express yourself when the light appears. [Results: yes, 823; no, 63] That recommendation of the committee is concurred.

HOLSINGER: Bishop, recommendation number is done in order to conform paragraph 805 to meet the needs of the creation of the General Commission on United Methodist Men. You will find it on page 310 of the blue *DCA*. It's Calendar Item 856 at the bottom of the right-hand column. You will find just the title at that point, and then it runs on into the next page.

This item has been lifted from the Consent Calendar. It is my understanding that the individuals that lifted it from the Consent Calendar may be satisfied with the reasons for which they wish to lift that paragraph, Bishop, so I don't know if there is anything else we need to do other than to confirm it at this time. And perhaps whoever lifted it would want to say whether they are satisfied or not.

BISHOP HEARN: All right. What change is being recommended by the committee?

*Correlate All Discipline References to Agency Membership Numbers*

HOLSINGER: Recommendations by the committee are as follows. If you will look at paragraph 805.1*a*. By addition—you are looking at the top of the middle column on page 311. You will find the list of the 13 general agencies of the church. Following the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women would be a comma and the General Commission on United Methodist Men. And you would authorize that the Committee on Correlation and Editorial Review to conform all lists of general agencies in the *Book of Discipline* to this paragraph.

If you will go over to the right-hand column on page 311, come down two-thirds of the way almost to the bottom of the page, you will see paragraph 805.2*e*, which reads "a total of 119 at-large members for inclusiveness in experience," and that number would change to 124. Paragraph 805.2*f* dealing with 51 episcopal leaders would go from 51 to 53. Paragraph 805.2*g* would be changed from 640 to 650. And if you would go to the following page, following item *j* in the middle of the left-hand column of page 312, we would need to add an additional paragraph 805.2*k* as follows: "A total of 16 persons, at least one of whom shall be a Central Conference member, will be elected in accordance with the legislation creating the General Commission on United Methodist Men." I think that that would be changed, once we know the exact paragraph number, to read in accordance with whatever the paragraph is. But it's the way in which the individuals have been listed to be elected by the United Methodist Men in their legislation.

BISHOP HEARN: This is the recommendation of the committee to bring this legislation in conformity with legislation, which you have already adopted. So the matter is now before us. Yes? Back here. Microphone 7.

*Membership of 23 Member UM Men Commission*

BYRD L. BONNER (Southwest Texas): I have a point of clarification. It relates to the 16 members in subparagraph 2*k* that you just added, Jim. Referring back to blue *DCA*, page 387, I want to make sure that it's clear we have changed the number 3 on the top line of the left-hand column to 2, correct?

HOLSINGER: Six to two.

BONNER: Sorry, six to two?

HOLSINGER: That's correct.

BONNER: So now it reads, "two members elected by each jurisdictional conference upon nomination by the Jurisdictional Committee on United Methodist Men, which will include at least one clergy, one woman, ethnic representation, and the jurisdictional president of the United Methodist Men"?

HOLSINGER: Correct. That is the 15 in that 16, and it includes the five presidents that we have moved from the General Board of Discipleship, plus the one individual, one elected president of National Organization of United Methodist Men of a Central Conference or conferences, which is on down in the paragraph. That is the 16. We reduced this from 43 to 23, and those are the four members out of that six times five jurisdictions at the top of the page.

BONNER: Well, I just want to make sure when we get to jurisdictional conference and do this process we know what we're doing. Because two members from each jurisdictional conference that includes at least one clergy, at least one woman, and the jurisdictional president of the United Methodist Men may present a problem.

HOLSINGER: Well, but you go on, and there are five representatives of National Association Conference Presidents, including the national president. That's the five plus ten is fifteen. Then you have five members-at-large, one central conference member, and two bishops....

BONNER: Well, I understand that, but can you explain to me how two people elected at each jurisdictional conference to include at least one woman, at least one clergy, and the jurisdictional president of United Methodist Men works.

HOLSINGER: Yes. I can. There are two times five and, makes ten, plus the five in the middle of the page where it says five representatives of the National Association of Conference Presidents, including the national president. Those individuals might be presumed to be males.

BONNER: Well, I can understand that, but the five representatives of the National Association of Conference Presidents of United Methodist Men would not necessarily be the jurisdictional president of the United Methodist Men.

HOLSINGER: It might not be, but I would anticipate that that's what the United Methodist Men have in mind.

BONNER: Am I reading this wrong or does this present a conflict, that we've got two representatives elected in July at each jurisdictional conference that are anticipated to be divided three ways?

HOLSINGER: Well, I'll try it again. There are 15 individuals plus one from the Central Conference. That's the 16 in paragraph 2*k*. That includes the five jurisdictional presidents of United Methodist Men, plus one clergy, and one woman. I don't know how else to lay it out any clearer than that. We're trying to amend their numbers from 43 to 23 in a way that leaves their electoral process approximately intact. We could go back in and really try to revise that whole piece, but we're going into a quadrennium where we are going to be looking at a transitional quadrennium, and that's why we built into their paragraph the quadrennium 1997-2000 for this number, because we would anticipate that, as we go through the transitional quadrennium, the Connectional Process Team will be looking at all general agencies to determine exactly how they will be structured and how their membership will be assigned.

BISHOP HEARN: OK. In the back. Microphone 12.

JEFF QUICK (North Arkansas): Point of clarification. It's my understanding that General Commissions must have youth and young adult representatives. If that is the case, has that been cared for?

HOLSINGER: Yes. You will find in their paragraph that it includes two. Where they also will be—and since they are working under the same 10 percent rule that we'd announced when we talked about this earlier in the week, which is in this particular implementing legislation, 10 percent of 23 is roughly two. So that number seems to fall pretty well.

BISHOP HEARN: These matters have been presented to you by the committee. Are you ready to vote on this matter now? If you then will prepare your decision on Calendar Item 856 and vote when the light appears. You have approved that calendar item. [827 approved]

HOLSINGER: Thank you my friends. I can go home.

BISHOP HEARN: Dr. Jim, thank you.

DAVID SEVERE: I want to express appreciation, not only to Jim Holsinger but to Elaine Stanovsky and Anna Workman, and Byrd who has raised questions, but he's also worked late into the night. And Merl Griffith who has given us a lot of advice. We appreciate them very much.

BISHOP HEARN: Thank you David. Good. Thank you. *(applause)* I want to come back....

BISHOP HEARN: I want to come back after the conferences, Dr. Hunter.

*Schedule for Printing of Petitions*

GEORGE G. HUNTER (Florida): Yes, Bishop. Thanks for your patience. I think at last we are ready. If you will turn in your blue to page 130. You will find Item 98 had been placed on the Consent Calendar.

It is Petition 22168. In that version of the petition you will find it in your white book. The petition itself page 1263, and it's at the bottom left of that page. Petition 22168, this regards the schedule for the printing of petitions.

Our original for the publishing of the *DCA*...our original petition asks that it be published 120 days in advance. What we have worked out, that in fact confirms to the amendment that was offered, is for the office to receive petition from agencies and others 150 days before General Conference. It takes 60 days to do the

editing, 30 days to do the printing, and that would permit them then to get it out 60 days ahead of General Conference for all of the delegates. And so we would support the amendment as a friendly amendment, bishop.

BISHOP HEARN: All right, if the house will allow then, we would just incorporate the 150 days, which was one of the amendments that we had before the house when we recessed this matter. Is there any objection in the body for the change of that to 150 days? I hear no objections. All right, if you will go on with your other matters.

All right what is your point of order? We also have another amendment that was resting on this matter concerning language that was there. Are you having the point of order back here? Microphone...to the gentleman coming across there toward microphone 6 is the one I am recognizing.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (*through translation*) We delegates from the Central Conferences. We are so grateful to this General Conference for the translation in Swahili. We thank you very much our brothers and sisters who accepted to do this translation so we may participate into this big event. And we look forward to the day that we will receive this material ahead of time into languages that we can understand. Thank you very much.

BISHOP HEARN: Thank you. I would like to clarify where we are. We need now to take time to be sure that Dr. Hunter has had the opportunity to put before us the matter that has come from the committee. And then we have another amendment, which will be on the matter after Dr. Hunter has explained it. So you just hold just a minute until we are sure what we have before the house. Dr. Hunter, any other remarks you need to make?

HUNTER: Yes, Bishop, in a nut shell, we are proposing an amendment with our colleague in the audience that the goal of having petitions and that the petition secretary 120 days prior to the opening session of General Conference be changed to 150 days. And the staff concurs that will be the main, and we commend it.

BISHOP HEARN: This is the main motion then that we change the 120 of the action that you took earlier to the 150. Now I want to remind you that we have another motion that is on the floor that goes with this, which is that the Commission on the General Conference be asked to pay attention to the possibility of providing the material in languages for the delegates. Now we have those...that is the amendment that is before us. OK, only the discussion of the amendment now until we have taken care of it. I recognize way back in the corner over here on this side, please. Microphone 10.

LINDA BALES (West Ohio): It's my understanding that if we change the time to 150 days that...

BISHOP HEARN: OK, that's not the matter that's before us now. It is the matter of the language that's before us now. Linda you come back and try again later.

Lets see I'll go here in the middle this time. Please, microphone 8.

THEODORE SMITH (Virginia): I want to ask Dr. Hunter if we just can't accept this as a friendly amendment?

BISHOP HEARN: The matter of the language? Dr. Hunter, what your response?

### *Proposed Referral to Commission on General Conference*

HUNTER: I cannot presume to speak for what is possible for the staff in that regard. I would suggest that the matter be proposed to the General Conference Commission. It's probably the right thing to do.

BISHOP HEARN: It's my understanding that the maker of the motion, that was his intention, that it be a matter that would be referred to the General Conference Commission. If that is his motion, are you willing to accept that?

HUNTER: Yes

BISHOP HEARN: Is there any objections to the house for that amendment to be accepted as a part of the motion that's before us? I hear no objections. So the matter that before us now is that the changing of the 150 days and also the matter concerning the language. OK, Linda. Microphone 10.

BALES: Bishop, it's my understanding that if we change that to 150 days that may be very problematic for at least two of the general agencies GCOM and GCFA in terms of their annual meetings getting their petitions in on time.

BISHOP HEARN: Someone wish to respond to this inquiry? Yes. Microphone 2

CARL SCHENCK (Missouri East): Bishop, in light of our complicated parliamentary position and in light of the fact we do not have sufficient information to understand all the implications, I move that we refer all that is before us to the Commission on the General Conference, which shall be instructed to bring a report and any recommended legislation on the subject to the General Conference in 2000.

BISHOP HEARN: Is this a motion for the referral for the matter that is before us. The only proper discussion now is whether or not to refer. Alright, back to your own dial.

REX BEVINS (Nebraska): I would like to speak against the motion to refer, that only delays it simply another four years. I believe it can be done now.

BISHOP HEARN: All right.

PHIL GRANGER (North Indiana): Bishop, I move to suspend the rules and vote on all that is before us.

BISHOP HEARN: All right. If you will suspend the rules and vote on the matter which is before us, which would be first of all the matter of referral, if you will suspend the rules, indicate whether you will or not as your light appears. Takes two-thirds vote, of course. [833 approved] You obviously are ready to vote.

### *150 Days and Language Translations Approved*

If you will refer this matter to the Commission on General Conference, you will make your decision, either

"yes" or "no." Vote when the light appears. [Results: yes, 292; no, 605] The matter is not referred, so it is before us. We will now proceed to vote, and the major things that you're voting on has to do with the question concerning the language, and the 150 days. Prepare to make your decisions and vote when the light appears. [838 approved] And it has been approved.

GEORGE HUNTER (Florida): Bishop, the Rev. Paul Extrum-Fernandez from California-Nevada will present one other priority petition.

BISHOP HEARN: All right. We've changed identities, I believe, at the podium. Bishop Dew.

BISHOP DEW: Yes, let me explain. The General Council on Ministries is entitled to make presentations to the General Conference. There are two bodies that have that privilege. The other is the General Council on Finance and Administration. So I ask you to turn in the *Advance DCA* to page 196. You will notice on page 196, Petition 21618. It is dealing with paragraph 726 in the current *Discipline*.

BISHOP HEARN: All right, Bishop Dew.

BISHOP DEW: This matter was referred by the conference to the Legislative Committee on Conferences. The General Council on Ministries has presented to you a way they would like to see this chapter amended. The General Council on Ministries is very much in agreement with the goal of providing flexibility in the structuring in the local church in the annual conferences. However, sometimes in the interest of brevity and reduction of descriptive language, we may act too hastily.

We believe we're moving into a transition time in this quadrennium between 1996 and the year 2000. We are concerned that if certain matters become reduced for brevity's sake that they may not serve us well. The Committee on Conferences will share with you in a minute what they have recommended to you, and we want you to know what we as the General Council on Ministries are recommending in this matter on page 196. It lays out very carefully ways to care for flexibility. In other words, each annual conference will decide whether it wants to continue with a Council on Ministries or other structures to provide for the functions of the council and provide the connectional relationships. I will stop at this point and then after the committee presents to you their recommendation, I will have a further word.

*Conference Council on Ministries Debated*

PAUL EXTRUM-FERNANDEZ (California-Nevada): Thank you Bishop Dew. Some of you may not know this, but my dad serves as one of the district superintendents in the Oregon-Idaho Conference where Bishop Dew serves as the episcopal leader. So dad, if you're out there—he's one of the reserve delegates—I want you to know that after this minority report you can still come home to California. OK?

I want to direct your attention to page 543 in the blue *DCA*. Calendar Item 2001—kind of appropriate for the next century. That effectively there, the calendar item, is, I guess you could say the minority report. It is what the Legislative Committee is presenting to the body here. We voted for it 63, 7 against. I want to describe a little about the committee process that we utilized in the subcommittee. There was a open exchange of dialogue about the future of ministry for the annual conference. Members on the subcommittee included three Council on Ministry directors, other conference staff, at least two CCOM chairs, and representatives from each of the jurisdictions. It's interesting, members of the subcommittee didn't start debate on this item in the same place, but we reached consensus on the proposal before you today.

Janice Huie helped us this afternoon when she talked about mission, flexibility, and connection. Well, those were major themes that we discussed and that emerged in our discussion. Again mission, flexibility, and connection. The legislative committee proposal before you today is an offering to the church of an opportunity to organize missional structures that are appropriate for their regions. At the same time we wanted to ensure consistency in the relational and functional aspects of those missional structures. Our legislation identifies specific functions that need to be implemented at every annual conference. That is, administration and evaluation; advocacy; maintaining connectional relationships; organizing, developing, and strengthening ethnic ministries and ethnic local church concerns; and finally, coordination and support of ministries of nurture, outreach, and witness.

It is our position that the strength of connectualism is found in our common understanding of mission. The fundamental difference between the GCOM's proposal and the legislative committee's proposal is that the GCOM's proposal, although allowing for some equivalent structures, still maintains language related to a Council of Ministries that clearly defines the organization structure that body shall maintain. OK?

This is not the kind of flexibility that has been explored and expressed in previous actions of this general conference. The legislative committee proposal offers flexibility to an annual conference to develop organizational units to meet their unique needs. At the same time, we are keeping functional consistency throughout the denomination. Also, if an annual conference wants to maintain a Conference Council on Ministries, it can continue that form of structure. It is clear that one of the tasks of the General Council on Ministries, as a result of this legislation, would be to work directly with annual conferences in designing specific regional structures. We feel this would not only strengthen our conferences but would strengthen the connection between annual conferences and the General Council on Ministries.

BISHOP HEARN: All right, what we have here is the matter of the material on page 196 in the *Advance DCA*, being presented by the Council

on Ministries, which is properly before us according to the rules. And then the matter in the blue *DCA* on page 543, being submitted by the legislative committee as an amendment to the report which has been presented by the Council on Ministries.

So this is the way we will proceed to deal with this matter, which is to consider the material on page 196 as the main motion that is before us and then the legislative committee has proposed that this material be amended with the material that they're presenting on page 543. Is this agreed? All right. We have then before us the amendment, which is the material on page 543, which is the recommendation of the committee. Right over here. Microphone number 4.

CHARLIE DUNDAS (Minnesota): As a member of the subcommittee and the legislative committee I want to say that Paul has done an excellent job in describing the process and the lengthy discussion that we had relative to this action brought by the committee. And I want to speak against the amendment. It was said that, or given the impression, that the primary motivation for this action is brevity. I want to assure you, friends, that that is not the primary motivation. The motivation for this is for the sake of flexibility and creativity. And it rests on trust and the commitment and the talent of the annual conference leadership in every annual conference. It in no way precludes what is in place now in any annual conference.

BISHOP HEARN: You have less than a minute left.

DUNDAS: And I just want to say that when I look out at this General Conference, and I reflect on our own conference, I'm confident that there is the talent in this church to make this kind of flexibility and creativity workable. And I trust we will vote for the committee's recommendation.

BISHOP HEARN: All right. That is one speech for the amendment that's before us. I'll come over here to this side. My backups tell me I've been ignoring this corner. So I'm going to try to make that up.

DAVID WILSON (Little Rock): I move we suspend the rules and vote on all that's before the house.

BISHOP HEARN. All right. If you will suspend the rules, you need to get ready to make your decision. All right. Let's have the point of verification and then I'll take the vote. You're going to have to go to a microphone. I can hear you but there are other people in the house that cannot. It's about the page numbers.

LARRY HODGES (Oklahoma): You told us it was on page 196 in the red. They showed and told us 193. Which page is it?

PAUL EXTRUM-FERNANDEZ (California-Nevada): The committee report and recommendation is Calendar Item 2001 on page 543 of the blue *DCA*, 543 of the blue *DCA*, is the committee report which is effectively the amendment to GCOM's petition which is on page 196 of the red *DCA*.

BISHOP HEARN: The 193 is wrong as it's printed in the blue book.

EXTRUM-FERNANDEZ: If you want to know the Calendar Item that GCOM is, it's Calendar Item...well let me say the page number first. Page 343, and it's Calendar Item 1151.

BISHOP HEARN: We have a motion that we suspend the rules and proceed to vote. You'll make your decision on that, please, when the light appears. [786 approved] You have indicated that you're ready to vote. The matter which is before us now is in the blue book on page 543, Calendar Item number 2001, which is a substitute for the matter which is on page 196 in the red book. All right, what is your question? Microphone 8.

WILLIAM THIELKING (Southern New Jersey): May we have a synopsis of exactly what we're going to be voting on, cause it's very confusing at the present moment?

BISHOP HEARN: All right. Let me see if I can help. If you will turn in your blue *DCA* to page 543 and look in the bottom of the left hand corner of that page. What you are going to be voting on now is printed in the bold-faced type. This is the recommendation that is coming from the committee, which is an amendment to the larger block of material on page 196 in the red book that has been presented by the General Council on Ministries. All right, we are now in the process of voting.

THIELKING: Do I get a final comment?

BISHOP HEARN: You can have one. If you do not have a point of order or inquiry, you'll be out of order when you get to the microphone. The house has all ready indicated by a big block of vote that it is ready to vote. So, All right, your point of order please. In the back, back there.

ROBERT T. CASEY (Virginia): Bishop, the petition on which we are voting is not on the page that was called. It's on page 193 rather than 196, according to the item here.

BISHOP HEARN: We'll ask the two chairpersons to clear this up for us.

EXTRUM-FERNANDEZ: Bob, what you're referring to is the original petition, but that was subsequently amended and the amended petition effectively appears on page 543 of the blue *DCA*. OK? That's what you're voting on, not that petition.

BISHOP HEARN: The matter which the committee has put before us is in the bottom of the column on page 543. Prepare yourselves to vote when the light appears. Oh, I'm sorry. Hold on just a minute. The chair has the opportunity to make a final word before you vote. Bishop Dew.

Bishop Dew.

BISHOP DEW: I think both what I have to say and what Paul has to say are very similar. Flexibility is provided. What we are concerned about is that in the next year or two each annual conference having conference council directors and staff need some time to move into new structures, and the flexibility is provided under this petition on page 196. If you vote the other report, you really eliminate paragraphs about the committee on Hispanic Ministry Plan and other matters that we think need to be looked at before we move to that very brief

statement that minimizes a lot of concerns that the conference councils deal with. So we urge you to take a very careful look at this action that you are now about to decide.

BISHOP HEARN: Thank you. We will hear now from the chair of the committee, and then we will proceed immediately to vote.

PAUL EXTRUM-FERNANDEZ: I'll be brief. When the light appears, vote "yes." *(laughter)*

*Vote on Conference Structure Taken*

BISHOP HEARN: Cast your ballot when you see the light. The amendment which was proposed by the committee has been adopted [Results: yes, 623; no, 293] We now need to vote upon this amendment as the main motion, because it was actually replacing all of the material that was in the other report, as I understand it. So if you will now make this amendment the main motion, you will indicate by—no you won't. You just vote when the light appears. [750 approved] It has passed.

GEORGE HUNTER: (Florida) And Bishop, to complete our priority items, Beth Cook brings a matter that would require a constitutional amendment. And Don Avery brings a matter that would reconcile our proposal on an item with earlier legislation.

BISHOP HEARN: Good, Dr. Hunter.

BETH COOK (North Georgia): If you would turn in your blue *DCA* to page 477, Calendar Item 1979.

BISHOP HEARN: Would you give the page number again please?

COOK: Page 477.

BISHOP HEARN: Thank you.

*Constitutional Amendment for Deaconess Membership in Annual Conference*

COOK: You saw this earlier in the week as Calendar Item 416. But after some discussion here, it was referred back to our legislative committee, and now it returns to you with our recommendation to concur as amended. You'll find the supporting information on page 1259 in the white *DCA*. And the action that this petition would bring would simply bring the constitution into alignment with the disciplinary provision in paragraph 1418 that allows a deaconess to be a member of the annual conference. And our committee's vote was 66 for and none opposing.

BISHOP HEARN: It is bringing a nonconcurrence on this item. It is now before us.

CAROLYN MARSHALL: Concurrence.

BISHOP HEARN: Concurrence. I was just testing to see if you were awake. Microphone 6.

DENNY WHITE: This is the second time I've spoken on this matter, and I apologize for that. But I would like to propose an amendment, or an additional amendment, to the one offered by the committee, that following the words "under episcopal appointment" there be inserted the words " within the bounds of the annual conference." And, if I can have a second, I'll explain why I want to try to do that.

BISHOP HEARN: Is there a second? It's seconded.

WHITE: Bishop and members, deaconesses do not relate to annual conferences exactly in the same way that diaconal ministers or other persons do. They don't, in fact, except by this provision, hold membership in the annual conference. I feel we need some specificity to indicate precisely to which annual conference each active deaconess belongs.

BETH L. COOK (North Georgia): Bishop, we would accept that amendment.

BISHOP HEARN: The committee is indicating that they would accept this. Is there any objection from the house that that be done? If there is no objection, then that is accepted by the committee and the matter is before us. You'll vote when the light appears. This will, of course, require two-thirds vote because it is a constitutional amendment. [805 approved] And it has passed by the sufficient number of votes. Dr. Hunter, is there another matter? Don Avery.

DONALD R. AVERY (Louisiana): To clear up two matters on similar *Disciplinary* paragraphs that ended up being reported out of two committees. The first is found on page 303 in the blue *DCA*, reported as Calendar Item 800. The full text of the petition is there. However, on *Discipline* paragraph 702, there was also a petition reported by the Committee on Ordained Ministry, and that petition was acted upon on the Consent Calendar earlier, and it deals with all of part one.

So if you would turn the page to 304, what we would like to do at this time is to delete all of the information from the bottom of the previous page down to, you see, add a new number two. The language there should be to renumber as follows and then to present before the General Conference that information which would deal with the lay membership of the annual conference and would be consistent with prior action that had already been taken by this General Conference. The prior calendar item taken up by the Ordained Ministry was Calendar Item 948, which is found on page 322 in the blue *DCA*, with the full text being in the red book on page 1021.

This deals with the matter of composition and character of annual conference. And we feel that we're in agreement with what has already been passed by this conference as proposed by the Ordained Ministry Committee. So in fact what we would be doing, is we would be voting for all of the information on page 304, beginning with the lay membership of the annual conference down to the middle and the top far right of that page. We place it before you requesting concurrence.

BISHOP HEARN: Don, when you start where it says, "lay membership of the annual conference" at the bottom of the first column on page 304, and then how far down on the middle column do you proceed with the material that you're putting before the conference?

*Laity Vote on Board of Ordained Ministry*

AVERY: You go through the complete...all the way up to the top "representatives from other denominations" the only changes there are in the bold from the present *Discipline* and also those areas where it was struck. But this was also in conjunction with the recommendations from the Ordained Ministry Committee, that lay persons on the Board of Ordained Ministry would be able to vote on matters of ordination and character.

BISHOP HEARN: The matter is before you with concurrence with the committee. Please prepare yourselves to vote for this matter that has been put before you by the committee. Excuse me, there's a question down here.

DAVID RICHARDSON: (California-Pacific): I have a question. Sorry, in my denseness at this time of night. With this change now from what we're doing is it that lay members on the Board of Ordained Ministry cannot vote?

AVERY: No, they will be able to vote.

BISHOP HEARN: All right, I see way in the back, back there. Please hurry to microphone 15 or 14.

SHARON HAUSMAN (West Ohio): I'm probably making a major mistake here. Because ...well...anyhow, I would like to amend...actually I think I'd like to sit down. (*laughter*)

BISHOP HEARN: You've got an inquiry up here somewhere. Yes? Thank you for your honesty back there at microphone 14.

DAVID WILSON (Little Rock): Have we already voted to recommend that the Constitution be amended to allow lay members to vote on character of pastors?

BISHOP HEARN: Will the committee respond to that?

AVERY: If my memory is correct that was handled by the Ministry Committee report. And in long conversations with representatives from that committee, we talked about this at length; and the information that was passed on to us was that this was in compliance with the material that they had acted upon.

WILSON: OK, sir.

BISHOP HEARN: All right it's my understanding now that this is material which we need to pass in order to have...so that it'll be in line with material, which you've already passed. Are you prepared to vote on this matter? Back here in the back. Over here.

CHARLES "DENNY" WHITE (Western North Carolina): Again at this hour I may just be expressing my own stupidity, but in the middle column on page 304 in the first full paragraph, which begins "each charge served by more than one clergy under appointment." I simply have a question for the committee representative. In the current discipline the wording is "each charge served by more than one clergy member under appointment shall be entitled to as many lay members as there are clergy members under appointment." And I wonder if the omission of the word "member" in two instances is intentional?

AVERY: No, and we'll be more than happy to add that for clarity. The intent was to reprint the *Discipline* as it presently is.

WHITE: So you do agree to the insertion of those...the word "members" in those two places.

AVERY: I'll agree.

BISHOP HEARN: If no objection to the house, the word "members" will be included in that section. Are you ready to vote now? If you will prepare yourselves for voting, and I believe that there's some material in here that probably relates to the Constitution, although it's not printed that way; and so we will look to see if it gets two-thirds majority. If you will prepare to vote and vote when the light appears. Let it be noted that it passed by 95 percent of the votes. [844 approved]

AVERY: The other item that we have that we would like to withdraw, is found on page 477 in the blue *DCA*, Calendar Item 1978. It deals with Constitution, paragraph 38 and by prior action...in fact, this evening on page 375 when we dealt with Calendar Item 1555. And so we're just wanting to make it clear that this matter is withdrawn in order to be in compliance and to be clear with the action that was previously taken this earlier evening.

BISHOP HEARN: If you will make your decision. If you will agree with the committee on the withdrawal of this item, prepare to vote when the light appears. [850 approved] You have agreed with the committee.

AVERY: Thank you, bishop. I've just been told by one of my fellow committee members that we have one more constitutional amendment.

BISHOP HEARN: All right.

JUDITH SIABA (Northern Illinois): I'll go at the beginning instead of the middle. If you would turn to your blue book page 384. Please look at Calendar Item 1671. This calls for a change in the Constitution. We voted, lay members voting on the Board of Ordained Ministry, we voted 66 for, zero against. And we...I move concurrence as amended, and you see the amendment right there before you.

BISHOP HEARN: The matter is before us from the committee with a recommendation of concurrence. Be prepared to make your decision when the light appears. You have supported the committee's recommendation.

SIABA: Thank you, Bishop.

BISHOP HEARN: Janice Huie, if you will come also to the platform to be prepared to present a matter. Go ahead. All right in the back. Microphone 9.

GREGORY STOVER (West Ohio): I have a question of parliamentary inquiry which refers to the blue *DCA*, the second page 38, rule number 21, "Tabling of Related Motions." According to this rule, no motion, which adheres to another motion or has another motion adhering to it, can be laid on the table itself. Such motions, if laid on the table, carry with them the motions to which they adhere or which adhere to them. Last night when we were discussing...

BISHOP HEARN: I'm going to ask you to hold this matter. The items that are on the ... coming from the legislative committees at this point have priority and we'll get back to you for later discussion of that.

STOVER: You'll call on me?

BISHOP HEARN: If I recognize you, I will.

PAUL EXTRUM-FERNANDEZ (California-Nevada): Thank you, Bishop. I have two items, two constitutional items to bring before you tonight. One we have already acted on and will need reconsideration. The other was deferred until this evening. Both of them deal, in some part, to General Conference delegate composition. In order...today you acted on several items in the Consent Calendar related to paragraph 602 in the *Discipline*; 602 describes the formula that is used to compute delegates for annual conferences to General Conference.

### *Effective Bishops as Members of General Conference*

We, as a body, referred all of those petitions to the General Council on Ministries Connectional Issues Study. I imagine that becomes the CPT team now. In subsequent conversation in the legislative committee and among the legislative committee executive officers, and also with about 25 different delegations on the floor tonight, we are prepared to offer a possible solution for dealing with some of the inequity that is currently present because of the way the formula is applied. To do that I would need to move reconsideration of Calendar Item 34, which is found on page 96 of the blue *DCA*. It is on the bottom left-hand corner. You will notice that it says, as it's titled, "Effective Bishops as Members of General Conference." That will not be the intent of the amendment that I will suggest.

BISHOP HEARN: What is the number item?"

PAUL EXTRUM-FERNANDEZ (California-Nevada): OK, the Calendar Item 34, and that was found again in your blue *DCA* on page 96. We have already acted on this Consent Calendar, I believe it was last Saturday.

BISHOP HEARN: If you will reconsider this, you will need to make your decision whether or not you will reconsider it and vote when the light appears. [Results: yes, 602; no, 267] It is reconsidered.

EXTRUM-FERNANDEZ: OK, if you will turn to page 175 in your red *DCA*. You will notice Petition 20556, it's the top left-hand corner, it's related to paragraph 12, says "effective Bishops as members of General Conference." I'm going to attempt something here now. The amendment that we are suggesting would read: "The General Conference shall be composed of" and then delete the words "the effective bishops of The United Methodist Church" and delete those bolded words. Continuing, "not less that 600 nor more than 1,125 additional delegates." I'm sorry, "delegates, one-half of whom shall be clergy and one-half lay members," and then so on. So again, the amendment would read, "The General Conference shall be composed of not less than 600 nor more than 1,125 delegates, one half of whom shall be clergy and one-half lay members." If I get a second I'll speak to it.

BISHOP HEARN: Please speak.

### *Annual Conference Delegations to General Conference*

EXTRUM-FERNANDEZ: OK. One of the issues that was raised in discussion of this item, specifically in paragraph 602, was the inequity that was created when we had a 1,000-member delegate limit. What happens is, roughly 48 annual conferences, because of the 1,000-member delegate limit, are essentially reduced in their delegate count. The formula that is currently in 602, which relates to paragraph 12 and paragraph 14, is not able to be utilized to its fullest extent in those 48 annual conferences. This motion would rectify that to some extent. We understand that we need to look carefully at the complexity of issues related to equity. This is only attempting to address one issue of equity. There are several issues of equity that are important.

### *Funding Additional General Conference Delegates*

Let me, I'm sure there are some questions about what are the financial implications of this. I spoke with Gary Bowen of General Council on Finance and Administration. The approximate cost per delegate is approximately 1,750 bucks. You multiply that, and by the formula that Bob Casey from Virginia and a couple of other members of the legislative committee worked out, it looked like this provision, and if we were to actually allow the fullest extent of the legislation to take place, would add about 100 folks to General Conference. Well, if you multiply 100 folks times 1,750 bucks—thank you—would be $175,000. That would need to be found in the current General Conference operation. Now there are a number of ways of addressing that. One would be, obviously, looking at the per diem. There are other economies that might be implemented by the Commission on the General Conference. But anyway, that's before you.

BISHOP HEARN: OK, the matter of changing these numbers, and this is a constitutional matter that would take two-thirds vote. All right, down close to the aisle here. Microphone 8.

WILLIAM QUICK (Detroit): I'd like to ask Paul, that will be 562 clergy, 562 laity. How are you going to divide up that 25th person?

EXTRUM-HERNANDEZ: Good point. How about at 1,120 then. I'll make an amendment on my motion.

BISHOP HEARN: OK, over here, close to microphone 7.

T. TERRELL SESSUMS (Florida): Bishop, members of the conference, I would speak in support of the action proposed by the committee after consultation with many delegations. The number is a limit. We don't fully reach our present limit. When the calculations are actually made, we may very

easily, and probably will, accommodate the problem so there will be no need to divide any delegate. Earlier today, by the action of this General Conference, you gave the Florida Conference the privilege of paying the largest apportionment of any conference in The United Methodist Church. And we are pleased to have an opportunity to play a major role in our connectional church. We hope that you would permit this action to go forward so that we might be full partners along with some 47 other conferences in the deliberations. You will provide for a much more inclusive General Conference. You will bring equity and legitimacy to our decisions. And I would suggest to you that that increased feeling of partnership will energize many conferences so that you will more than make up any cost by the increased giving and payment of our apportionments. So we would encourage you to make all of our conferences equal partners in this endeavor and to vote yes for the committee proposal.

BISHOP HEARN: This is a speech for the committee's proposal...

BISHOP HEARN: This is a speech for the committee's proposal. Would you be willing to have one speech against and then proceed to vote on this matter? OK. Are you speaking against it, way back here in this corner? Only a speech against it is in order. Microphone 10.

GLENN B. KOHLHEPP (Western Pennsylvania): Bishop, I'd like to ask when the committee met and considered this and what the vote of the committee was?

BISHOP HEARN: Could we have the committee respond to that?

PAUL EXTRUM-FERNANDEZ (California-Nevada): It was really a discussion among the executive committee officers. It was not a legislative committee item.

BISHOP HEARN: Is there someone who wishes to speak against the proposal? I think that the chair made it clear, at the time that the matter was presented to the house, the origin of it. And that's the reason why he asked if there was a second on the house, did not consider it as a report from the committee. All right, over here on this corner. Microphone 4.

DON MENDENHALL (Iowa): I would really like to see this on paper, have a lot more discussion on it. I think this is too major of a decision to come this quickly. So I really would vote against this.

BISHOP HEARN: All right. We've had one speech for, one speak against. Are you ready to vote now? If you will prepare your decision and vote when the light appears. [Results: yes, 483; no, 407] It does not pass. It would require a two-thirds majority.

EXTRUM-FERNANDEZ: OK, if you'll turn to page 167 in the blue *DCA*, to Calendar Item 408.

BISHOP HEARN: Paul, I need to ask, is this from the committee?

EXTRUM-FERNANDEZ: Yes, it is. Actually, I may be wrong on this one here.

BISHOP HEARN: All right, would you step away from the podium then until you find it?

### *Ratio of Representatives in Conferences Referred*

EXTRUM-FERNDANDEZ: No, it's right here. It's page 167, the bottom of 408, Calendar Item 408 there, "Ratio of Representatives in Central, General, Jurisdictional conferences," etc., and it continues on to the next page. The committee recommended concurrence as amended. The petition there, now, because of the referrals that we made on paragraph 602, we are not—we made the referrals after we took action on this particular item and realized that when we made those referrals that we no longer had a formula that would be in compliance with this particular paragraph. So the committee, in this case, did act to refer this item as it did paragraph 602. And it did so at the same count. If you look at pages 340 in the blue *DCA*, you'll see a number of petitions beginning with 1111, and continuing on through 1120. All of those items were recommended for referral to GCOMs Connectional Issues Study.

BISHOP HEARN: OK, so what are you putting before us now?

EXTRUM-FERNANDEZ: Well, we're recommending referral rather than concurrence at this point.

BISHOP HEARN: All right. You're recommending referral, then, of Item Number 408 to whom? Paul?

EXTRUM-FERNANDEZ: Yes, that's right, to GCOM, CPT team.

BISHOP HEARN: All right. The matter is before us then, not concurrence as printed in the *DCA*, but a referral item. If you will refer this item, you'll make your decision on referral when the light appears. [771 approved] It is referred. Dr. Huie has another item from the legislative committee that she represents.

JANICE HUIE (Southwest Texas): Several of us have researched this important question, which Porter Womeldorff raised at the close of the Local Church report regarding the role of the pastor in membership in The United Methodist Church. I believe we need to move reconsideration, and Bishop, I move that. If there's a second, I'll speak to it, and give the Calendar Item.

BISHOP HEARN: OK. OK. Are you willing to, if you are, want to make your decision on the referral, on the reconsideration, you will vote when the light appears, if you will reconsider this item.

HUIE: It's Calendar Item 194 on page 140 in the blue book.

BISHOP HEARN: It's reconsidered. [Results: yes, 576]

### *Qualifications for Membership on Church Council*

HUIE: Thank you. Bishop, I move to amend paragraph 245. It will be the third column. Paragraph 245 in the petition is located in the third column. If you'll read down, we need to add a new number three, a new number three. And the new number three will read as follows, and the section I'm going to read you is the current concluding paragraph in paragraph 255 in

the *Discipline*. This is the closing paragraph of 255 in the *Discipline*. It will now be in number three, and it reads as follows: "Members of the church council or other similar body, shall be persons of genuine Christian character who love the church, are morally disciplined, are committed to the mandate of inclusiveness in the life of the church, are loyal to the ethical standards of The United Methodist Church set forth in the Social Principles, and are competent to administer its affairs. It shall include youth members chosen according to the same standards as adults. All shall be members of the local church, except where Central Conference legislation provides otherwise. The pastor shall be the administrative officer and, as such, shall be an ex officio member of all conferences, boards, councils, commissions, committees, and task forces, unless otherwise restricted by the *Discipline*." I move this amendment.

BISHOP HEARN: It's been moved and seconded. It is before you.

HUIE: It's an important item that was inadvertently omitted, and it's before you for your vote.

BISHOP HEARN: If you will consider your vote, and vote when the light appears. [833 approved] It passes. David Severe.

DAVID L. SEVERE (Oklahoma): Bishop, we have discovered two items. One is an error that needs to be corrected. The other is an item that we really feel we need to bring up tonight. It has to do with the judiciary.

BISHOP HEARN: All right. If you will present those to the house.

SEVERE: Patricia Farris will present the first item.

PATRICIA FARRIS (California-Pacific): I appreciate the opportunity to bring before you a minor clerical correction. If you'll turn to page 473 of the blue *DCA*.

BISHOP HEARN: Would you give the page number again, please?

FARRIS: Page 473, bottom left hand column, Calendar Item 1929. It's reported as the committee recommending nonconcurrence. In point of fact, the committee recommended concurrence with the same vote count.

BISHOP HEARN: This item is before you from the committee. If you will get your decision ready and vote when the light appears. [821 approved] Recommendation of the committee is approved. All right, we'll have the other item.

DONALD AVERY (Louisiana): Bishop Hearn and members of the General Conference, I call your attention to Calendar Item 854 in the blue *DCA*, page 310, Petition 21732, submitted by the Council of Bishops entitled, "Chargeable Offenses." The text can be found in the red *DCA*, page 1093. Dealing with paragraph 2623.1.

Bishop Hearn, this passed our legislative section 69 for, zero against, and zero abstention, and actually has been passed by the Consent Calendar. However, on page 483 of the April 24th record, it was removed from the Consent Calendar, and I've been in consultation with the person who would like to make an addition. Our legislative committee met in session, and we have agreed to the addition, and so to save the body a little time, I can either add that now, bishop, or move for reconsideration for an addition.

BISHOP HEARN: Are you willing for this to be reconsidered for this addition? If so, lift your hands. Thank you. Those opposed? It is done. Present it to us, please.

AVERY: Thank you. This is a friendly amendment, and it will add to 2623 the word "sexual misconduct," where it currently is listed as "sexual harassment or abuse." The new language, then, would read "sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, or sexual abuse." And, again, it's simply adding the word sexual misconduct to the *Book of Discipline*. We encourage you to support this action.

BISHOP HEARN: All right. If you will prepare your decision and when the light appears, if you will vote please. You have approved this recommendation. I want to call now for the Consent Calendar. Come forward to present the items which they need to present to us.

FITZGERALD REIST: Special Consent Calendar A08, B08, and C08 are all on the handout that was distributed this afternoon. There have been no deletions. If you adopt these calendars, we will have approximately 100 items left.

BISHOP HEARN: Consent Calendars are before you. If you will approve these Consent Calendars, or if you will make your decision, you will vote when the light appears on these Consent Items. [804 approved] You have approved that Consent Calendar.

SARA MILLER (Wyoming): Bishop, the committee chairs have agreed to present first, the Calendar Items that had more than 20 dissenting votes in the legislative committees for the remainder of our business. I have two motions that I'd like to present to facilitate our work tonight.

BISHOP HEARN: All right. Let's try those motions.

MILLER: I move that at the close of this session of the General Conference, we support the recommendation of the legislative committees for all remaining items. Now that's those that we haven't completed by the time of adjournment.

BISHOP HEARN: Yes? What is your point of order?

EUGENE WOOLRIDGE (Virginia): Last night we tabled Item 1668, and I move that we take from the table Item 1668 for consideration.

BISHOP HEARN: All right, I'll have to come back to that item because we are under direction that we are following the agenda as set before us. And we'll come back to that item when we come to that part in the agenda.

WOOLRIDGE: Thank you for your promise. (*laughter*)

MILLER: I did move it? We didn't vote yet.

BISHOP HEARN: State it before the house again, so they'll know what's before them.

MILLER: Sure. I move that at the close of this session of the General Conference, we support the recommendation of the legislative committees for all remaining items.

BISHOP HEARN: All right. Do you understand this motion? Question over here?

PHILIP GRANGER (North Indiana): Can you give us a handle how many of these are amendments to the *Discipline* and how many of these are non-*Discipline* petitions?

MILLER: We've tried to make the disciplinary ones priority, and I believe most of those have already been covered, but I'm not positive that they all have.

BISHOP HEARN: We would instruct the committee chairs that if they are Disciplinary; you're talking about *Discipline* or constitution?

GRANGER: Both, bishop. Before we move onto the non-*Discipline* or non-constitution items.

BISHOP HEARN: OK, we will ask the chairs that if they are constitutional items that they remove those and present them to us individually. Can we do that with the chairs?

GRANGER: Then, bishop, would it be proper for an amendment to this motion?

BISHOP HEARN: Yes, it is.

GRANGER: My amendment...I move that the non-disciplinary and non-constitutional items be referred to the General Conference in 2000.

BISHOP HEARN: All right. Is there a second to the motion? Motion is before you. The amendment is before us.

GRANGER: Bishop, I'd like to speak to that. Bishop, the items that do not affect our *Discipline* and do not affect our constitution quite frequently are items of *Book of Resolutions*, social conscious, etc., that there are always strong feelings on the floor. I feel it would be inappropriate to pass these by blanket motion without due consideration. Since the body will not have time to do that, the next time we meet is year 2000.

BISHOP HEARN: You have the motion that is before you. We've had one speech for it. Is there someone who would like to speak against it?

BISHOP HEARN: You have the motion that is before you. We've had one speech for it. Is there someone who would like to speak against it? All right, in the center back here. Microphone number 8.

REX BEVINS (Nebraska): A point of parliamentary information: Is this motion in order?

BISHOP HEARN: It would be in order by two-thirds vote, but it would require two-thirds vote, I believe. Are you talking about the amendment or the motion itself, Dr. Bevins?

BEVINS: No, I'm talking about the amendment.

BISHOP HEARN: Yes.

JAMES LAWSON (California-Pacific): I would like to amend the amendment. That would delete reference to the General Conference of the year 2000, and instead, the words, "that they will be sent to the appropriate boards and agencies of the church."

BISHOP HEARN: All right. Is there a second to this? This is an amendment to the amendment. So this is the one that is before us at the present time. Would send these matters to the appropriate general agencies of the church. Will you get your decision ready and vote, when the light appears, on this amendment? [Results: yes, 620; no, 249] It passes, so the amendment now is before us. The motion is before us as amended. Yes, over here?

CHRISTIAN RICKS (Missouri East): Bishop, I rise to ask a question about what the implications are if we do not get to a disciplinary item tonight. Does that mean it becomes disciplinary because of the action?

BISHOP HEARN: We will have those items that...

RICKS: I guess my point being...my point, bishop, is that we're going to take the items above 20; but there are at least two items that I'm very concerned about and some local churches concerned about that only had one negative vote. They were pulled from the Consent Calendar by five people, and we're not going to vote on those, but they're disciplinary. And I think this seems extremely unfair to the people back home who spent time to send this in, that we would debate things that had more than 20 negative, and throw away things that had one negative.

BISHOP HEARN: All right. All of them, of course, have received consideration in the legislative committees, and the motion that is before us now has to do with those that had...are you saying 20, or up to 20?

SARAH MILLER (Wyoming): That had more than 20.

BISHOP HEARN: All right. More than 20. All right. The motion is now before us as it has been amended. If you will prepare to cast your ballot when the light appears. [Results: yes, 658; no, 201] And it is approved.

MILLER: I have one more.

BISHOP HEARN: All right, we're going to have one more item, and then we're going to take a 15 minute break. I'll let you vote on whether you want to take a break or not. OK, go ahead.

MILLER: OK, in keeping with practices, I move that any unfinished business of the 1996 General Conference be referred to the Council of Bishops, the General Council on Ministries, and the General Council on Finance and Administration. That would be other than Calendar Items.

BISHOP HEARN: All right. Is there a second to this? Prepare to make your decision when the light appears. And this motion passes.

I want to consult with the house now. We have approximately 100 legislative items that are left. Following the action upon those, we will need then, to have the worship service that is scheduled. We, of course, are aiming to get out of this building by 10 o'clock. We're probably going to be a little after 10:00, but we can't be too much after 10:00. Do you want to take a 15 minute break, or do you want to continue in session? All right, those who would like to take a 15 minute break, you will vote "yes" when the light appears; those that do not, vote

"no" when the light appears. We got a...Yes? Over here?

While this gentleman is coming to the microphone, I would like to ask the chairs of the legislative committees that still have items to present to us, if they will come up onto the platform and be ready as we come to this place.

PORTER J. WOMELDORFF (Central Illinois): I apologize, bishop, but we had an amendment to the amendment, an amendment and a motion made from the podium. We voted twice and I think we never approved the amended motion to refer to the appropriate boards.

BISHOP HEARN: It was the chair's understanding that the amendment to refer to the boards was attached to the main motion. Is that the memory of the house? All right, thank you. Now if the... David Severe, do you have additional items that need to be presented?

DAVID SEVERE (Oklahoma): Yes sir, we do. We have one. *DCA*, page 255, middle column, toward the bottom of the page...

SEVERE: *DCA* page 255, middle column toward the bottom of the page. It is Calendar Item 765. You will turn to the white book, page 1328, right hand column, top of the page, Petition 22767. This defines types of boards at the general level. It is informational now, due to what we have already passed. And, therefore we voted to refer it to the GCOM by a vote of 57, 25, and 5. This is a process that needs to be passed along to the connectional process team for their consideration. We move concurrence for referral. Or rather, I'm sorry, we move for referral only.

BISHOP HEARN: The motion is for referral. Please vote when the light appears. It passes. [778 approved]

DAVID SEVERE: Bishop, this completes the work of the General and Judicial Legislative Committee. I again want to thank all of those who have helped us. This completes our work for this General Conference. Thank you very much. *(applause)*

BISHOP HEARN: Now I call on Judge Carl Stewart. Isn't it nice to see a judge have to run? *(laughter)*

CARL E. STEWART (Louisiana): Thank you, bishop. On page 257 of the blue *DCA*, it's Calendar Item 779, on page 1386 of the white *DCA*, is Petition 22020. The petition is entitled, "Small Membership Church Commission." It would amend paragraph 742 of the *Discipline* to require a small membership commission in every annual conference.

Now we took this same topic up before on Consent Calendar Item 15, page 94 of the blue *DCA*. In the Consent Item, we approved the mandate of the small membership commission in each annual conference. However, that mandate contained the flexible language allowing the annual conference to discharge those responsibilities through an alternate structure. Petition 22020, which is before you now, was originally nonconcurred by the legislative committee. But upon a vote of reconsideration, the committee voted 31 to 27 to concur on the mandate which does not allow the alternative structure.

So what is before you is Petition 22020 which the committee recommends concurrence. I would remind you that if you vote concurrence on this petition then that action would supersede the earlier action on the Consent Calendar. Bishop, I move that the adoption of the committee recommendation.

BISHOP HEARN: Recommendation is for concurrence. Microphone 8.

SUSAN RUACH (South Indiana): I have a question. We just passed a very flexible structure for the annual conference. And, would this then supersede that action?

STEWART: The matter simply before the body to vote up or down. The two items are, one has flexibility, the other does not. And it is simply a matter of the General Conference deciding what its preference is.

RUACH: So that if we vote in favor of this, we do in fact mandate a structure for the annual conference? Is that correct?

CARL STEWART: That's correct. It would obviate the alternate structure, which was already on the Consent Calendar. All right?

RUACH: Thank you.

BISHOP HEARN: If you will prepare your decision on this matter and vote when the light appears. Matter is not adopted.

STEWART: Thank you, bishop, as is my final item. I would just like to take the opportunity to thank Vice Chair Ressie Mae Bass of Florida, Secretary Betty Anderson, and all the legislative chairs who made my first General Conference a pleasurable experience. *(applause)*

BISHOP HEARN: We turn now to the Committee on the Ministry.

SANDRA LUTZ (East Ohio): Our first item is in the blue *DCA*, page 583, Calendar Item 2406, which refers to paragraph 533.5. It references material in the red *DCA*, page 1084, paragraph 533.5, Petition 21286. The committee recommended concurrence 63 for, 23 against, 2 abstained. And Ruth Daugherty will bring that to you.

BISHOP HEARN: All right.

RUTH A. DAUGHERTY (Eastern Pennsylvania): Bishop and delegates, if you would look in your *DCA*, the red one, for the material, page 1084, Petition 20118, the left hand column, first item on that page. You will need that in order to understand what the reference is to the item on page 583 in the blue *DCA*, number 2406. As was indicated, this was voted concurrence with 63 for, 23 against. Basically, this deals with the appointment process dealing with the consultative process, and spells out in detail what should be included.

BISHOP HEARN: The committee is recommending concurrence. Prepare to vote when the light appears. You have approved. [Results: yes, 668]

SANDRA W. LUTZ (East Ohio): Our next item is found in the blue *DCA*, page 482. It is Calendar Item 1999 referencing paragraph 1527.2. The original material appears in the white *DCA*, page 1484, paragraph

1527.2, petition 22098. And the committee recommended nonconcurrence, 70, 30, zero. And Bill Crouch will bring that to you.

WILLIAM CROUCH (North Texas): If you have the reference, then you will know that paragraph 1527 is related to the responsibilities of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. The other evening we had a similar petition which was directed toward the annual conference Board of Ordained Ministry, and it also requested us to include persons with disabilities. The rationale for our nonconcurrence in the legislative committee in this instance is the same as that, namely that we believe that this is a paragraph that should not be exhaustive of all the persons who should be included under the responsibility of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. And we recommend nonconcurrence.

BISHOP HEARN: The recommendation is before you. Prepare to vote when the light appears. [755 approved] You have supported the recommendation.

SANDRA LUTZ: All right. The next one is blue *DCA*, page 483. It's Calendar Item 2000, and it references paragraph 441. What did I do?

BISHOP HEARN: The page number is 480.

LUTZ: 482, I'm sorry. But it is paragraph 441? Thank you. The red *DCA*, page 1059, Petition 20298. The commmittee recommends concurrence, 44, 31, 2. And Earl Bledsoe will bring that to you.

BISHOP HEARN: All right.

*Permissive Language for Salary Equalization*

W. EARL BLEDSOE (Texas): You will notice in this particular petition, and the committee did concur, that it had to do with equalization of salary compensation for pastors, and the committee felt that that decision should be left up to each annual conference. It is permissive legislation. And we'd ask that you would concur with the committee.

BISHOP HEARN: The committee is recommending concurrence. Yes, back here. Close to microphone 8.

JERRY SMITH (Southwest Texas): Bishop, it seems to me that I have a question that we turn down basic salary permissive legislation that came from, that was proposed first in the Financial Administration sub-committee, and then we voted nonconcurrence on it on the same issue. And I wanted to ask if that was not the case?

BISHOP HEARN: We'll ask the committee to respond.

BLEDSOE: Yes, that was the case.

BISHOP HEARN: Recommendation of the committee on this item is concurrence. Prepare to vote when the light appears. You have approved this idea.

LUTZ: Our final item, Bishop, is the item that was tabled last night, and I'm wondering if I can explain to the house where we are with that. Would that be all right?

BISHOP HEARN: OK. The first thing we have to do is ask the house if they wish to bring it off of the table. All right. So you'll make your decision as to whether or not you bring this item off of the table and make your choice known when the light appears. It's off the table. Proceed. [586 approved]

LUTZ: Thank you. Blue *DCA*, page 384, Calendar Item 1668, which deals with paragraph 402.2. It refers to *DCA* page 1048, paragraph 402.2, petition 21158. My question, I believe, is whether or not it's appropriate to bring it, because it really doesn't fit within that guideline that we established as a house. This item was voted nonconcurrence by the committee and was brought off the Consent Calendar, which I would presume was with less than 20 votes. We already have concurred in another paragraph for the language for that particular disciplinary paragraph. And that has been accepted on the Consent Calendar.

BISHOP HEARN: And your vote in the committee was what?

LUTZ: It was 95, zero, zero for nonconcurrence.

BISHOP HEARN: All right. The chair would have to rule that this item comes under the adoption of the material which you—the decision that you have already made.

LUTZ: Thank you.

BISHOP HEARN: Point of order. Yes, what is your point of order?

JOY J. MOORE (West Michigan): I was a part of the legislative committee, and I speak to this conference still dazed from last night. But in the midst of last night, I believe many of us were confused as we attempted to hear why this legislation was removed. We began to speak of it in relationship to three different paragraphs. What was intended was simply that Calendar Item 1668 would be lifted from Consent, and in order that the words may be included "or proven by clear and convincing evidence to be." This request was made as we made the footnote. We were then told that the footnote meant nothing without the line we are now asking to be included. We were thoroughly confused last night, but I do believe an amendment was made to include those words, but we were never allowed to vote on that amendment. We did vote to include the words, but we did not vote on the amendment.

BISHOP HEARN: Where we are, parliamentarally at the present time, is that the house has indicated that items with the number 20 votes would be on the Consent Calendar. The only way that this item can be brought back to the house now is to set aside those rules. And that's a decision which the house would need to make. Yes, over here. Microphone 9.

STEPHEN C. MOTT (New England): I believe, Bishop, that this matter was tabled last night and, therefore, is in a different category than what we're talking about, since it's already on the table of the conference.

BISHOP HEARN: The chair is going to stick by the ruling that if you want to consider this item you need to set aside the action which you previously took. That'll be required for it to be on the floor tonight. OK. Here.

ROBERT L. HUCKABY JR (North Carolina): I move that we suspend the rules to consider this item.

BISHOP HEARN: All right. If you will make your decision concerning the suspension of the rules to consider this item, be prepared to vote when the light appears. [Results: yes, 496; no, 366] It takes a two-thirds vote to set aside the rules. So this item is not before us.

LUTZ: Then that completes our business, and I want to express deep appreciation to our committee and sub-chairs and to this house for their graciousness on all these issues. Thank you. *(applause)*

BISHOP HEARN: I recognize the Legislative Committee on Church and Society. Don.

### *Science and Technology*

DON PIKE (Central Texas): Thank you, Bishop. We only have one disciplinary item, and it's a little bit tricky. It's a kind of a double-barrel thing. Let me begin with you in your red *DCA* on page 117. I hope I'm getting this correct. I may have outfoxed myself; 117, Petition 20921. It's entitled, "Science and Technology," right-hand column. This first appeared as a matter of our business in the blue *DCA* on page 234.

It is Calendar Item 752. You will remember that what seems like an eon ago we were about to discuss this. Jeremy Vetter from Nebraska offered an amendment, or a substitute, and the text of his motion you will find on page 444 in your blue *DCA*. Now, Bishop, I may can help you if the point of order is about the vote, the next Calendar Item that really addresses this particular matter has a vote of 37, 23, 1, so it would fall within the purview of the previous action.

BISHOP HEARN: OK.

PIKE: Now if you'll turn to page 583 in your blue *DCA*, Calendar Item 2404. Now the unusual circumstance the committee found itself in was that we have two items before us. The first Calelndar Item, 752, we had already concurred with it. Jeremy's motion that exists on 444 was assigned a petition number, which meant that we had to deal with it. When we read his text, we kinda liked it, but we couldn't concur with his text because we had already concurred with another, so we very carefully crafted our vote to nonconcur so that it could not appear on the Consent Calendar. And we simply suggest to this body that you look at the text on page 444, and you look at the text that was originally printed, and we vote one up and one down.

BISHOP HEARN: We would like for you to put one before us so that we'll have a specific item.

PIKE: All right, I believe I can speak for the committee when they would suggest that we prefer the text in 2404, and we recommend concurrence as printed in the text on page 444, Jeremy's substitute. Calendar Item 2404. The committee recommends nonconcurrence, but we only did that because we couldn't concur with two petitions. So if you would support the committee in that regard, you would not support us on 2404 in nonconcurrence. I know that's complicated, but that's the only way we could figure to get at it.

BISHOP HEARN: All right, Calendar Item 2404 is before us. Do I understand the committee is recommending nonconcurrence and then hoping that you won't vote that way. Is that what you said?

PIKE: That's right. If you'll vote no, you'll be in good shape.

BISHOP HEARN: I wasn't sure I was hearing right. Prepare yourselves to vote when the light appears.

PIKE: It is peculiar.

BISHOP HEARN: That calendar item is defeated.

[Results: yes, 96; no, 755;]

PIKE: Now, Bishop, can I assume since we've approved the text in 2404 that automatically negates Calendar Item 752?

BISHOP HEARN: How do they tie together?

PIKE: We voted concurrence on that, and so you'd want to vote no in order that we favor 2404, if you want to vote on 752.

BISHOP HEARN: All right, so which one are you putting before us now?

PIKE: Well the piece that's remaining is 752. We really could take it out of the loop, because it has less than 20 negative votes. We could just drop it out.

BISHOP HEARN: All right, it's out of the loop.

### *Basic Human Rights for Refugees and Immigrants*

PIKE: Right. Very quickly, Bishop, if we might deal with two quick things of personal privilege, and I'd ask Bill Barney to go to microphone 13 while I share with you quickly an item which we have, a matter of a petition or rather a resolution. We were very fortunate to have representatives from Mexico in our conference. They have prepared a resolution they would like for you to consider. And they've asked me to present it to you so we don't go through translation.

"'When a stranger sojourns with you in your land, you should not do him wrong. The stranger who sojourns with you shall be to you as a native among you, and you shall love him as yourself for you were strangers in the land of Egypt. I am the Lord your God.' Our *Book of Resolutions* states that we are called to ensure protection of the basic human rights of immigrants, both documented and undocumented, present or transient, refugees or immigrants. Events covered by the media continue to remind us of the brutality that our Latino brothers and sisters constantly suffer at the hands of persons whose sworn purpose is to protect and defend the human rights of every human being. Most recently we have seen a group of undocumented Mexicans brutally beaten by members of the California police force. These undocumented

Mexicans were completely defenseless during the beating, and worse yet, one was a woman. This incident clearly depicts the violence of racism in which those in our society still live. This event in California is only one of the many examples where abuse as perpetrated against undocumented persons, especially those of Latino origin, is seen. Be it resolved that a letter from the 1996 General Conference of The United Methodist Church gathered in Denver, Colorado, be sent to the President of the United States, the governor of California, the speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, and the majority leader of the U.S. Senate, and the Mexican Consulate in California, expressing our sadness and disbelief for the unwarranted brutality perpetrated by some members of the California police force. Be it further resolved that the General Conference urges the government of the United States and all its institutions to respect, defend, and protect the basic human rights of all people, regardless of their civil status." And I would move that we approve this.

BISHOP HEARN: The motion is before you is there a second for it? It's been moved and seconded. If you...yes. Over here. Microphone number 5.

CHRISTIAN ALSTED (Denmark): It is simply unfair for us from...with a different language to understand this was presented.

BISHOP HEARN: We appreciate that observation which we all identify with, with sensitivity. The resolution is before us. Prepare to cast your vote when the light appears. [Results: yes, 625] The resolution is passed. Don.

DON PIKE: All right. Bill Barney on mike 13, if Bishop, he could give you a quick resolution on behalf of Cuba. Pastors for Peace.

BISHOP HEARN: All right, microphone 13.

*Pastors of Peace Mission in Cuba*

BILL BARNEY (Troy): Here's a resolution that will actually save some lives. Whereas, over two months ago Pastors for Peace attempted to transport over 200 computers to Cuba. Programs were used by the churches of Cuba to establish a health information network throughout Cuba in order to assist in tracking and utilizing medicines and medical support. Whereas, on the United States-Mexican border, Pastors for Peace were halted and their cargo was confiscated forcibly by the United States Treasury agents; and whereas, five Pastors for Peace constructed a 12 by 12 tent they called "the Wayside Chapel" and commenced to fast; and whereas, today the Wayside Chapel is now set up on land of the United Methodist building in Washington, D.C. across from the United States capitol. Four Pastors for Peace are now in their sixty-sixth day of fasting.

Therefore, be it resolved, that the General Conference send a letter to the Secretary of the Treasury calling for the release of the shipment of the medical computers and supplies for delivery to Cuba by Pastors for Peace as a humanitarian gesture; and that we send a letter to the four Pastors for Peace now fasting in their sixty-sixth day, to extend our prayers, greetings, thanksgiving for their witness, courage, and faith. And finally, that we urge President Clinton to immediately commence open and formal diplomatic negotiations with Cuba in the spirit of the General Conference Consent Calendar Item 581, page 217, previously adopted.

BISHOP HEARN: This resolution is before you. Prepare to vote when the light appears. [Results: yes, 610; no, 194] Thank you. The resolution passes. I understand that these are all the items from Church and Society.

DON PIKE: Yes, the only remaining things we have, Bishop, are nondisciplinary. All passed with less than 20 negative votes. I'd like to thank Joe Harris, for vice chair; Terri Chattin, our secretary; William Scott; Dale Weatherspoon, Claudia Bloem, and Beth Capen for sub-chairing. Bishop, I read recently where a man said that his grandmother, at the age of 60, started walking five miles a day. She's now 96 years old. They don't have any idea where she is. We know where we are. We're through. *(laughter)*

BISHOP HEARN: We're not too sure where we are, but we're sure on our way. Cashar Evans is the next person to be recognized. Committee on Financial Administration.

CASHAR EVANS (North Carolina): I'd like to ask Grady Knowles to present a pensions item.

*Streamlining Board of Pensions and Health Benefits*

GRADY KNOWLES (California-Nevada): This one more disciplinary item that needs to come before you for a vote because it has been lifted from a Consent Calendar. In your blue book, please turn to page 307. The right column at the bottom. It is item number 834. The text of the petition is in the red book. It is on page 374. On page 374, it's in the left column at the bottom. It is Petition 21482. This is one of several paragraphs of the *Discipline* governing the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits, which is being re-written in order to restate the language and update it. This petition comes to the General Conference from the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits. It streamlines their committee structure, it allows the possibility of a board member to serve a third term; and in keeping with the overall goal of reducing the size of boards and agencies, the general board brought the petition with a reduction in the number of board members elected from jurisdictional conferences.

In the Financial Administration committee, this petition was amended in two ways. Additional words were added to strengthen the language calling on the board to be inclusive in its membership. Those new words appear in the blue book on page 308 at the top left corner. And the second and more significant amendment, and I am guessing the reason this has been pulled from the Consent Calendar, is that the legislative subcommittee and committee

also redistributed the way that the jurisdictionally elected members of the General Board of Pensions come from jurisdictions. In the current *Discipline* there are four board members elected by each jurisdiction. The General Board of Pensions brought this petition, reducing that to three.

*Proposed Change in Jurisdictional Pension and Health Board*

In committee a paragraph was taken from a different petition from the Western North Carolina Conference, which distributes the jurisdictionally elected members according to the lay and clergy membership of the jurisdictions. A jurisdiction which has a higher membership has a higher number of members on the board. A jurisdiction which has a lower membership has lower membership on the board. The committee calculated, using the current memberships of the five jurisdictions, how these would change. And instead of having currently four from each jurisdiction, or the recommendation of the general board for three, this amended language, which appears in the blue book, would distribute 16 jurisdictionally elected delegates this way. The Southeast Jurisdiction, five; South Central, Northeast, and North Central, 3; West Jurisdiction, 2. Bishop it's before you.

BISHOP HEARN: The committee recommends concurrence. Yes?

JOEL E. HUFFMAN: (Desert Southwest): I would move to amend, at the very bottom of the page, "fewer than two," I would change the word "two" to "three." By making this change we would make...If I get a second I'll speak to it.

BISHOP HEARN: Is there is a second? There is a second.

HUFFMAN: By making this change we would make more equitable the representation of the five jurisdictions. The equality of jurisdictional representation is deeply embedded in our history and set in our United Methodist standard of fairness, and when it comes to representation on our general boards and agencies. This will not increase the size of the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits but more equitably distribute that membership through the jurisdictions. Ethnic representation on the board has historically best been served from the West with its rich diversity of membership. This change increases the membership of the Southeast but not at the expense of the Western Jurisdiction. I request your support in this amendment.

BISHOP HEARN: The amendment is before you. Yes, in the back. Way in the back. Microphone 12.

DELOS CORDERMAN (South Carolina): I rise to speak against this amendment and in favor of the committee's action. The legislative committee's action reduces the size of the Board of Pension and Health Benefits. It includes two bishops elected by the Council of Bishops, as is now the case in paragraph 1602.1; six members limited to no more than two per jurisdiction, elected by the General Conference on the nomination of the College of Bishops, as is now the case; eight additional members with special knowledge or background nominated by the General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits; and only 16 members from the jurisdictions.

This is a modified proportional basis. It would give five persons from the jurisdictional pools to the Southeastern Jurisdiction, three to the North Central, three to the Northeast, three to the South Central, two to the Western Jurisdiction. However, if you look, if you combine the populations within the jurisdiction, the Western Jurisdiction would have six percent of the membership and two members; South Central would have 21 percent and three members; Northeastern, 19 percent and three members; North Central, 20 percent and three members; Southeastern, 34 percent and only five members. I hope you will support the recommendation of the legislative committee. It's fair.

BISHOP HEARN: We've had one speech for, one speech against. Are you ready to vote? All right. We're on the amendment now, which would change the two to three. Make your decision concerning that. Vote when the light appears. [Results: yes, 373; no, 505] The matter as presented by concurrence from the committee is now before us. If you'll prepare your decision on that and vote when the light appears. You have concurred with the committee.

GRADY KNOWLES (California-Nevada): Thank you.

BISHOP HEARN: Next item, Cashar?

*Separation of World Service and Conference Benevolence*

CASHAR EVANS (North Carolina): Page 387 in the blue *DCA*. It's Calendar Item 1686, and it refers to page 358 of the red book, Petition 20718. It's in the right column at the top. And the subject is "Separation of World Service and Conference Benevolence." The committee's recommendation is nonconcurrence. The vote was 59 for, 35 against with 3 abstentions. It is before you.

BISHOP HEARN: All right, the recommendation is for nonconcurrence. Please vote when the light appears. [Results: yes, 679; no, 200] You have agreed with the committee.

*Annual Conference Apportionment Procedures*

EVANS: There are three other items that are very similar to this in that you have concurred with the committee here. You can vote nonconcurrence on these three items can clear them up. The first one, page 388 of the blue *DCA*, Calendar Item 1689, page 359 of the red book, the second column, third one down, Petition 20589, the subject, "Annual Conference Apportionment Procedures." Committee recommendation was nonconcurrence. The vote was 59 for, 28 against with 4 abstentions. You want us take all three at one time, Bishop?

BISHOP HEARN: Is there objection from the house that we take all

three at once? See no objection, please proceed.

EVANS: Page 388 of the blue book, Calendar Item 1690, refers to page 358 of the red book, Petition 20412, found in the left column at the bottom. Subject again is "World Service and Conference Benevolence." The committee recommendation is nonconcurrence; the vote is 54 for, 32 against, 4 abstentions.

*Annual Conference Budgeting Procedures*

The third item, again on page 388 of the blue *DCA*, Calendar Item 1691, found on page 357 of the red book. It refers to Petition 20588 in the right column. Subject again is "Annual Conference Budgeting Procedures." Committee recommends nonconcurrence, vote 61 for, 32 against, 4 abstentions. Bishop, I move the three items.

BISHOP HEARN: These three items for nonconcurrence on the recommendation from the committee. If you'll prepare to vote, vote when the light appears, on all three items. [770 approved] You have concurred with the committee.

EVANS: Page 388 of the blue *DCA*, Calendar Item 1688, and it refers to page 362 of the red book. That's Petition 20591, found in the top of the left column. The committee recommendation is nonconcurrence by a vote of 48 for, 45 against, one abstention. The committee felt that it would eliminate the minimum salary and also was concerned about how the missional support would be defined. I move the item.

BISHOP HEARN: The committee is recommending nonconcurrence. Yes? Microphone number 7.

LOUISE R. OTT (Detroit): I would ask that you would vote against the committee's recommendation of nonconcurrence. I believe we can define this in our annual conferences. I have served small churches and presently serve a large downtown church as a member and now as the chair of the Conference Commission on Equitable Compensation. I have become concerned that we are forgetting our missional calling in Jesus Christ to make disciples in all the world. We must recognize the importance of pastoral leadership in small-membership churches, in both urban and rural settings.

We United Methodists are creatively faithful laity and clergy. We can find ways to provide pastoral leadership wherever it is needed, but let's be mission-minded with our financial and human resources. Let's serve the small church, the large church, wherever congregations are missionally focused. Let's grow new congregations and, most of all, make new disciples of Jesus Christ in the city, in the country and around the globe. Let's put the hand of mission in the hand of good stewardship. If you are mission-minded stewards, you will vote "no", against the legislative committee recommendation of nonconcurrence.

BISHOP HEARN: All right, that's a speech against. I see over here in this corner; if you'll go to microphone, 6 or 7, whichever one is closest. This will need to be a speech in favor of the recommendation of nonconcurrence. Changed his mind. Ready to vote? All right, the committee is recommending nonconcurrence; you'll prepare your decision and vote when the light appears. [Results: yes, 523; no, 361] You have agreed with the committee.

EVANS: Page 387 of the blue *DCA*, Calendar Item 1684, refers to page 373 of the red book.

CASHAR EVANS: Refers to page 373 of the red book, Petition 20374, and can be found in the first column, third from the top. The subject is to specify spiritual growth among the purposes of the MEF. Committee's recommendation is 74 for, 16 against, zero abstentions. Again, nonconcurrence. I move the item.

BISHOP HEARN: Vote when your light appears. [748 approved] You have agreed with the committee.

EVANS: Page 387 of the blue *DCA*. Calendar Item 1685, refers to page 1314 of the white book.

BISHOP HEARN: What is your point of order in the back? Microphone 8.

ALYS RICHARDS (North Texas): I thought we had just passed that any proposal that had less than 20 against would not be brought.

BISHOP HEARN: Lets ask the committee why they are bringing these.

EVANS: It was my understanding, sir, that we were dealing with disciplinary paragraphs. I'd be happy to sit down. (*laughter*)

RICHARDS: Thank you.

BISHOP HEARN: I almost said "all in favor," but that wouldn't have been fair.

(*laughter*) Cashar, go ahead.

EVANS: Let's start that again. Page 387 of the blue *DCA*. Calendar Item 1685, deals in the white book on page 1314 with Petition 22244, found in the second column, the second petition. Subject again is MEF. The committee's recommendation is nonconcurrence. The vote was 73 for, 13 against, and 1 abstention. I move the item.

BISHOP HEARN: Vote when the light appears. [777 approved] You have agreed with the committee.

EVANS: Calendar Item 306, found on page 159 of the blue book. And that refers to page 383 of the red book. The subject, "Trustees of Church Institutions." The committee votes nonconcurrence by a vote of 93 for, 4 against, zero abstentions. And I need to tell you that it is already provided for in the *Discipline*, and that was the rationale. I move the item.

BISHOP HEARN: Vote when your light appears. [844 approved] You have agreed with the committee. Microphone 2.

RICHARD PARKER (New York): Bishop, I realize these are disciplinary paragraphs that we're voting on, but they are all nonconcurrence items and many of them with a small negative vote in the committee. Could I try a motion?

BISHOP HEARN: You certainly may.

PARKER: I move that we accept the committee's actions of nonconcurrence, period.

BISHOP HEARN: Is there second to the motion? It is seconded. It's before us. If you agree to the motion, to accept the decision of the committee on these items that are being presented, you'll make your decision and you'll vote when the light appears. [822 approved] I was an optimist. I was packing up.

EVANS: I would like to take the opportunity to thank my vice-chair, Mollie Stewart; the secretary Zedna Haverstock; Grady Knowles, who presented with me frequently, and the two other committee chairs, Lee Sheaffer and Jeannie Trevino-Teddlie, and of course the entire committee of this body and the presiding officer. Thanks. *(applause)*

BISHOP HEARN: We call on Discipleship, Mr. Irving. Yes what's your inquiry?

BISHOP HEARN: We'll call on Discipleship, Mr. Ervin? Yes, what's your inquiry? Microphone 4.

CHARLES LIPPSE (Holston): Bishop, I really want to make an appeal to the house for a Judicial Council decision on an action we took a few minutes ago.

BISHOP HEARN: All right.

### *Judicial Council Appeal on Equitable Salaries*

LIPPSE: It's in regard to the action we took on the Equal Salary Task Force. In reference to paragraphs 248.13 and paragraph 702, those two paragraphs delegate to the charge conference the authority to set the salary. At the last General Conference, I made an appeal when the General Conference delegated to the annual conference or, excuse me, to the Board of Pensions to set the benefits for pastors; the similar issue. I think we're taking away from the local church the authority to set the salary. Therefore, I would like to ask the house to support me in appealing this decision to the Judicial Council.

BISHOP HEARN: Is there a second to this request? It has been seconded, it's before us. Will you cast your vote concerning this decision when the light appears. [566 approved] You have asked for the Judicial Council to rule on that. Mr. Ervin?

PAUL ERVIN (North Georgia): Bishop, we have three matters. The first is on page 306 of the blue book. It will be presented by Christian Ricks, Missouri East Conference.

### *Lay Preacher, UM Rural Fellowship*

JIM RUSH (South Georgia): Bishop, the item we bring to you is on 306 in your blue *DCA*. It's Calendar Item 812. It has been brought off the Consent Calendar, and it is disciplinary. And I believe that your ruling said that we should bring it to you. This is Calendar Item 812, it can be found in the white book, page 1,280, Petition 22403. The subject is "Lay-Preacher, United Methodist Rural Fellowship." This item refers to the *Discipline* paragraph of 282. It is our understanding that the ministry study did not deal with 282, and that's why it's being brought forward. It's about lay-preachers.

This item was brought forth by United Methodist Rural Fellowship four years ago. It was passed by General Conference and was ruled unconstitutional because of the word "appoint" that was in it. United Methodist Rural Fellowship has brought that back to our committee. It passed our subcommittee, and passed the legislative committee, 100 for, 1 against. We bring it to you.

BISHOP HEARN: The matter is before us...Yes, in the back, back here? Microphone 8.

ROCKY EUBANK (Southwest Texas): I believe that the paragraph describing "lay-preacher" was deleted from by the Consent Calendar. It's a previous action.

BISHOP HEARN: Could the committee respond to that, please?

RUSH: When we asked about it, we were told it was not affected by the ministry study. It did not come from our committee to be deleted, it had to come from somewhere else.

BISHOP HEARN: Can someone else help us with that inquiry? You have an answer for the inquiry? Microphone 9.

DEBORAH L. PRITTS (North Central New York): Subcommittee in the Ordained Ministry Legislative Committee that dealt with this matter. If you were to turn in your blue *DCA* to page 555, Calendar Item 2117, Petition 21980 from the Ministry Study of the Council of Bishops, you'll see that this paragraph was deleted by a vote of 88 to nothing; and that it was approved on the Consent Calendar a few days ago.

BISHOP HEARN: So you're telling us that this paragraph has already been deleted? So the action that's being recommended here, is in opposition to the action that was taken earlier by the house? Is this correct? All right.

RUSH: Bishop, I'm not real sure where we are parliamentarily, but our legislative committee voted 100 to 1 for this.

BISHOP HEARN: OK, the chair would rule that this is out of order unless the house wishes to vote reconsideration of the item.

RUSH: I would move reconsideration.

BISHOP HEARN: All right. If you wish to reconsider, you'll need to make that decision. And you make your decision and vote when the light appears. [Results: yes, 408; no, 447] You have voted not to reconsider, so this item is not before us.

RUSH: Bishop, our other item was also in 282, reference "lay-preachers" and I would assume that we get the same results, so I won't bother you with it.

BISHOP HEARN: All right, thank you. Very considerate.

ERVIN: Aileen Williams of Missouri Conference will make another presentation.

BISHOP HEARN: All right. Welcome.

AILEEN WILLIAMS (Minnesota): I'm from Minnesota. *(laughter)* This is

a non-disciplinary item, but it had 22 votes against it.

BISHOP HEARN: Would you tell us the page and the item please?

WILLIAMS: Yes, I will. It is in your blue *DCA*, page 478, Calendar Item 1986; you'll find it in the middle column. It's Petition 22557, and you'll find it in your white *DCA* on page 1,302 in the left-hand column. The title is, "Evangelism as a Missional Priority of The United Methodist Church for the Next Quadrennium."

In our committee, we discovered that this same language is in the 1992 *Discipline*; it passed in 1992 for the quadrennium. And as we discussed evangelism in our mission statement, we felt that the concept of it being a missional priority was much more than a missional priority. And so we felt that this language was not helpful in terms of the *Book of Resolutions*. And so we voted against it. We did, in a further action to make emphasis on the importance of evangelism, work on a paragraph in the *Discipline*, which is paragraph 1211; and you will find that information in your red *DCA* on page 250. What we did is we added a sentence to that paragraph indicating evangelism is central to the mission of the church.

BISHOP HEARN: Yes, what is your point of order? Microphone 8.

ROBERT COLEMAN (South Indiana): Did we not just pass, by Joe Parker's motion, that any nonconcurrence that's non-disciplinary would be approved?

WILLIAMS: That's right. That was my understanding, but we checked, and it, and they said, they said to present it. So...

BISHOP HEARN: OK, is nonconcurrence recommendation here? Can the chair just ask the house: If you support the committee and their nonconcurrence on this item, if you'll vote when your light appears and we'll clear the house of this matter. Thank you for that inquiry. We're in the process of voting.

BISHOP HEARN: Thank you for that inquiry. We are the process of voting. [810 approved] You have supported the committee.

ERVIN: Bishop I want to thank the greatest legislative committee at this General Conference, Discipleship. That's all we had, sir. Thank you very much. *(applause)*

BISHOP HEARN: Recognize George Hunter.

GEORGE HUNTER (Florida): Colleagues, when the dust settles, and we see all of the legislation we passed in these two weeks, we'll discover that much what took place through the Committee on Conferences is consistent with what happened in the Committee on Local Churches. And thus, we'll discover throughout our structure the word "shall" is found much less often. The word "may" is found much more often; and we have achieved much greater flexibility for the sake of our mission in a lot of different contacts. Many of our petitions will go on through now because they received less than 20 negative votes, but four need your consideration. Three of those will be presented by Bruce Ough from the Iowa Conference, and one by Judith Siaba from the Northern Illinois Conference.

BISHOP HEARN: All right, if they will come forward, please. Yes what is your point of order? Microphone 5.

*Existence of Lay Pastors Questioned*

OYVIND HELLIESEN (Norway): A minute ago we deleted paragraph 282. That means that we don't have any more lay preachers in the church. Is that right? I think that was something that we do...because ministers do it, that we have none. I think we have to reconsider this.

BISHOP HEARN: Let's get an answer to your question. Someone representing...all right, who can answer this for us? In the far back. Microphone 7.

WILLIAM CROUCH (North Texas): I am not an expert on this, but I am wondering if the question has to do with the distinction between lay preachers and local pastors. We certainly have local pastors, and a part of the reason that some of us believe that we should not have lay preachers was because we believe very strongly in local pastors, full-time, part-time and especially those who are serving as bi-vocational local pastors.

BISHOP HEARN: All right, this is an answer to the inquiry. We'll come back now to the legislative committee.

HELLIESEN: Bishop?

BISHOP HEARN: Yes.

HELLIESEN: I don't think this is answered, because I was in that legislative group. And I can't see that it has answered our meaning to not have the lay preachers in the church anymore. Local pastor are licensed, and they are something else. I think this is wrong.

BISHOP HEARN: Can we have further clarification?

CROUCH: One more comment, bishop. We have not had lay preachers because of the decision of the Judicial Council on paragraph 282. We have not had lay preachers.

BISHOP HEARN: All right, we are going to come back to the legislative committee now. If you want to pursue this matter, it can be done after we finish the legislative committees. Go ahead.

*Criminal Justice and Lay Ministries*

BRUCE R. OUGH (Iowa): Bishop and fellow delegates, I have three items that deal with the topic of Criminal Justice and Mercy Ministries. If you would turn in your blue *DCA* to page 233. The Calendar Item is 748. The text of the petition is found in the white *DCA*, volume two, on page 1271. It's Petition 22188. The committee recommends concurrence as amended. The amendments are as follows. On line one, delete "shall" and insert "is encouraged to." Also delete the second to the last sentence, which reads, "minimum of three lay and three clergy persons shall compose the committee." And finally, add a new last sentence which reads, "the results of the work in this area will be reported to annual conference."

The effect of this petition is to permit, not require, the formation of a Committee on Criminal Justice and Mercy Ministries within the annual conference. The majority of the committee felt that is a severely neglected area of Christ's ministry within The United Methodist Church, and that we need to lift it up to our people. The dissenting votes in the committee expressed concern over suggesting any new annual conference structures. The committee concurence, because the amendments allow for a great flexibility in forming this committee. I think it's fair to remind the body of your earlier action regarding the Conference Council on Ministries and its structures. Bishop, the committee moves concurs as amended.

BISHOP HEARN: Recommendation is before you. Vote when your light appears. [737 approved] You have agreed with the committee. Next item please.

OUGH: The next item is also on page 233 of the blue *DCA*. It's item 749. The text of the petition is also on page 1271 of the white *DCA*. It's the second item in the right hand column. The committee recommends concurrence with a vote of 49 for, and 24 against, with 4 abstentions.

The effect of this petition is to permit, again, not mandate, that a district coordinator of Criminal Justice and Mercy Ministries, if there is such a position, be a member of the District Council of Ministries. Bishop, the committee moves concurrence.

BISHOP HEARN: Recommendation is before you. Vote when your light appears. [720 approved] You have agreed with the committee.

OUGH: The final item related to this topic is also on page 233 of the blue *DCA*, Calendar Item 750. The text of the petition is again on page 1271 of the white *DCA*. It's Petition 22191. It's the last item in the right hand column, top of the page. And also it carries over the top of the page 234. The committee recommends concurrence as amended. The amendment is to change "shall" in the bold line, to "may."

The effect of this petition is to identify Criminal Justice and Mercy Ministries as a program responsibility of the District Council of Ministries. The committee wanted this to be permissive rather than mandatory, recognizing some annual conferences do not have district councils on ministries and that DCOMs are structured very differently in the various annual conferences. The committee voted 47 for, 25 against, and 5 abstentions. The committee moves concurrence, Bishop.

BISHOP HEARN: Recommendation is before you. Vote when your light appears. [759 approved] You have agreed with the committee. I now yield to Judith Siaba.

JUDITH SIABA (Northern Illinois): I just have two items.

JUDITH E. SIABA (Northern Illinois): I just have two items.

BISHOP HEARN: Thank you.

### *Elimination of Jurisdictional Council on Ministries*

SIABA: If you would look in your blue book, page 384. Petition 1669. Petition 20560 in the red book, on page 182. It's entitled, "Eliminate Jurisdictional Council on Ministries." And the committee recommends nonconcurrence, 36 for and 28 against.

BISHOP HEARN: Recommendation is before you. Yes, back here? Microphone 7.

STEPHEN P. WENDE (Southwest Texas): I was a member of the committee, and it was actually later Saturday night when this came to us than it is now. And a number of us mispoke ourselves on this petition; I was one of them. Since then many of us have talked about it. I'm bringing a plea to the conference, to the body, to clean-up what we have so well begun at the local church and annual conference level. This petition allows the jurisdictional groups to design and use the administrative groups they think best, without wedging them into categories that may or may not fit. Most of our jurisdictions have Council on Ministries. Most of those look absolutely nothing like each other. One of them meets once every two years and gives out money for good causes. That's great, but that's not really a COM. Let's honor our lay leaders and our pastors, and let's go ahead and let folks design the structures they need, and not run the risk of thinking they're all doing the same thing when they're using that name, when in fact they're not. I urge you to vote nonconcurrence on this one petition before the committee.

BISHOP HEARN: All right. Committee is recommending nonconcurrence with this item. Vote when your light appears. [Results: yes, 46; no, 357] You have agreed with the committee. Next item please.

SIABA: The next item is on the same page, 384. Calendar Item 1672, relates to, in the white book, page 1,268, Petition 22647.

BISHOP HEARN: Yes? Microphone 13.

SCOTT JONES (North Texas): Bishop, I'm confused about where we are. It was my understanding that earlier in the evening we voted that all committee actions would be supported on those petitions where the negative vote was fewer than 20. The chair of the committee, Dr. Hunter, referred to that as he opened up this set of petitions. It would seem to me that this petition, as well as all others with a vote fewer than 20, have already been dealt with by way of supporting the committee. Is that correct?

BISHOP HEARN: We'll ask the chair of the committee to respond.

GEORGE HUNTER III: Yes, that is correct, Bishop.

BISHOP HEARN: OK, do you want to put these on that list then? OK. You have this item. Actually, this item has already been presented to the house, so if you will agree with the recommendation of the committee, which on this item is for concurrence with the deletion of a sentence, you will vote when your light appears. You have agreed with the committee. [769 approved] Now we turn back to the committee.

HUNTER: Bishop, that's all of our petitions. I take this moment *(applause)* to thank all of those people in our committees, our committee and others, who led legislative committees and subcommittees and worked hard on legislation in this historic General Conference. I join those who were privileged to head legislative committees this month in saying, in the words of the English poet, "I can no other answer make, but thanks, thanks, and ever thanks." *(applause)*

BISHOP HEARN: This clears the legislative committee's agenda. *(applause)* Let the chair observe that we are a few minutes from the time that we will need to vacate this hall. We have run over our adjournment time by just a little bit; but if we proceed almost immediately to our worship closing this General Conference, we will be in good order. And so the chair would like to recommend to you that at this time I declare that the business of this General Conference is completed and that we proceed to *(applause)* and that we proceed then to the worship. If you will agree with the chair for this ruling, that our business has been completed, you will vote "yes" on your machine and "no" if you want to do some more business. *(laughter)* As you see the light, you will vote. [730 approved] Hallelujah! All right, we need to make some announcements and then we're going to move immediately to the worship. I call on the conference secretary for those announcements that need to be made. If you'll be in order, please. We have worship that is coming up to officially close our conference.

CAROLYN MARSHALL: There are several announcements which do need to come before us. One, if you're terribly anxious about helping to vacate this room, if you would please peel that white label that talks about General Conference and all that sort of thing off your voting box, you will save our help a great deal of time.

BISHOP HEARN: You can take that home as a souvenir.

MARSHALL: Right. And if you don't want to take it home for a souvenir, there are barrels, receptacles, at the end of each aisle, supposed to be at the back there. Please, if you would help us by clearing off your tables, including any souvenirs that you don't want to take with you.

We do want to express appreciation to Mr. William Dunbar of the Advent Organs in Omaha, Neb. who has graciously provided a custom-built Advent Organ for the entire General Conference. *(applause)* This was a generous gift for this two-week period. And also wanted to remind you that if, at this hour or any other, you are interested in any information on Advent Organs, they are available.

### *Committee on Correlation and Editorial Introduced*

This afternoon, we had thought that there would be an opportunity to introduce the Committee on Correlation and Editorial Revision; those are the persons who have been sitting on the opposite side of the platform and have diligently been working with the legislation which we have been voting. Earl Riddle chairs that committee, Clelia Hendricks, Naomi Bartle, and Richard Evans, *(applause)* and ex-officio, the editor of the *Discipline*, Michael Lawrence from the Publishing House. *(applause)*

For the record, I would also like to add the fact that Gary Graves, a member of the secretarial staff, gave hours and hours of time, but in order to make another commitment had to leave prior to the introduction of the staff, and his name was not announced. But we certainly owe him a debt of gratitude.

The *DCA* sales booth is closed. Persons who have not turned in their form for sending final copies of the *DCA* should take these forms to the *DCA* editorial office in Ballroom "B."

Those of you who will be utilizing "DASH" in order to get from your hotel to the airport, are reminded that there is a special rate of $12 for those of you identifying yourselves as having been participants in the General Conference. It has come to our attention that several persons have called and have been told that the regular rate is $15. However, management has informed us to be sure to remind whomever is there that you are from The United Methodist General Conference and there is a rate of $12. If you pay any more than that, it is money that's being pocketed instead of going to the company.

We have been blessed throughout these two weeks with refreshment breaks. And if you're wondering about what is going to happen to all the leftover cookies —I'd no idea there were that many leftover cookies till I saw the boxes this evening—but I think you would be interested in knowing that they are being distributed to Warren Village Child Care, an inner-city after-school program; The Gathering Place, which is a day center for homeless women and children; and Safe at Saint Paul, a shelter for homeless teens.

This announcement came to me early this morning, and I was waiting for an appropriate time. I'm not sure that this one is any more appropriate than some others, but it really needs to be made fairly soon or it's going to be past a significant day. Many of you have celebrated birthdays or special days in your lives while we have been at General Conference, but today we particularly wanted to recognize Mrs. Mujinga Kayinda from Southern Zaire, who is celebrating her birthday with us today, a delegate from Southern Zaire. *(applause)*

And then two matters of interest to all of us, and concern for persons whom we will want to be remembering in our prayers. This is an update on the condition of Bishop William R. Cannon, who remains in intensive care at Presbyterian Saint Luke's Hospital here in Denver, following successful hip surgery a week ago. Several organic systems began to malfunction and his condition was critical until this morning. The situation has stabilized and the prognosis is more hopeful. Mr. and Mrs. Dudley Metters, cousins of the bishop, are here with him. They express their

deep gratitude for the loving care that has come from friends and colleagues during these days of General Conference and ask for your continuing prayers.

And the last message for us is also one of concern. And that is that we extend our greetings and best wishes to Bishop and Mrs. L. Scott Allen who could not attend the 1996 General Conference due to Bishop Allen's illness. Bishop Hearn, that concludes the announcements.

BISHOP HEARN: Thank you. One other thing needs to be said. Grateful appreciation to all of you for the way in which you have participated in this conference, both in spoken word and by the spirit that you've had in these deliberations. We'll turn now, for the closing worship.

BISHOP WOODIE WHITE: You have been remarkably patient and rather well behaved, General Conference. I will not test your patience. I've been through enough General Conferences to know that one does not attempt to preach at 10:30 p.m. Yes, you may applaud. *(applause)*

The Grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ be with you,

And with you.

In all that we've said, approved, prayed, sung, and celebrated,

May God have been praised.

As we prepare to close this General Conference session and depart for our homes, We pray that God will continue to be our hope and that we will follow boldly as God leads us.

Hymn No. 545 "The Church's One Foundation"

BISHOP WHITE: You may be seated. And now hear the words of challenge from St. Paul.

"This is the ministry which God and God's mercy has given us, and nothing shall daunt us. We have set our faces against all shameful, secret practices. We use no clever tricks, no manipulation of the Word of God. We speak the plain truth and so commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God. If our gospel is veiled, the veil must be in the minds of those who are spiritually dying. The God of this world has blinded the minds of those who do not believe and prevents them from seeing the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, the image of God, from shining on them. For it is Christ Jesus as Lord whom we preach, not ourselves. God who first ordered light to shine in darkness has flooded our hearts with his light so that we can enlighten others with the knowledge of the glory of God as we see it in the face of Christ."

This priceless treasure we hold, so to speak, in an earthenware jar to show that the splendid power of it belongs to God and not to us.

We are hard-pressed on all sides, but we are never totally frustrated. We are puzzled, but we are never totally in despair. We are persecuted, but we are never deserted. We may be knocked down, but we are never knocked out. Every day we experience something of the death of Jesus so that we may also show the power of the life of Jesus in these bodies of ours. Yes, we who are living are always being exposed to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be plainly seen in our mortal lives. We are always facing physical death so that you may know spiritual life. Our faith is like that mentioned in the Scripture, "I believed, and therefore did I speak." For we, too, speak because we believe and know for certain that those who raised the Lord Jesus Christ from death shall also raise us with Jesus. We shall all stand together. We shall all stand together before God.

*(Song)*

Ben Wattenberg has written a book with the intriguing title "The Good News Is The Bad News Is Wrong." Our task as the people of God is to go back to those communities from which we've come, those cities, those towns, those villages, those suburbs and tell the people that the good news is that the bad news is wrong. The bad news of brokenness and fear and hopelessness, the bad news that we must live in our socialized worlds of prejudice and racism and sexism and hates. The good news is the bad news is wrong.

Harry Nouwen reminded us that the illusion of leadership is that people can be lead out of the desert by someone who has never been there. Now there is something about you that I know about you that you don't know I know about you. And that is that somewhere in life's journey you have been in a desert. And I don't know what that desert was, but you got out of that desert. And that desert may have been fear, loneliness, cynicism, hate. I don't know what the desert was, but you were in the desert. Despite how secure you look, despite how you place an image of security, you've been in this desert.

And your task and my task, the task of our church is to go back and find those people in the desert and tell them how you got out of the desert. That's what the resolutions are all about, that's what the budget was all about, that's what all of the caucusing was all about. If that was not what it was all about, then we wasted two weeks. It is about bringing people out of the desert and introducing them to the one who brought you out of the desert and gave you life, an abundant life.

We have labored here, you have labored two weeks, and we have made great strides for our church. But the work begins when we leave, when we go back to those places from whence we've come and find the lonely and hurt and the ostracized, find those who have given up on the church and religion, go to those who have lost the way and bring them out of the desert.

I'm proud of our church, I'm proud of what you have done these past two weeks. But I hope you won't go back home and just be bearers of bad news. Your people know enough bad news. They see it on the television, they hear it on the radio, they read it in the weekly magazines, they read it every morning. They don't need you, the people of good news, bringing them bad news.

If there was anything bad here this week, why don't you just leave it here? Something happened here you didn't like, why don't you just leave it here? But if you found some good news, I pray that you will share that good news that people might see the vision that we have captured during these weeks together.

The good news is that the bad news is wrong. I trust that in your days, in your moments of challenge and of ministry, that you will share the good news with those you meet, the good news with those with whom you work, the good news with those with whom you socialize on a daily basis, the good news.

In a world so broken as ours, good news is sorely needed. May God bless what we have attempted to do here, but may you bless others as you share the good news of Christ with all those you meet. Let us pray.

Blessed are you, God of all creation. You have drawn your church together for a great work. In this place we have labored long and passionately to do your will.

Lord, have mercy.

We came because we believe that Christ has the power to transform the world and to reform the church for the sake of the world. We confess that we have so focused on the church that we have forgotten the continents and islands and all the simple, ordinary people who long for love and hope, food and shelter, dignity and justice, God and neighbor.

Lord, have mercy.

Now you turn us homeward. Do not send us away weary at heart and numb in spirit. Restore to us the joy of your salvation. Send us in the power of your Spirit. Make love our controlling affection. Dare us to believe anew that the gospel of Jesus Christ is the power to change lives, the power to redeem the whole world, the power to sing and dance for the hope that is in us.

Lord, speak the word, and we shall be healed.

Triumphant Lord, your dominion has no end. You are champion of the despised and friend of the poor. You make the cross your throne, and wear a crown of thorns. You call us your friends. Send us now to take up our cross, to rejoin that company of disciples whose everyday life is humble service to mission in the world.

Lord, pour out your Spirit upon all the baptized and unleash your Church.

God, grant us the serenity to accept the things we cannot change, the courage to change the things we can, and the wisdom to know the difference. In all things, help us to pray, to watch, to attend to the means of grace, and to find you sufficient for all that is ahead.

Lord, in your mercy.

With all who have become children of the gospel, we join in yielding ourselves to you afresh, daring to pray:

Let me be your servant under your command. I will no longer be my own. I will give up myself to your will in all things. Lord, make me what you will. I put myself fully into your hands. Put me to doing, put me to suffering, let me be employed for you, or laid aside for you, let me be full, let me be empty, let me have all things, let me have nothing. I freely and with a willing heart give it all to your pleasure and disposal. O mighty God, the Lord Omnipotent, holy and blessed Trinity, you have become my Covenant Friend. And I, through your infinite grace, have become your covenant servant. So be it. And let this covenant I have made on earth be ratified in heaven.

*(hymn)*

BISHOP WHITE: And now, may the Lord torment you, may the Lord keep before you the faces of the hungry and the lonely and the rejected and the despised, and may the Lord give you courage and strength and compassion to make ours a better world, to make your community a better community, to make your church a better church. And may you do your very best to make it so. And after you have done your best, may the Lord grant you peace.

I declare the 1996 General Conference of The United Methodist Church to be adjourned.

*(hymn)*

The following indexes the *Daily Christian Advocate*, Advance Edition, volumes I and II, and the *Daily Christian Advocate*, Daily Report, volume 3, of the 1996 *General Conference Journal*. Since the petitions and calendar items are not printed in their entirety, the subject indexed may not be immediately apparent. Also, the headings may be misleading. The user will find it helpful to consult the appropriate paragraph in the 1992 *Book of Discipline* for petitions requesting disciplanary changes and, for calendar items, the petitions to which they refer.

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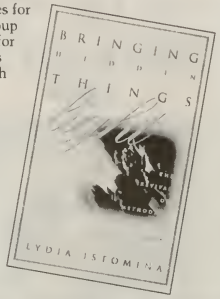
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*Round-Up Edition*

# Daily Christian Advocate

THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**Denver, Colorado** **Saturday, April 27, 1996** **Vol. 3 No. 12**

## In Essentials Unity, In Non-Essentials Liberty, In All Things Charity

There were high points:
- approval of new concepts of ministry and baptism;
- embracing a new ecumenical reality;
- the safe arrival of Bishop Arthur F. Kulah from war-torn Liberia;
- a historic address by U.S. First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton.

General Conference 1996 also noted painful moments: emotional debate on homosexuality and Bishop J. Alfred Ndoricimpa's bittersweet phone call to delegates. The bishop was denied a visa to travel to Denver because of political unrest in his native Burundi. The 998 delegates to the church's highest legislative body did a lion's share of work on behalf of their 10-million-member denomination.

The conference opened with the first-ever presentation of the Episcopal Address by a woman, Bishop Judith Craig, Ohio West Area. Speaking for the Council of Bishops, she called for compassion, fervor and reconciliation, a challenge for an assembly facing 10 days of lengthy, often dull, legislative and parliamentary wrangling.

### *What's New?*

* BAPTISM STATEMENT. Delegates clarified the denomination's historical position on baptism, affirming infant baptism as God's act of welcoming children to the body of Christ. However, membership in the denomination and a congregation depends on a profession of faith. Rebaptism was deemed "unWesleyan."

* COVENANT WITH EIGHT CHURCHES. After 30 years' discussion, United Methodists became the sixth of nine denominations to sign a pledge of covenant relationship. While this is not organic union, local churches will be encouraged to meet and worship with other churches in their communities who signed the covenant.

* METHODIST REUNION. Delegates also agreed to help fund and participate in a plan to reunite The United Methodist Church and three historically Black Methodist churches. The plan for union will be voted on in the year 2000 by the United Methodist, African Methodist Episcopal and African Methodist Episcopal Zion general conferences, and by the Christian Methodist Episcopal Zion Church in 2002.

* CHURCHWIDE BUDGET. A four-year, churchwide program budget of $508,260,000, was approved. The budget represents a 1-percent increase over the 1996 budget for 1997, no increase for 1998, and 2-percent increases each for 1999 and 2000. The conference appointed a committee to study the general-church structure and recommend a new structure in 2000.

* NEW ORDINATION PROCESS: After three decades of studying the nature of ministry, delegates affirmed two separate offices of ordained ministry: permanent deacons, who pledge to serve God and the church through word and service to the community; and elders, called to service, word, sacrament and order.

The new plan eliminates the two-step ordination process. Diaconal ministers may choose to pursue ordination as deacons.

* CELEBRATING ETHNIC DIVERSITY: The conference enthusiastically accepted a new Spanish-language




*Photo by Mike DuBose*

hymnal, *Mil Voces Para Celebrar*. Delegates also recommitted church resources to ongoing Hispanic and Native-American ministries, agreed to study the need for a Korean mission conference and adopted an initiative to strengthen African-American congregations. They also approved a $20 million funding package: half apportionments, half second-mile contributions for Africa University, the denomination's first four-year college in Zimbabwe.

### *A Big Hand for the First Lady*

Hillary Rodham Clinton, a lifelong United Methodist, gave a 30-minute message to General Conference, during which she urged the church to continue its witness for children. Her address was frequently interrupted by applause, and she was received by delegates with a standing ovation.

"In today's world, churches are among the few places . . . where young people can let down their guard," she noted. "Despite the problems of poverty and illiteracy and violence, there are solutions being born . . . in churches and communities throughout the world." Mrs. Clinton, who was introduced by Arkansas Area Bishop Richard B. Wilke, acknowledged the profound impact of the church on her own life. It was her childhood church, First United Methodist, Park Ridge, Ill., where she learned "the connection between my personal faith and the obligations I face as a Christian." Paying tribute to Sunday school teachers, she said a line from "Jesus Loves the Little Children," cemented her respect for diversity "more than any earnest lecture on racism."

### *Homosexuality Debate Continues*

The homosexuality debate was preceded by a statement by 15 bishops, an action which drew much controversy. Although homosexuality has been the subject of fierce debate in every General Conference since 1972, attempts either to strengthen or to relax the church's condemnation of homosexual practice were voted down by delegates. Specifically, they voted 577-378 against a recommendation to exchange the "incompatibility" clause for an admission that United Methodists are "not of a common mind" on the issue. They also added a footnote to define a "self-avowed practicing" homosexual as "one who openly acknowledges his or her homosexuality to a bishop, district superintendent, district committee on ordained ministry, board of ordained ministry or clergy session" of an annual conference.

### *Of Form, Function and Finances*

Answering a cry from local churches that *Discipline*-mandated work areas and other structural requirements are burdensome, General Conference approved allowing each congregation to organize itself. Delegates also discussed concerns about increasing budget demands placed on grass-roots United Methodists by the church's national and international agencies. (Churchwide program agencies are funded through local-church apportionments).

Subsequently, the conference approved strategy for reducing by about one-third the number of voting directors of the 13 U.M. agencies. Delegates also accepted a process for studying the overall structure, with a report to be presented to General Conference 2000.

The conference rebuffed a controversial plan to move the General Board of Global Ministries from New York to Reston, Va.

A separate Commission on United Methodist Men was formed by action of the conference. Supporters said no new funding will be required, as the new commission will draw on money currently allocated to the existing men's division of the General Board of Discipleship.

After three hours of wrangling, delegates adopted a 1997-2000 program budget totalling $508,260,000, reflecting an overall increase of $12.6 million, or 2.5 percent, over the current quadrennium. The adopted budget was about $5 million more than originally suggested by the General Council on Finance and Administration. However, with the adoption of four new, unanticipated programs, delegates voted the increase. Delegates debated, but ultimately rejected, a much-discussed proposal from the Western North Carolina Conference to make apportionments "the percentage of money that local churches give to support regional and churchwide ministries" voluntary.

In other actions, the conference:

* condemned global violence, and prayed for the survivors of the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing and their families;

* approved a churchwide emphasis on nurturing youth and under-30 adults;

* celebrated the 10th anniversary of Disciple Bible Study, in which more than 400,000 worldwide have participated;

* welcomed Cuban Methodist Bishop Gustavo Cruz, and reaffirmed the call for an end to the U.S. economic embargo against Cuba. The conference also expressed concern for people experiencing military, economic and other difficulties in Brazil, Liberia, Burundi and the Middle East;

* renewed funding and support for a U.S.-based anti-drug, anti-alcohol education program and extended the program to Northern Europe.

—M. Garlinda Burton

**Daily Christian Advocate**

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# Episcopal Address: God Will Break Into Our Prayers 'With Energy, Wisdom, Joy'

Delegates applauded Bishop Judith Craig's Episcopal Address, a technological "first" for the General Conference. Images that mirrored Bishop Craig's words and challenges were projected on a large screen behind the podium and on television monitors around the plenary hall. Photos and video of the first Shalom Zone in Los Angeles, the first multiracial free elections in South Africa, children starving in famines and children thriving in church ministries, tornado devastation, the site of the Oklahoma City bombing and the outreach of the United Methodist Committee on Relief gave the bishop's words a new dimension of power. Bishop Craig said the bishops are working on an episcopal initiative on children and poverty.

"As a Council of Bishops," she said, "we believe the church can offer no more powerful sign of steward responsibility than making the welfare of children and youth our first concern. They are the ones who will inherit the wind of our terror or the nurturing breeze of our care. Their needs are the most urgent cries to which we must respond quickly and without reserve. To that end, we urge this General Conference to keep the image of the most powerless... people—the poor, children, youth, women—always in the forefront as we do the work given us to do...."

While the Episcopal Address is written by the presenter, it is composed using the input of the Council of Bishops. While all bishops have approved the text, it does not reflect the view of every bishop at every point.

"The United Methodist Church is alive and well around the world," she said. "While many lament and wring their hands with worry and despair about the church, there are signs of God at work all around us and within us."

She went on to list signs of hope:

—29 graduates of Africa University, only six years after its beginnings. "It is the church alive, touching minds and hearts with knowledge and faith."

—More than 400,000 people have finished one or more courses of Disciple Bible Study.

—United Methodists participate in spiritual-growth movements such as the Walk to Emmaus, Covenant Disciple Groups and Wesley Classes, and Academy of Spiritual Formation.

—Most annual conferences are asking "with fresh urgency, what is our primary task? Where does God call us to focus our resources in this age?"

—Three events are designed to help youth and young adults discern calls from God to ordained and diaconal ministry.

—The National Plan for Hispanic Ministry is thriving.

—United Methodist presence is being experienced in new places: "Consider the Russia Initiative, where new congregations gather for worship, Christian education and service because of United Methodist invitation. The initiative also fosters major work in medical, economic, educational, industrial and agricultural growth for the people of the region."

—The church has been working "against oppression in government and seeking to bring justice to people without a voice."

—95 Shalom Zones have been established or are being developed.

—During the past four years, 103,000 Volunteers in Mission served in 46 countries, supported by nearly $39 million.

"In all these signs of hope," Bishop Craig said, "we see a marvelous linking of individual disciples, congregations, districts, conferences, and general boards and agencies. Signs of hope show the connection at work, doing together what we cannot do alone," she said.

Bishop Craig listed scientific and technological advances as a context for change and reminded delegates of John Wesley's unorthodox, even revolutionary, street preaching that he found necessary to save souls.

With that background, she then turned to what became the controversial portion of the address, as some read into her remarks a welcoming of gay and lesbian persons. She urged The United Methodist Church to "be an open house where Jesus sits at the doorway and welcomes all who come, regardless of whether the townspeople think it proper or not!"

"It is an offense to God," she continued, "to define so carefully and describe church so rigidly as to create a family tree that says most clearly who is not welcome."

Bishop Craig cited 40 years of "benefiting from the gifts of women as elders in full conference membership." She also noted 30 years of "having removed from our midst the scandal of formal segregation in the Central Jurisdiction."

"God watches us," she said, "perhaps with divine angst, to see if we—who claim to be faithful—will indeed act faithfully.... Can we speak God's forgiving, nurturing word in 21st-century language and practices? Oh, please God, make us able to answer with a resounding 'Yes!'"

Bishop Craig urged delegates to wrap the General Conference in "a mantle of prayer." She concluded: "We ask you to pray.... We go to our discipline of intercessory prayer with confidence God will break in with energy, wisdom and joy. We invite you to your moments of self-revelation and searching, equally confident that God will bless the church and the world through a General Conference earnestly praying and listening for God's guidance," she said.

— Ann Whiting

## Laity Address Celebrates Partnership

As the world prepares to enter the 21st century, United Methodist clergy and laity are called to join as true partners in ministry, reaching out to people, with hope, love and caring.

That's the vision for the church as presented by James W. Lane of Sherwood, Ark., in the 1996 Laity Address, "Partners in Ministry: A Vision of the Year 2000." Representing the church's 9.7 million lay members worldwide, the North Arkansas Conference lay leader gave the traditional address on April 17.

"As United Methodist Christians today, it is our time to see the visions, to dream the dreams and to prophesy," Mr. Lane said. And just as the Old Testament foretold in the story of Esther, "God has surely brought us to this place for just such a time as this," he said.

"Thrust open the doors of our churches," he continued. "Quit sitting around in meetings talking about what we ought to do, and get out ... and be in ministry." Effective ministry must revolve around sending people out, "equipped and prepared to offer Christ to the world."

According to Mr. Lane, a new model for church leadership is emerging. It calls for sharing in ministry and leadership between pastors and local church laity. "This requires a deep level of trust, commitment and communication on both sides." Congregations must be equipped with resources and skills to engage in shared ministry for Christ—both within the church and throughout the world. He called this shared ministry of offering Christ "the primary task of the church" that is both valid and urgent.

Mr. Lane called churches to become "full-service mission stations," centers for spiritual renewal and personal commitment. He envisions these as community centers of wholeness and healing, offering a welcome beacon to God's children, places filled with love, forgiveness, acceptance and haven.

Second, the church needs more "saving stations where love abides, and all God's children can find salvation, healing, wholeness and safety," Mr. Lane said. He challenged United Methodists to create exciting new programs of "ministry and healing for young, old, men, women, boys, girls, married, single, senior citizens, persons with disabling conditions, all persons who are hurting."

The third suggestion is for "empowering stations" to offer vital and exciting opportunities for worship and learning. Knowledge is essential in this endeavor, Mr. Lane said. For example, he believes "Disciple: Becoming Disciples Through Bible Study" should be a part of the yearly program in every parish.

He called for "jazzing up" worship services that communicate the gospel but also "lift up the excitement and call of the Pentecostal fires of a church in mission and ministry." He said that an opportunity for conversion and commitment should be present at every service, offered in tandem with exciting, vital worship.

A fourth possibility is for congregations to become "equipping and sending stations" for preparing persons for ministry and sending them into the community and the world. Mr. Lane envisions participatory training for ministry and skill-building events and churches with part-time or full-time directors of volunteers to equip persons for mission and ministry.

"We must learn to listen to all our people," he said. "Our best ideas for ministry come from those who live out their lives in the everyday world, who have seen the struggles and injustices, and . . . see ways out for those who are in need and who are hurting. We need to . . . translate their ideas, hopes and dreams into ministry."

Finally, United Methodist churches must become "community-outreach stations," Mr. Lane said. Such stations could offer programs for youth groups, scouting groups, community agencies and recovery groups, and assistance for people with immediate survival needs.

With the dawning of a new millennium ahead, Mr. Lane concluded, it is time to act, to be "God's station keepers . . . partners in ministry."

—Jane Dennis

## The Top Ten Lists a Hit

Almost every day during General Conference, the *DCA* published a "Top Ten" list to amuse the delegates. The idea caught on, and people began writing their own lists and submitting them. Here is one that affirms:

**Top Ten Reasons for Attending General Conference**

10. You get to see members of your delegation and others from your conference every day.
9. You get to hear great choirs and soloists.
8. You get to see firsthand how and where the church is moving.
7. You meet people from all over the world and have the privilege of praying with them.
6. You participate in good debate and discussions.
5. You meet friends you haven't seen since last General Conference.
4. You are present for the introduction of the New Spanish hymnal, *Mil Voces Para Celebrar.*
3. You get to see books and other Cokesbury products. You even get free books.
2. You get to hear some great speeches by church leaders.
1. You get to see modern technology at its mind-boggling best!

—Charlotte L. Reid, Nebraska Conference

## Basic Theological Stance Remains Intact

Unlike some previous General Conferences which had "Faith and Mission" legislative committees considering such proposals as "Our Theological Task," the 1996 General Conference had no committee concerned specifically with matters of theology. That does not mean, however, that delegates were indifferent to theology.

The doctrinal standards spelled out in paragraph 68 were kept unchanged. A petition calling for keeping the statement unchanged was passed by the conference's plenary session on a Consent Calendar, without debate.

Revised in 1992, the statement of "Our Theological Task" states that "United Methodists share with other Christians the conviction that Scripture is the primary source and criterion for Christian doctrine." The theological task of the church, therefore, "focuses on a disciplined study of the Bible."

While the adoption and reaffirmation of the primacy of Scripture was hailed generally, other parts of the re-approved description of the theological task seemed to some to open the door to affirming and adopting other theological traditions.

While affirming the primacy of Scripture, the statement says theological reflection may also be in tradition, experience or rational analysis. This leads to diversity in theological reflection which is claimed by some as a strength of the church while being decried by others as dangerous pluralism.

The General Conference addressed pluralism in United Methodist theological inquiry by refusing to approve petitions which called for ensuring that biblical, historical and theological studies at United Methodist theology schools are faithful to the church's petitions. Delegates turned down petitions calling for rejection of exaggerated attempts at "inclusive language that deny ecumenical triune teaching in the name of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit," and refused to approve a petition calling for a study of classical Christian theology and modern feminism.

In approving a study document on baptism which emphasized salvation by God's grace; restating the church's mission as making disciples of Jesus Christ; and adopting resolutions which call for love, justice and inclusiveness as expressions of faith, the General Conference left basic theological standards unchanged.

—Rayford Woodrick

## General Board of Global Ministries STAYS!

The General Board of Global Ministries will remain in New York City, at least for the quadrennium. Relocation will be considered by the General Conference in 2000. That same conference will incorporate a site-relocation decision into the broad discussion of restructuring general boards and agencies.

Delegates turned down a recommendation to move the board to Reston, Va., at an estimated cost of $72 million. The conference affirmed the unanimous recommendation of the General and Judicial Administration Legislative Committee rejecting the report of a Site Selection Committee authorized by the 1992 General Conference. The 1992 body mandated that the board move from New York City. The action of one General Conference is not binding on future conferences.

This General Conference also turned down a minority report from the committee asking for at least two alternate headquarters sites to be presented in 2000. The location of general boards and agencies is only one of many issues to be considered by a new Connectional Process Team (CPT). Succeeding the Connectional Issues Study group of this quadrennium, CPT will make a major study of domestic and international structures of the denomination.

The study is designed to lead to greater flexibility in organization and ministry for all parts of the church, while reducing the size of general church agencies. CPT is charged with facilitating "an interactive organizational process" to clarify the mission of general church agencies and define the most faithful structure to enable denominational ministries at all levels. Staffing for the CPT will be provided by the General Council on Ministries. Funding will come from the General Council on Finance and Administration.

General Conference members talked much of down sizing and permissive structure. It did, however, mandate a General Commission on United Methodist Men and a commission on communications—or equivalent structure—in each annual conference. The new men's organization will coordinate and provide resources for men's ministries within The United Methodist Church. It will support the office of scouting ministry, a telephone prayer ministry and the "Moving United Methodist" program which tracks members who move to new cities.

The new commission will replace a program unit now in the General Board of Discipleship. Although it mandated the communications commission in each annual conference, the General Conference gave regional bodies greater flexibility in how to organize for mission.

Councils on ministries will no longer be mandated—although they may be used if the conference wishes. Annual conferences must have structures to carry out the functions of administration and evaluation; advocacy; maintenance of connectional relationships; organization, development and strengthening ethnic ministries and congregations; and organization and support of ministries of nurture, outreach and witness.

—Kathy Kruger Noble

# Delegates Embrace the World Through Variety of Issues

Suffering caused by violence around the world was made apparent to General Conference delegates as they heard firsthand accounts from Bishop Arthur F. Kulah of Liberia and Bishop J. Alfred Ndoricimpa of Burundi. Delegates also addressed the Israeli bombing of a Lebanese refugee camp, and paused in memory of the 168 people killed in Oklahoma City a year ago.

Bishop Kulah, who arrived in Denver April 24 after a harrowing journey from Monrovia to the border of Liberia, wept as he described the chaos in his country as beyond human description, understanding and reasoning.

Bishop Ndoricimpa, denied a U.S. visa to attend the conference, spoke with delegates April 25 via telephone hookup. Because of the dangers of ethnic violence and lack of government control in Burundi, the bishop has established an office in Nairobi, Kenya. Both bishops, however, expressed hope for the future of their countries and said their churches have been growing, despite many problems.

Bishop Peter Dabale of Nigeria also told delegates about the human-rights violations which have occurred recently in his country. In one area, he said, a whole village was burned. At least 15 United Methodist churches also were torched. Through a resolution on "Africa Reconstruction and Development," adopted by consent, General Conference supported the denomination's ongoing "Campaign for Africa" and urged the General Board of Church and Society to advocate for U.S. policies, which address peacemaking and economic and human rights on the continent.

A separate approved resolution on Liberia urges a negotiated settlement of the civil war and commits the church to helping rebuild the nation.

General Conference voted to send a delegation—led by Indiana Area Bishop Woodie W. White, president of the Council of Bishops—to the White House to share a statement on the crisis in Lebanon and occupation of Palestine.

In other global-related matters, General Conference rejected a recommendation from the General Board of Global Ministries Site-Selection Task Force to move the board's headquarters from New York to Reston, Va. Instead, it approved a committee proposal recommending delay of any relocation because of possible restructuring of all the denomination's boards and agencies. The adopted proposal does not require the development of an alternate site recommendation.

General Conference delegates, including 138 international delegates, also:

- petitioned President Clinton and Congress to lift the economic embargo against Cuba by repealing the Cuban Democracy Act of 1992 as well as any additional restrictions or laws related to the embargo;
- voted to send a letter to officials in Brazil and the United States, voicing concern about a reported massacre by military police;
- celebrated the growth of Africa University in Zimbabwe from a handful of students to nearly 300 in the colleges of theology, business, education and agriculture;
- created a separate Central Conference for Zaire, which currently has seven annual (regional) conferences;
- encouraged continuing attempts at peacemaking, reconstruction of communities and protection of human rights in a resolution on "God's Shalom for the People of Central America";
- supported the establishment of a permanent fund, Encounter with Christ in Latin America and the Caribbean, for new church development and other evangelistic initiatives;
- called for a thorough investigation of all crimes and acts of violence committed by U.S. military personnel stationed in Okinawa and the reduction or removal of all U.S. military bases from the island;
- supported Christian witness in East Timor and the rights of the people there to self-determination and called upon the U.S. government to pressure Indonesia to withdraw its military occupation;
- addressed sustainable development, human-rights concerns, and peace and justice issues in the Middle East and North Africa;
- recognized Jerusalem as a city sacred to Jews, Muslims and Christians and requested the United States and other governments to urge Israel to lift the closure of Jerusalem to Palestinians and cease the confiscation of Palestinian lands;
- called upon the United States and other governments to fulfill their obligations of promised financial support to the Palestinians;
- expressed concern about the dwindling number of Christians in the Holy Land and urged organizers of United Methodist tours there to help strengthen the witness of the remaining Palestinian Christians;
- condemned the use of rape as a weapon in times of conflict and war;
- supported the demand for apology and reparations to the Korean "comfort women" who were forced to serve as sex slaves for Japanese troops during World War II;
- agreed, upon recommendation of the Council of Bishops, to enter into covenanting relationship with The Evangelical Church of Spain and the West African Methodist Church (of Sierra Leone).

—Linda Bloom

## Through Baptism Study, Delegates Welcome Infants as Members

"By Water and the Spirit," the Baptism Study document under construction for the past eight years was affirmed as the defining document on the sacrament of baptism for United Methodists.

The study clarifies issues of rebaptism, confirmation and church membership which have been discussed across the connection for the past two quadrenniums. The Rev. Mark Trotter, California-Pacific Conference, chaired the study committee and presented its report to the plenary session, assisted by the Rev. Gail Felton, Duke University Divinity School faculty member and study committee member. Mr. Trotter explained that, with the 1988 adoption of *The United Methodist Hymnal,* in which the service of baptism appears prominently, the issue moved to the forefront of church members' awareness.

Ensuing discussion across the connection revealed areas of conflict in the pastoral interpretation of the sacrament. As a result, the 1988 General Conference directed that an official study report be prepared. An initial draft of the study presented at the 1992 General Conference was remanded for further study across the church, and the Study Committee was directed to present a revision in 1996.

Ms. Felton explained that the study's interpretive document brings together both the sacramental and evangelical traditions of the church's history. It acknowledges through baptism God's prevenient grace to which all are entitled from birth and provides for a personal response to that grace in the form of an individual's profession of faith and commitment to discipleship, through the ceremony of confirmation.

Specific implications for the local church are as follows. Once baptized, individuals—even babies—become official members of the church and are designated as "baptized members" on church rolls. At confirmation or profession of faith, an individual becomes a "professing member." While baptism should happen only once, a reaffirmation of that baptism may be celebrated as many times as desired, so long as it cannot be construed as rebaptism.

Mr. Trotter emphasized that the manner in which local churches count members for the purpose of determining apportionments would not change. The rolls of professing members, currently known as "full members," will be used.

—Lynne DeMichele

## COCU: Faith and Order Ecumenism

"Imagine some scenarios that might soon become reality within this covenant," said Bishop William Boyd Grove as he introduced the Churches in Covenant Communion plan to the General Conference. "In a small town in Ohio, or in Nebraska, or in the state where you live, four of the covenanting churches have congregations. They decide that once a month, or four times a year or more, they will meet for a shared Eucharist, with all clergy as co-celebrants. They also decide that they will do all their baptisms together."

Local action like that will embody a covenant among nine Protestant denominations and moves "faith and order ecumenism" in the Consultation on Church Union (COCU) to the local, congregational level. "We will experience the life of the one church in a new and dynamic way," he said. Bishop Grove said ecumenism is primarily evangelism. "The division of the church confuses and repels people," he said.

Besides United Methodists, Bishop Grove said that four other COCU member denominations have committed themselves to covenanting: the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), United Church of Christ, Christian Methodist Episcopal Church (CME) and International Council of Community Churches. Presbyterian Church USA still must approve the necessary constitutional amendments.

The African Methodist Episcopal (AME) and African Methodist Episcopal Zion (AMEZ) churches are expected to approve covenanting this summer. The Episcopal Church, still considering the proposal, will take longer to vote, Bishop Grove predicted.

The proposal describes covenant communion as "both an act and a process. Covenanting is not designed to eliminate diversity. In covenant communion the churches may maintain, for so long as each may determine, their own church structures and traditions, including present forms of worship; systems of ministerial selection, training and placement; their international confession and communion relationships; and their mission programs. What covenanting means is that these now separated churches will resolve to live as one in the most basic things—in faith, sacrament, ministry and mission. Uniformity in structure is not essential to covenant communion.

There are eight elements of covenanting:

1. claiming unity in faith;
2. commitment to seek unity with wholeness;
3. mutual recognition of members in one baptism;
4. mutual recognition of each other as churches;
5. mutual recognition of ordained ministry;
6. celebrating the Eucharist together;
7. engaging together in Christ's mission;
8. formation of covenanting councils.

Covenanting councils—national, regional or local—will be formed as covenanting is affirmed. The councils will make church unity visible and "embodied in tangible form." On the local level, covenanting councils will enable covenanting congregations to "live and act as one covenant communion in that place, even while maintaining their distinct existences and traditions.

— Ann Whiting

# Delegates Try to Hold the Line on General Church Spending

During the final day of the 1996 General Conference, delegates adopted a budget for the next four years that will enable mission and ministry around the world and, at the same time, holds the line on general church spending.

At $508,260,000, the budget adopted is almost $5 million more than what the General Council on Finance and Administration (GCFA) had recommended. It is also more than $32 million more than the apportioned amount to local churches in the 1993-96 quadrennium.

General Conference delegates added to the budget by adopting the Mission Initiatives/Focus 2000 report, which will fund the Asian-American Language Ministry Study, Strengthening Korean Ministry, the Connectional Process Team and a Focus on Young People. The Mission Initiatives/Focus 2000 apportioned fund adds $4,760,000 to the budget.

Other line items in the budget were adjusted to try to maintain a 0-0-2-2 level. Those funds adjusted up included the Ministerial Education Fund and the Black College Fund. The World Service Fund and the Episcopal Fund went down. The Interdenominational Cooperation Fund, General Administration Fund and Africa University Fund were not changed from GCFA's original recommendation.

GCFA came to General Conference with a recommendation to keep the budget at the same level for 1997 and 1998 and establish a 2-percent hike for 1999 and 2000. With the addition of the new fund, the budget now reflects a 1-percent increase for 1997, 0 percent for 1998, and 2-percent hikes in 1999 and 2000.

Broken down by year, the budget translates into $125,190,000 for 1997 and 1998; $127,690,000 in 1999; and $130,190,000 for 2000.

General Conference adopted the budget in a series of reports, each dealing with a specific piece. The World Service Fund was amended in legislative committee, to $253,639,000 for the quadrennium. This figure is $1.01 million less than what GCFA requested. A proposal that would have reduced meeting expenses in this fund by 30 percent, then add 10 percent for inflation, was defeated on the floor. Report number one, as amended by committee, was adopted by 76.3 to 22.7 percent.

The Ministerial Education Fund was amended by committee to show an amount of $109,550,000. This represents a 0-0-1.6-1.9 percent increase over the four years. It was approved by an almost nine-to-one margin.

The Black College Fund was amended by committee to show $43,682,000. This represents a 0-0-1.6-2.0 percent increase over the next four years. The plenary voted approval 91.4 to 8.6 percent.

The Africa University Fund showed no increase in the GCFA proposal, and was approved by almost 98 percent of the voting delegates. The four-year total in the budget is $10 million.

The Episcopal Fund came under consideration for reduction during legislative committee debate and was reduced almost $300,000. The total approved by General Conference is $61,705,914, by an 88.3- to 11.7-percent margin.

The General Administration Fund went through committee and plenary without change, for a quadrennial total of $18,466,000.

The Interdenominational Cooperation Fund was approved with a plurality of 98 percent in the amount of $6,457,000.

The GCFA budget was set at a four-year total of $21,311,000. The plenary also continued six churchwide Special Sundays with offerings: Human Relations Day, One Great Hour of Sharing, Native American Awareness Sunday, Peace with Justice Sunday, World Communion Sunday, and United Methodist Student Day. In addition, annual conferences are authorized and may collect offerings for Golden Cross Sunday, Christian Education Sunday and Rural Life Sunday.

Apportionment formulas were reviewed, as the legislative committee rejected a proposal that would have removed membership from the equation. The legislative committee did concur with GCFA to include this in a GCFA Study of Connectional Ministry Funding Patterns.

A recommendation on staffing the task force for studying connectional ministry funding patterns was the subject of much debate on the General Conference floor. An amendment to delete the words "nor formerly members or" in report 13 was approved by a 54.9- to 45.1- percent margin. The language will now prohibit people who are currently members or staff of any general board or agency from serving on the task force.

During the legislative committee process, delegates also turned down several proposals that would have: combined the apportionments of World Service with conference benevolences; allowed local churches to decide what apportionments they would pay; and removed membership from being part of the formula for determining apportionments.

Cashar W. Evans Jr., lay delegate, North Carolina, chaired the Financial Administration Legislative Committee.

—Erik Alsgaard

# United Methodists Have a New Ordering of Ministry

Focusing on the theological tenet of the "ministry of all Christians," delegates reversed the bishops' plan, rejecting the two-step ordination of deacon to elder and offering two separate, distinct ministerial orders. The bishops' proposed "lay ministry steward," a specialized service ministry for laity, was rejected and referred to the General Board of Discipleship for study.

Most debate was directed toward the new, non-itinerant order of deacon that will no longer be a steppingstone to elder's orders. The role of deacon is one of servant leadership in the life of the church and community, which "extends the witness and service of Christ's love and justice." The ministry of the deacon parallels much of that of the elder. The sacramental privileges rest alone with the ministry of the elder, whom the deacon is permitted to assist. The elder's responsibility includes the ministry of service, word, sacrament and order.

The qualifications for elders and deacons are similar as they move through the steps of candidacy: inquiring, exploring, declared, certified. The educational requirements are relatively equal, requiring both bachelor's and master's degrees. Elders and deacons are under the supervision of the district committee and conference board of ministry, depending upon the stage in the steps toward ordination. Both are members of the annual conference with full privileges, including election to committees and boards as well as General Conference.

The limitation upon the deacon's right to administer the sacraments excludes deacons from the offices of superintendent and bishop. If a deacon is appointed as a licensed local pastor, the way is open for performing all the duties in serving a local church.

Deacons who feel the call to serve as elders must surrender deacon's orders and fulfill the requirements for ordination as elders. In similar fashion, if elders pursue a change in vocational choice that does not require sacramental duties, they must surrender their credentials and fulfill the requirements of the deacon's orders. The two orders cannot be held at the same time.

A deacon is not required to itinerate but serves only under the appointment of the bishop upon the initiative of the deacon, employment agency or superintendency. The appointment is annually reviewed and subject to reappointment. Reappointment depends upon several factors, including the deacon's employer. The *Disciplinary* language concerning elders has changed. "Every effective elder in full connection who is in good standing shall 'receive an annual' (old language)/"be continued under' (new language) appointment by the bishop." This so-called "guaranteed" clause does not exist for permanent but non-itinerant deacons.

When elders and deacons meet requirements for ordination, they are commissioned, enter a period of probation of no less than three years and no more than six years, and begin their ministry under appointment. Those who are currently consecrated as diaconal ministers can either enter into the process of becoming a deacon or continue in diaconal ministry, which will no longer be open to new candidates after Jan. 1, 1997.

Other decisions of interest:

- Clergy are now explicitly employees of the annual conference. This is awaiting an official ruling by the Internal Revenue Service.
- "Clergy" and "pastor" are separately defined.
- Bishops can once again invite lay persons to participate in ordination and the laying on of hands.
- Annual evaluations of pastors are the responsibility of the district superintendent in consultation with the pastor-parish relations committee.
- A new "fair process" toward protecting rights of individuals involved in grievance procedures, separating administrative complaints from judicial complaints, is created.
- Local pastors are now eligible to serve on the conference's board of trustees as well as all boards and committees except ordained ministry.
- Maternity/paternity leaves are now available to local pastors.
- "Integrity in all personal relationships" is another expectation for clergy, along with "fidelity in marriage and celibacy in singleness."
- A footnote defines the meaning of "self-avowed, practicing homosexual."
- All pastors who are reimbursed for expenses or given allowances must report them to the annual conference along with their base salary.
- Associate members who have reached age 55 and have served at least five years can be granted full conference membership upon 3/4 vote of the ordained clergy.
- Associate members are included in the privilege of sabbatical leave.
- Retired clergy who live outside of their conference bounds shall report annually any performance of pastoral services and the circumstances of their families.
- The pastor-parish relations committee, when presented with the cabinet's choice of a new pastor, "may request a reconsideration of the possible appointment...with specific reasons...."
- A petition to attach the following sentence to Para. 71C in the Social Principles was referred to the Judicial Council for a declaratory decision: "Ceremonies that celebrate homosexual unions shall not be conducted by our ministers and shall not be conducted in our churches." In the last hours of the conference, the Judicial Council declared that the placement of items in the *Discipline* is not in their jurisdiction.

—Keith Pohl

# Conference Holds Line on Policies Toward Homosexuals

The 1996 General Conference refused to change the church's long-held statement that "homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching" and that "self-avowed practicing homosexuals are not to be accepted as candidates, ordained as ministers, or appointed to serve in The United Methodist Church."

Debate was long, earnest, personal and painful for those on both sides in a church that prides itself on forward-looking Social Principles and openness.

On the other hand, the conference maintained policies that "affirm God's grace is available to all," "supports basic human rights and civil rights for homosexual persons" and "condemns violence against gays and lesbians." Delegates added a new statement opposing discrimination against homosexuals in the U.S. military.

The final vote to retain the "incompatible" clause was 60 percent to 40 percent, closer than on the same issue in previous General Conferences. Mutual respect for opposing points of view was stated repeatedly. As one delegate put it, "We meet near the Continental Divide. Like the rain, some of us fall on one side, some on the other, but all come from the same source."

*Marriage Ceremonies Rejected*

After lengthy debate, the conference overwhelmingly refused to approve homosexual "unions, "covenants" or " marriages," stating: "Ceremonies that celebrate homosexual unions shall not be conducted by our ministers and shall not be conducted in our churches." That action was challenged by some as inappropriate for the Social Principles since it was a legality. The matter was referred to the Judicial Council, which later ruled that it had no power to override the will of the conference. So the new legislation was retained in the Social Principles.

*Clergy Policies*

The longest and most involved debate on homosexuality revolved around efforts to strengthen the church's ban on appointments of "self-avowed practicing homosexuals" by adding the words "proven with clear and convincing evidence," and a footnote defining "self-avowed" as a person who "openly acknowledges to a bishop, district superintendent, district committee on ordained ministry, board of ordained ministry, or clergy session that a person is a practicing homosexual."

*Financial Policies*

A minority report from one committee would have softened the General Council on Finance and Administration legislation ensuring that no United Methodist funds be used to promote the acceptance of homosexuality. It proposed adding: "This restriction shall not limit the church's ministry in response to the HIV epidemic, nor shall this restriction limit the church's research, study and discussion of human sexuality." But the report also dropped the ban on funds going "to any gay caucus or group." This was not acceptable to the delegates so the initiative failed.

*Mixed Emotions*

Many delegates were genuinely troubled over the issues. Relieved that the conference had not created "problems back home" by opening doors to gays and lesbians, some delegates still expressed thanks for a church that affirms God's grace for all and commits itself to be in ministry for and with all people; and supports basic human rights and civil liberties for homosexual persons. All those positions remain church policy. The ambiguities were clear to all.

*Pleas for Openness*

One reason debate was less acrimonious and interest groups less demonstrative than at previous conferences was the constant plea for openness, acceptance and understanding of opposing views. Delegates were often reminded of that proud United Methodist heritage.

Delivering the Episcopal Address, Bishop Judith Craig said, "The church we order must be an open house, where Jesus sits at the doorway and welcomes all who come, regardless of whether the townspeople think it proper or not! It is an offense to define God so carefully and describe church so rigidly as to create a family tree that says most clearly who is not welcome . . . ."

In the midst of the conference, 15 bishops (including men and women) released a signed statement expressing "pain . . . over our personal convictions that are contradicted by the proscriptions in the *Discipline* against gays and lesbians within our church and within our ordained and diaconal ministers." Nevertheless they affirmed their commitment to uphold the *Discipline*.

Some delegates and bishops were incensed, but others saw their words as courageous. After lengthy closed sessions, the entire Council of Bishops issued a statement saying they did not agree on all the issues but were "committed, collectively and individually, to teach and uphold our church's doctrine and discipline. . . . Together we remain open to God's continued guidance."

In her historic address to the conference (a major highlight of the two-week event) First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton said, "I know we have disagreements in society. We even have disagreements in the church. I think one of the reasons that I'm a Methodist is because I think disagreements are part of life. I think it's part of how we grow together . . . .

"In the name of Jesus Christ, we are called to work within our diversity, while exercising patience and forbearance with one another," she said.

*Debate To Continue*

As delegates, caucuses and interest groups left for home, all were sure the debate would continue, on all church levels, up to and through the 2000 General Conference in Cleveland.

—Roger Burgess

# Racial- and Ethnic-Minority Concerns Take Priority at General Conference

Epitomizing the world parish of John Wesley, the number of delegates from the church's Central Conferences increased by 22 people, from 116 to 138. In addition, 10 delegates represented autonomous churches that have concordant relationships with The United Methodist Church. These two groups constituted almost 15 percent of the 998 General Conference delegations

General Conference delegates responded to stories of civil unrest and strife. They cited unrest in many parts of Africa, massacres in Brazil, Israeli attacks upon Lebanon, widespread poverty in Cuba, and damage and heartbreak in the United States as a result of tornadoes in Illinois and Arkansas.

Throughout the quadrennial legislative assembly, nine languages other than English, plus American Sign Language, were represented. A team of 48 interpreters provided translations to 141 delegates in Chinese, French, German, Indonesian, Korean, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish and Swahili.

Music was a constant throughout the conference. Daily, the delegates were led in music by co-directors S T Kimbrough and Cynthia Wilson-Felder. Choirs representing racial- and ethnic-minority constituents of The United Methodist Church had delegates tapping their feet, clapping their hands and swaying to rhythmic music. Choirs were African-American, Hispanic, Indonesian, Korean, Latvian, intergenerational, and signing and deaf; other guests were a dance troupe representing Tonga, a Mariachi band and Native-American drummers.

Racial- and ethnic-minority persons and supporters attending the 1996 Conference also celebrated the success of the Shalom Zone, a concept created by the 1992 General Conference after riots broke out in Los Angeles to protest the verdict in the Rodney King beating case. Shalom, the Hebrew word for peace, is "on the loose" in 103 urban and rural communities, 24 annual conferences, 250 congregations, 50 community organizations and 71 ecumenical ventures, said Bishop Felton E. May, Harrisburg Area.

Delegates approved "Holy Boldness," a national urban-ministry plan that offers a way to organize and mobilize local congregations and organizations to work on urban-ministry goals. They celebrated the vision and reality which is Africa University. The institution, the first United Methodist university in Africa, boasts 300 students and three faculties, with colleges of theology, education, agriculture and business. Included in the celebration was a performance by the Africa University choir. The choir sang anthems of thanks to The United Methodist Church for access to education in their homeland. Delegates were able to further support Africa University by purchasing CDs and cassettes through Cokesbury.

Enthusiastically welcomed by delegates was a 1997-2000 priority aimed at "Strengthening the Black Church for the 21st Century." The plan, with a budget of $1.7 million, is designed to bring together struggling African-American congregations with growing, vital African-American congregations to stop the decline of African-American United Methodist churches.

The Native American Comprehensive Plan, created by the 1992 General Conference, was continued at $1.2 million through the 1997-2000 quadrennium to help The United Methodist Church reach grass-roots Native-American ministries.

Delegates and visitors contributed $3,579 in a special offering for Native American Awareness Sunday ministries.

Another matter related to racial- and ethnic-minority persons was the 1996 General Conference's apology to Native Americans for the 1864 Sand Creek Massacre led by a Methodist lay preacher.

Delegates congratulated and continued the National Plan for Hispanic Ministries adopted by the 1992 General Conference. Delegates learned that 66 annual conferences participate in some form of Hispanic ministry, 59 congregations had been revitalized and 799 outreach ministries had been created.

*Mil Voces Para Celebrar*, printed under the auspices of the General Board of Discipleship and The United Methodist Publishing House (UMPH), was formally recognized as the official Spanish-language hymn book. This hymnal is expected to bring a revival in worship in Hispanic congregations. UMPH president and publisher Neil Alexander offered a matching-gift offer to delegates, which provides a gift hymnal to the Hispanic ministry for every Hispanic hymnal sold during General Conference.

Delegates approved a resolution to strengthen Korean-American ministry. An inclusive task force, representing the five jurisdictions, will initiate a comprehensive study of the concerns and needs of the Korean constituency and report findings and recommendations to the 2000 General Conference. Also approved was the publication of resources in a variety of Asian-American languages.

Major decisions affecting the future of The United Methodist Church were also on the agenda for racial and ethnic minorities. They overwhelmingly voted to establish a commission to create a plan of union for four historically Black Methodist denominations. The plan would merge United Methodist, African Methodist Episcopal (AME), African Methodist Episcopal Zion (AMEZ) and Christian Methodist Episcopal (CME) churches. Each denomination would have six representatives on the commission. A plan of union is to be submitted to the 2000 General Conference.

—Linda Green

## Church and Society

"The Creator weeps over impoverished cities and villages, ravished lands, polluted streams, depleted soil, poisoned air, fractured humanity. The weeping God beckons us to becomē God's healing presence in human communities and all the created order." Bishop Judith Craig spoke these passionate words of healing and justice during the Episcopal Address.

The desire to be "God's healing presence" was evident as delegates adopted an apology to the Cheyenne and Arapaho people for the Sand Creek massacre Nov. 29, 1864, by the First Colorado Cavalry, whose commanding officer was a Methodist lay preacher. This was also apparent in the stream of policy statements adopted (mostly on the Consent Calendar), reflecting delegates' confidence in the intense committee work during the first week.

Delegates reaffirmed the church's positon on abortion and replaced two sentences to state: "We commit our church to continue to provide nurturing ministries to those who terminate a pregnancy, to those in the midst of a crisis pregnancy and to those who give birth." Although the debate on abortion emerged around the rights of the unborn, delegates voted down an insertion of a new Social Principles paragraph on the subject.

Other revisions included language:

- Adding a new sub-paragraph to para. 72 describing the right to health care.
- Recognizing in para. 71A the damaging nature of family violence—"verbal, psychological, physical, sexual."
- Inserting concern about reductions of municipal waste to para. 70A on "Water, Air, Soil, Minerals and Plants."
- Adding to the second paragraph of 71F on human sexuality a concern about the destructive nature of "exploitative, abusive or promiscuous" sexual relations in marriage.
- Rejecting the "erroneous notion that one gender is superior to another" in a new sub-paragraph on "Women and Men" in para. 71.
- Expanding the discussion of divorce in para. 72 D, stressing that divorce is a regrettable alternative "in the midst of brokenness."
- Declaring that ceremonies celebrating homosexual unions "shall not" be conducted by United Methodist pastors and in United Methodist churches (referred to the Judicial Council, which later ruled they had no jurisdiction).
- Describing organ transplantation and donation as "an act of charity, agape love and self-sacrifice (in a new sub-paragraph to para. 72).
- Changing rights of "persons with handicapping conditions" (para. 72G) to "persons with disabilities."

As delegates adopted new resolutions, which will broaden the *Book of Resolutions* 1996, they also voted to limit the life of resolutions to 12 years, unless readopted.

New and updated resolutions, including health care, human rights, immigration and environmental concerns were prayerfully discussed and strongly affirmed by delegates.

Some resolutions approved by General Conference involved:

- Recommending United Methodists reassess their personal lifestyles with the goal of living "more simple, less consumptive" lives. A just lifestyle consists of sharing wealth with the poor because "we no longer need 'things' to give us worth." Abundant living is: when all people have their basic needs met; when work contributes to the common good; having time for family and community life; producing an environment where children are valued, cared for, and nurtured in families and communities; and protecting God's creation.
- Urging active opposition to anti-immigrant legislation and advocating human rights for all people including "strangers who sojourn in our land." The United Methodist Church should continue to work with community organizations to provide forums for citizens to voice concerns, and support communities and congregations by prayer and action where anti-immigrant measures may be implemented.
- Replacing the present resolution on "U.S. Agriculture and Rural Communities in Crisis" with language that emphasizes the adverse economic conditions affecting rural America and the response of the church to the crisis.
- Calling on cancer-research organizations to study the relationship between cancer and chlorine-based toxins in the environment in "A Dioxin-free Future."
- Opposing abusive treatment of persons with mental disabilities.
- Assuring basic human rights for all persons.
- Condemning clinic violence and seeking common ground between "those who call themselves " pro-life or pro-choice.
- Affirming the rights of homosexuals to serve in the military.
- Committing the church to a holistic approach to alcohol and other drug crises. The United Methodist Church's longstanding position on abstinence from alcoholic beverages was affirmed. This position is "relevant because excessive, harmful and dangerous drinking patterns are uncritically accepted and practiced." It favors eliminating all advertising and promotion of alcoholic beverages.
- Lifting up the National Coalition Against Legalized Gambling in an amendment to current legislation.
- Affirming membership in the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Rights.

— Lee Ranck and Shanta M. Bryant

## Mission Possible?
## 'To Make Disciples for Jesus Christ'

"To make disciples for Jesus Christ." Six words now state the mission of The United Methodist Church and, by connection, each of its congregations who now have much more flexibility in how they will carry it out.

A church council, amenable to the charge conference, is the new basic plan of organization for congregations. However, churches in which the administrative board/council on ministries, administrative council or nurture-outreach-witness (NOW) model of organization is working effectively are free to continue using those structures to carry out their mission and ministry.

Each congregation must have a board of trustees and committees on finance, pastor-parish relations, and nominations and personnel. It must also have structures for carrying out ministries of nurture, outreach and witness. The flexibility comes in how those will be developed. Concerns to be addressed by bodies responsible for those areas are defined.

The term "work areas" will disappear from the 1996 *Book of Discipline* in favor of "ministry groups." Congregations will determine which ministry groups they will have and name specific responsibilities.

The General Conference retained mandatory provisions for a church school.

The Local Church Legislative Committee had recommended also keeping United Methodist Women (UMW) as a mandatory organization in each congregation. The conference agreed, and retained language to keep a UMW unit in each congregation.

Pastors will continue to chair the nominations committee. A vice chair will be elected from the membership. The committee had recommended co-chairs—the pastor and a lay person elected from the committee members.

Rejected by both the committee and the conference were petitions to give local churches choices about which apportionments they would accept. Responding to the concerns of many about apportionments, chair Janice Riggle Huie, clergy delegate, Southwest Texas Conference, presented a statement on behalf of the committee.

It was "unwilling to cast aside the connection," she said. It heard the "call of local congregations throughout our denomination for relief from apportionments" and the "heavy burden" they create.

After expressing "profound appreciation to local churches for their faithfulness" in supporting connectional mission and ministry, she said annual conferences and general agencies need to be "sensitive to the burden" of apportionments and to be more accountable and provide additional support to local congregations in the interpretation and personalizing of them. She also expressed the need for local churches to have more voice in determining the missions of the denomination.

—Kathy Kruger Noble

## Disciple Celebrates 10 Years of Transforming Lives

Delegates and Disciple graduates from around the world gathered to celebrate the 10th anniversary of Disciple Bible Study. In March 1986, a group of pastors, theologians, lay persons, a bishop, Christian educators, Bible scholars, publishers, editors, and marketers shaped the vision that is now known as "Disciple: Becoming Disciples Through Bible Study."

Disciple is now available in English, German, Korean, Mandarin Chinese and Spanish.

The impact of Disciple cannot be overstated. It was mentioned in the Laity and Episcopal addresses and in many conversations at General Conference. The leadership of The United Methodist Publishing House (UMPH) was commended for their vision in creating the study. Ten years after its beginning, Disciple is helping to shape the direction of the church.

—Bradford L. Motta




Former UMPH president Robert Feaster, who led the way for the first two phases of Disciple, joins Neil Alexander, UMPH president, who introduced the third phase of Disciple, *"Remember Who You Are."*



Delegates enter the ballroom for a time of celebration.

photos by Brad Motta

# Potpourri of Special Emphases Get General Conference Approval

After eight years of the denominational theme "Celebrate and Witness: Celebrate God's Grace—Witness for Jesus Christ," The United Methodist Church will not have a theme for the 1997-2000 quadrennium. However, in the spirit of a General Conference, a wide variety of special emphases and programs will engage United Methodists during the coming four years.

*Higher Education and Chaplaincy*

The end of the quadrennium brought the completion of the special program "Campus Ministry: Mission at the Center," which is resulting in the reformation of the United Methodist Student Movement in the United States, an organization of students who desire to participate in The United Methodist Church. The 1996 General Conference adopted the study document "Education: the Gift of Hope" and commended it to congregations for churchwide study. A copy of the document was given to U.S. Secretary of Education Richard W. Riley during his recent visit to Denver. Also adopted and sent to conferences for ratification was a Constitutional amendment which will make the chair of the annual conference college student organization a member of the conference by virtue of office.

*New Special Emphases*

"A Focus on Young People—Walking Together in the Way That Leads to Life" begins a four-year undertaking which asks The United Methodist Church "to reorder its priorities and focus on the needs of young people and to enable young people to be participants in the life and work of the church." Plans for the focus include 10 Dynamic-Issue Forums, the development of a comprehensive data bank to provide information on models addressing specific needs of young people, and the creation of a Shared Mission Focus Team of coordinators. "A Focus on Young People" will be funded by $3 million in the new Missional Initiatives/Focus 2000 Fund.

"Strengthening the Black United Methodist Church for the 21st Century" begins with a 19-member coordinating committee accountable to the General Council on Ministries. The $1.7 million program will identify and define vital congregations across the denomination and develop 25 of them into Congregational Resource Centers. These congregation-to-congregation centers will provide resource and training opportunities for 400 to 600 teams of lay and clergy to enhance all aspects of their ministries by the year 2000.

The conference also designated "Rural Crisis in the USA" as a special emphasis for the 1997-2000 quadrennium, including the establishment of new rural "Communities of Shalom."

*Continued and Updated Emphases*

The Native American Comprehensive Plan was approved for continuation through the 1997-2000 quadrennium. Composed of four elements: the north, symbolizing power, associated with denominational presence; the west, religious heritage, signifying Native American spirituality; the south, healing, representing the congregational-development program; and the east, new life, representing leadership development, it is intended to strengthen rural and reservation ministries.

With the acceptance of the new Spanish-language hymnal, *Mil Voces Para Celebrar*, the conference continued the National Plan for Hispanic Ministry for four more years. Continuation of the plan reduces the membership of the Committee on Hispanic Ministries from 29 to 18 members, calls on annual conferences to organize conference committees on Hispanic ministries and gives specific responsibilities to general agencies of the denomination. The $3.1 million program will be funded through the budgets of four different agencies. While the General Council on Ministries decided not to propose its own missional priority on urban ministries, the report on the "Special Emphasis on Reclaiming the Cities" named three continuing programs which already address the needs of urban areas in the United States.

A new initiative is "Holy Boldness: A National Plan for Urban Ministry." The plan was developed by representatives of urban, suburban and rural communities, congregations, conferences and national leadership. Its beginning came at the 1995 National Urban Ministry Convocation. "Holy Boldness" identifies seven goal areas: urban theology, evangelism and congregational development, eradication of racism, strengthening of multicultural relationships, leadership development, community economic development, and health and healing. Each goal has its own set of anticipated outcomes.

A continuing emphasis related to urban ministry is "Communities of Shalom." The Shalom Committee, related to the General Board of Global Ministries, has identified more than 100 Communities of Shalom in 16 conferences, and has more than 250 congregations involved in the program.

The other continuing, although not exclusively urban, ministry emphasis approved for 1997-2000, is the United Methodist "Special Program: Substance Abuse and Related Violence." Begun in 1992, the program coordinates drug and alcohol education and prevention initiatives across the denomination. The $1.4 million initiative was also approved for international extension to Northern Europe and the Baltic nations.

"Special Program: Peace With Justice" was also continued by the conference. Assigned to the General Board of Church and Society for implementation, the program includes coordinators in each annual conference, educators who serve as interpreters and resource people, and the development of a certification program. The program is supported by the Peace With Justice Sunday offering.

—Tom Slack

# Media Coverage Expands, Thanks to Emerging Technology

An unexpected convergence of events related to the Oklahoma City bombing quickly propelled the 1996 General Conference onto the pages and screens of the Denver area news media.

Timing and location were both factors. The first anniversary of the Oklahoma City tragedy was April 19, the fourth day of the church's quadrennial conference. Denver is also the site for the trial of bombing suspects Terry Nichols and Timothy McVeigh.

Nineteen quilts on display for two days in the convention center lobby attracted media attention. Sewn by Susan Lucky, a United Methodist from Oklahoma City, each quilt memorialized a child killed in the bombing.

The media also carried interviews with Anne Marshall, whose husband, Raymond Johnson, was killed in the bombing. Ms. Marshall is a staff member of the denomination's General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns in New York.

As always, the conference attracted worldwide media attention on the merits of its own actions and activities. Accredited to cover the conference were more than 150 journalists, representing wire services, newspapers, radio, television, and secular and church press from around the world.

United Methodist News Service (UMNS), a unit of United Methodist Communications, and its predecessor agencies have provided news-room facilities at General Conferences for more than 50 years. In addition to Spanish- and Korean-language desks, the news room provided desks to serve the needs of the Native-American and international media for the first time.

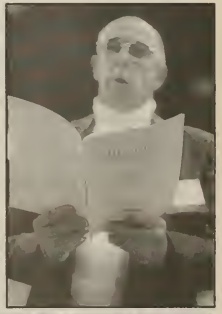
Emerging technology enabled the news-room staff to file stories during the conference on United Methodism's new Internet home page. Reporters and others unable to attend the conference received stories on all major actions and activities at their individual e-mail addresses. Technology also enabled the electronic transmission of photographs to newspapers around the world.

UMNS director Tom McAnally said much has changed since his first General Conference in Pittsburgh in 1964. "There reporters huddled in locker rooms, which smelled like dirty socks, and we had to change ribbons on manual typewriters. This year we had 10,658 square feet in the Colorado Convention Center, where reporters brought their own portable computers and where we had instant communications around the world."



East Ohio delegate James Anderson sings from the sampler for *Mil Voces Para Celebrar*, the new United Methodist Spanish-language hymnal.

*Mike DuBose photo*



Peninsula-Delaware Conference delegate Jonathan E. Baker prays with Kathi Austin Mahle and Aileen L. Williams of the Minnesota delegation.

*Mike DuBose photo*



Nancy Humper and her daughter, Marvel, witness General Conference proceedings.

*John C. Goodwin photo*

Ernest S. Lyght, Northern New Jersey Conference, notes conference proceedings while retired Bishop William R. Cannon looks on.

*John C. Goodwin photo*



## The *Discipline*

General Conference delegates make decisions that change the book that guides the ministry and process of the church. The Committee on Correlation and Editorial Revision, along with Michael Lawrence, The United Methodist Publishing House has the task of editing the 1996 *Book of Discipline*. The committee has appreciated the expertise of John Brawn who has assisted with the computerization process. The goal for publishing the new *Discipline* will be late September or early October.




Michael Lawrence, editor of *The Discipline*, The United Methodist Publishing House; Richard Evans, member, Committee on Correlation and Editorial Revision; John Brawn, computer specialist; Naomi Bartle, secretary; Neil Alexander, publisher; Clelia Hendrix, vice chair; Carolyn Marshall, General Conference secretary; and Earl Riddle, chair.

## A Mantle of Prayer

*Thou who art over us,*
*Thou who art one of us,*
*Thou who art:*
*Give me a pure heart, that I may see thee;*
*a humble heart, that I may hear thee;*
*a heart of love, that I may serve thee;*
*a heart of faith, that I may abide in thee. Amen*

—"Prayer for a New Heart," Hymnal #392

With the request and the example of the bishops, General Conference was cloaked in a "mantle of prayer." Each day, delegates began their work by reflecting on two questions that appeared on the large screens: 1) What is my earnest hope for the next few hours of this General Conference? 2) What do I believe is God's most fervent hope for these next few hours?

After preparing themselves for the session with these questions, the delegates turned to someone near them, held hands and prayed. Throughout the General Conference, the bishops held a prayer vigil. A prayer chapel was prepared for use by the delegates and guests. Prayers were offered in song, in silence, in words and in movement.

In her benediction April 24, Bishop Leontine T.C. Kelly said: "And we thank you for all of your goodness to each one of us, as weary as we are, as tedious as the work is, as hard as the struggle is, as disappointed as some may be. We . . . believe that you have us here for your purposes. And your purposes will ripen fast, unfolding every hour. The buds may have a bitter taste, but sweet will be the flower."

Prayer. Benediction. Worship. We didn't always agree, but we prayed unceasingly.

—Bradford L. Motta

## Blessed Be! Blessed Be!

During the past 10 days, members of the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women monitoring team have listened to what was said in committees, groups and plenaries; who said it; how it was said; and how it was received. Monitoring was an important ministry to the General Conference in raising unconscious biases in decision-making to the level of conscious awareness.

What have we observed?

* Many committee chairs used feedback regularly to monitor their efforts. This resulted in increased participation by women and racial- and ethnic-minority persons.

* Clergy women were often the least participatory group during plenary sessions, though debate was closed with women still requesting to speak only in a few instances.

* Typical unconscious biased behaviors were: 1) interrupting and stepping on another's comments; 2) addressing men with titles and women by their first names; 3) men not waiting to be recognized before speaking.

What would we suggest?

* That the Commission on the General Conference incorporate monitoring for sex, race, age and disability bias into the design for General Conference 2000 in consultation with the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women and the General Commission on Religion and Race.

* That annual conferences who wish to replicate this monitoring ministry during their annual conference sessions contact the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women for information and assistance.

The Monitoring Team appreciates that this ministry of inclusiveness has been embraced and used by leaders, delegates and staff of the General Conference.

—Pat Callbeck Harper, Monitoring Team Member